

Silent magic. A poetic journey along the city's quays.

"Night Journey"

Boat stewards, direction, set & costume design:

Carina Reich & Bogdan Szyber

Playwright:

Björner Torsson

Concept collaboration:

Peder Bjurman

Music/sound:

David Österberg

Light design:

Ronald Salas

The performance group Reich+Szyber charge public spaces with poetry. The whole country was able to take part in their urban rituals last year and now Stockholmers and tourists can follow them on a boat trip into the night.

The venue is one of those oblong bus-like sightseeing boats designed for the best possible view.

Many of us who live here have never been on one of these craft.

Now we get the chance as Reich+Szyber organise a poetic trip along Stockholm's quays in a production called "Night Journey".

Unlike the tourist tours, we are not only offered the beautiful views but get to see nocturnal places along Stockholm's quays where you rarely voluntarily set foot.

We glide slowly alongside industrial areas and under graffiti-covered bridges. Everyone on board wears headphones in which ambient music accompanies the response to the water and concrete. Krister Henriksson's beautiful voice can be heard tasting every syllable of Björner Torsson's image-heavy poetry (Linda Marlowe reads in English, if you like). On the boat, we are looked after by two silent figures not unlike the service staff of an airplane who offer us metaphorically charged objects or shine searching lights among us as if looking for something special.

THE AMAZING THING that happens is that we are lulled into a mood where everything turns to poetry, and where we are unsure of what is thought out and what is chance. The hum of the boat engine, the mist on the windows, the cracked images of flashing neon signs or passing boats and curious strollers.

I imagine the man in the caravan behind the factory is part of the 'performance', staring at the quietly humming, strangely lit boat. It doesn't matter which one, but in my world it is his voice that echoes in my head.

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