

Teatterikorkeakoulu and Live Art & Performance Studies presents:



VILI VON NISSINEN  
**VIHAPUHENÄYTELMÄ ≈ JULMA KOMEDIA**  
(Hate Speech Play – A Cruel Comedy)

**English summary**

Haunting jazz music is playing while the audience arrives to the theatre hall. Red curtains, a huge clown head and a long catwalk dominates the space. A Freak Show is ready to begin.

The jazz suddenly stops, when the first sounds of *Du Hast (1997)* by German industrial band **Rammstein** fill the air. The Ring Master or Master of Ceremonies, later MC, walks out from the clown's mouth. He walks slowly closer to audience and lip sync the first words from the song, pointing simultaneously someone from the audience. The music fades and he welcomes audience in: "*Willkommen to the von Nissinen's, or Nazi Nissinen's like some likes to call me, Freak Circus! On this stage tonight all kinds of horrible real life freaks! The passing theme of tonight's show is hate speech. What is hate speech? Where does it come from and what it causes to person?*" MC promises, that after tonight's performance audience will know answers to these questions.

Then MC introduces some of the real-life freaks audience will see tonight. There is Kaisla, a person with no shame. There is mademoiselle Torsti, who is very mundane. And then there is the most horrific creature on earth: Liisi, the Little Girls in Red Coat. After that the first sideshow act starts.

A girl band, Trio Social Contract performs a beautiful song, *Tango Pecunia*. The band is dressed in long red jackets, they are not smiling and they movement is very militant, while they are singing.

The song is followed by video. On the video a female performer is talking about rage and how expressing rage is hard for her, unless the goal is someone very close to her. During the interview audience can see short glimpses of a spartan female warrior with a sword having her own personal fight.

MC cuts off the video. It is time for the daily Orwellian Two Minutes Hate. MC guides audience how to express hate: ugly facial expression combine with fist shaking. MC and audience practice this together. After that the Two Minute Hate begins. During that audience see and hear various hate propaganda collected from internet's discussion forums, hate speech from interviews etc.

The audience haven't express enough hate during the propaganda moment. MC teases them. He comments that of course only left side, all the green leftist, of the audience is expressing hatred towards the propaganda, but the right side is just sitting there enjoying. He asks questions from the right side: "How many of you are vegetarians?". Several hands rise up. "Hitler was too! How many of you supports animal rights?". More hands rise on the right side. "So did Hitler. The human kind never changes." MC is bit disappointed while walking off the stage.

The Little Girl in Red Coat has followed the hate session. She tries to escape, but before she walks out a priest starts to preach. He is worried about female priests and homosexuals filling churches and society. The Devil is doing his job. The priest is gloating in his fear and loathing. The Little Girl in Red Coat curls up in anxiety.

After the sermon, the leader of the Finnish Christian Democrats party, Päivi Räsänen, starts her daily prayer. Elsewhere

a sissy Straight White Male organizes a Herero-Pride march to celebrate oppressed straight people and asks the Little Girl in Red Coat to carry demonstration signs with him. "A True Marriage"-guy collects names for address to collapse the new sex neutral marriage law. After the list is full, Päivi celebrates and gives a press talk.

The Little Girl in Red Coat figures out what is happening around her. She throws the signs away and interrupts Päivi and tries to convince her that it is okay to be gay, while Päivi just smiles and tells the press that it is not just working that people can marry whoever they want. Again Päivi is interrupted, this time by the drunken Straight White Male telling her that, he does not need the True Marriage between male and female, while a Somali male can have several sexual relationships with Finnish women without a blessing from the priest.

On the video Spanish guy tells his story. MC comments the video and tells that change for better is possible. Then he opens a fashion show. Patriotic march music begins. On the screen The Third Reich Army is marching. One by one models walk on the catwalk presenting white t-shirts, with various horrible texts within: female genital manipulation, transphobia, racism, homophobia, sexism, genocide. The models are joined by the Little Girl in Red Coat. Bit later the models are starting to fight about who have the most horrible text on them.

Suddenly the fashion show ends. The Great American Guru, Richard Schechner is descending from heaven in SWAT-style. An aggressive patriotic anthem plays while landing. Behind the Guru images of Bald Eagle, rifles, Republican Elephants, cheese balls, Statue of Liberty etc. rolls behind.

The Guru introduces himself and his book "*Performance Studies*" and asks how many audience members have read the book. Couple has. He asked them to tell the title of a random chapter. They don't know. The Guru is seemingly pissed off by the audience who do not worship him enough, but he decides to give them a lecture about being privileged and grabbing the opportunities when they lands on you. The lecture is mostly misogynist ego pumping and bitter words towards audience. The Little Girl in Red has been monitoring the lecture behind the Guru. She doesn't understand a word from it. MC comments shortly the Guru and tells a short story about meeting with Richard Schechner.

After the Guru, the Little Girl in Red Coat see an election interview from a parliament candidate from a small racists party. The candidate is worried because society and its attitudes are getting cold. Nobody cares about the elderly people. After that she tells she was evicting asylum seekers from her home town and she is proud of that. The Little Girl in Red Coat tries to run away, but an educational tv-show begins. Another kid takes her hand and bring her to the show. During the theme music, a Finnish pop song from late 1970's titled "*Me halutaan olla neekereitä*", the program hosts arrives dancing in a 70's disco style.

The mood in the show is very uneasy. The hosts discuss with the kids about their experiences with dissimilarities, racism and bullying. The hosts open shortly what is hate speech and how that work on everyday life. They demonstrate shortly how easily people judgment each other based on prejudices playing a short game. The point of the game is give a word for someone else and the person have to tell the first three things comes to her mind from the subject. Soon the game turns into a racist battle between the host. When they figured out what just happened, they try to explain how easy it is to produce hate speech. Follows awkward silence.

After the silent the hosts gives a lecture about hate speech. What are the historical roots and how it works nowadays. They bring along theorists Judith Butler and Sara Ahmed to tell how they describe hate speech. The lecture is enliven by educational movies demonstrating the issue: Tarantino style video about the vicious circle of hate speech in the Finnish context and a clip from a documentary about summer festival, in which the journalist uses insulting words when describing the festival goes and stating that vegetarians, civil servants etc are Satan worshippers.

Before the ending the Hosts asks one question, which is one of the key questions around hate speech: what I have to tolerate if I demand toleration from the others. The program ends with a joyful song *Everyone's a Little Bit Racist*.

After song starts interview video, in which a guy talks about his father's fears about his son's future, manhood and sexuality, because the son is quitting in medical school and wants to become an artist.

A dismal child choir version of Metallica's *Nothing Else Matters* plays. The Little Girl in Red Coat is sitting in a church bench. Restless young American punk, Dylan Storm Roof walks in. He wears a hunting jacket, which is decorated with US and Confederate flags. He carries a bag and sit next to the Little Girl in Red. The youngsters share a small conversation about belief and God. Roof is annoyed by the Little Girl's childish faith to loving God. For him Christian God doesn't love, because He allows all kinds of bad things happen. He asks the Girl leave him alone. Then Girl goes bit further.

Roof is nervous and takes his bag. An inner battle begins. He starts to open it, but he encounters with the Little Girls gentle face. He took his bag and is leaving the church, when his God, Anders Behring Breivik appears to him to encourage him. Roof turns around and come back. His inner battle continues, but Breivik convince him, that someone

have to do something concrete, not just bubbling on the internet. Breivik continue by referring these internet speakers to sea lion males who rape penguins, when can't get laid with female sea lions. Breivik continues telling examples of Finnish politicians fantasizing about 1930's and quoting him on Facebook.

Finally Roof is ready to kill. He took his gun, rises up and yell: "*I am here to shoot black people. You've raped our women, and you are taking over the country. I have to do what I have to do. I am starting a race war.*" He points audience and is ready to shoot, when MC cuts the situation off and introduce the facts about Charleston Church shoot to the audience.

The scene is followed by a video, in which immigration critic dreams about a Real White Christmas, with no immigrants and asylum seekers in Finland. He blames immigrants for climate change and snowless Christmas. He hopes that immigrants could follow the Star of Betlehem away from here.

The Little Girl in Red Coat has witnessed all the previous actions. She is confused and it doesn't help, that sensual lizaminelli style of Adolf Hitler, portrayed by female performer, arrives. Hitler plays with the globe while singing Lana Del Ray's song: *Gods and Monsters*. Hitler manipulates the Girl, teach her how to make a Nazi Salute and gives her her own Hitler mustaches. They are dancing together swastika inspired voguing, when shirtless Vladimir Putin in ice hockey gear arrives. Putin yells to Hitler, that in their league there is no space for sissies and evicts him. Hitler run away.

Putin turns the Little Girl in Red Coat in to a Putin Girl, by giving her a "*I love Putin*" t-shirt. Putin continues manipulate the Girl, but is interrupted and evicted by a transgender performer. She thinks that the show is getting too political and she can't understand what is the point in it. Does the Director just want to dismantle his nazi past? After that she introduce her plushie alpaca. During the talk, The Little Girl in Red Coat walks around the stage in Putin shirt doing Nazi Salute.

The performer talks with the audience about being a transgender and tries to find answers to questions her therapist was asking her: how does it feels to be woman? How does it feels to be a man. She reminds us that in some countries being a transpersons is dangerous and she asks kindness and understanding towards transpersons. In the end she shows a cute video with punch of animal are playing *Here Comes the Sun* by the Beatles.

Halfway of the music video, the atmosphere is changing. Red curtains are appearing and air is filled again with the haunting jazz music. Director appears dressed in the train conductor uniform. Soon he finds out, that he is trapped in a Lynchian Black Lodge, like special agent Dale Cooper in the TV-series *Twin Peaks*. He walks to the center and sit down. The Little Girl in Red Coat appears to tease him. She whispers to his ear that he is just a bad person who wanna be famous and make a spectacle out of other people's misery.

After the Little Girl in Red Coat has gone away, the Director starts to talk about how other people have misread and misjudged him as a nazi sympathizer throughout his life due to his appearing as a tall blonde male. He also talks about his own misreadings and misjudgments and how his works as a train conductor help him to understand how Slavoy Zizek defines hate speech. He asks from himself, could he be his Other, like Arthur Rimbaud have written: "*Je est un autre*" I am other. And if it like that, is there two him? The and the evil? And since he is trapped in the Black Lodge, is the other one rolling freely on earth?

The Director walks off the stage. A Diamanda Galas/Morticia Addams look-a-like appears and starts to play gloomy version of John Lennon's *Imagine*. The Little Girl in Red Coat come back to stage but this she have a baseball bat and a machine gun with her. During the song, one by one she brutally assaults and kills everyone on the stage. After her act of violence, she tells that she would be a perfect mass murderer due to her mental illness. Media stigmatizes all mentally ill people as murderous lunatics.