

Compilation 25

This reader-generated compilation was created from the contents available on Pages Magazine's online platform (www.pagesmagazine.net) and is mainly for the reader's personal use.

4

Studying
Wavelength of
Silence Before
Metamorphosis

Nazanin Sanatkar

5

The Possible

Naghmeh Manavi

7

The Hands of Dr.
Sommelweis

Naghmeh Samini

Studying Wavelength of Silence Before Metamorphosis

Nazanin Sanatkar

June 6th, 2023

A chair and a performer are on the stage.

THE PERFORMER

When does a performance begin? When the performer starts to talk? Once the audience is seated in the theatre? When the performer takes the first step forward? When the lighting changes? Given that a performance is a contract between the performer and the audience, couldn't it be any of these instants? As such, we need to come to an agreement regarding the details. We have one hour together in this hall, and we do want to start the performance. We might succeed – or fail to begin. In any case, once that hour has passed, we'll have to leave the room.

(To the control room) Lighting, please!

...

::

The Possible

Naghmeh Manavi

June 6th, 2023

The space is fully lit. Chairs are arranged in a semicircle for the audience. At the center, on a 20-centimeter-high platform, another chair of the same type is placed facing the audience.

The performance space also serves as the foyer. Prior to the start of the show, the performer greets audience members one by one and helps them choose their seats. She encourages them to make themselves at home, place their stuff on the chairs, and come and go as they wish. As their host, the performer's job is to make the audience feel that the performance is a continuation of the earlier interaction.

When the performer stands at the center of the semi-circle, facing the audience, the stage becomes a big belly that has engulfed the audience. The space is the performer's body, pregnant with this performative interaction.

At the start of the performance, the performer stands on the platform behind the chair and points to the empty chair during her speech. She stands erect, speaks in a clear tone and makes eye contact with the audience.

Hello.

I'm going to to talk to you for about thirty minutes.

I'm going to to sit myself down on this chair and discuss heredity and procreation.

I'm going to to refer to myself as an example.

...

::

The Hands of Dr. Semmelweis

Naghmeh Samini

June 6th, 2023

A row of wooden tables, each holding a ceramic bowl filled with water. Doctor Ignaz Semmelweis stands before us, dressed formally in a suit with a white shirt and bowtie, and an overcoat. His demeanor is both natural and distinctive.

Semmelweis

Ladies, gentlemen, honorable guests, welcome to my final and most important scientific lecture. In this assembly, you will encounter a marvelous and profound truth, a most truthful truth, fluid, persistent, rebellious, fleeing and inevitable; inevitable, for we two are unable to escape one another, me and the truth; we could not and cannot escape each other, me and the truth, nonstop for eighteen years (checks his pocket watch) At this time, yes, this instant, ladies and gentlemen, honorable guests, every moment will be documented and honorably submitted to history. For the moments in which one encounters the truth are honorable. The names of each and every one of you will be written in history, each and every one of you, ladies, gentlemen. For you will witness the unveiling of the truth and it goes without saying that honest witnesses of the truth are as enduring as the discoverers of the truth. For this very reason, allow me to congratulate you in advance, you and your presence at the altar of the truth, a warm and profound congratulation from the depth of my soul!

...

::