Award for best performance of the past season
by the Association of Theatre Critics and Researchers of Slovenia (DGKTS)


Together is a theatre, dance and performance art event that examines the proportions of its original premise of “being together”. Its performance community is governed by the factor of time in line with the six-hour decision to carry on together. The strain of this decision is gradually cutting into the high-energy, individualised, autonomous bodies as they alternately gravitate towards each other to come together, draw apart, or merely detect each other in passing – as detached or inseparably fused organisms. Leja Jurišić and Marko Mandić assume various roles in power structures, practicing tactics and strategies of their clashes and outmanoeuvring. They lay bare their relationship with themselves and each other as a brutal, then again delicate process of ceaseless negotiation. With active on-stage presence, they seek, pursue and practice mental and physical worlds that notably disrupt the well-established spectating practices. Emerging associative meanings and their shifts, prompted by the performers on the physical, preverbal level to a randomly played list of tracks and commented by Semira Osmanagić in her text penned on the spot, shun the traditional conceptual framing. The performers pull the event out of the everyday temporality consisting of short-term attention spans, and develop an electrifying, unpredictable dialogue that comes across as intimate, while inspiring the audience to reflect on the social implications of “being together”.

Award of the 53rd Maribor Theatre Festival
Jury Award

The award for unique performative gesture goes to Together, a performance co-produced by Pekinpah, Via Negativa and the Kino Šiška Centre for Urban Culture.

With its conceptual design and execution, Together poses the fundamental questions of any theatre situation, examining them in a condensed, intensive existence on stage. By building a common performing experience through improvisation, Leja Jurišić and Marko Mandić enter in each new rendition a risky performative terrain, challenged additionally by the performance’s six-hour duration. Their investment is complete and personal in both movement and presence, in their convergences and separations, as well as in their perception of music as an algorithm-based mechanism and of the use of props, and in their role as on-the-spot co-designers of the ever-changing set. Leja Jurišić and Marko Mandić unfold endless landscapes of emotional, sensual, ironic, and critical ripples, rendering in a poetic, yet gory language of the body a powerful experience that cuts deep into one’s mind.