

SUN & SEA

An aerial photograph of a sandy beach where several groups of people are relaxing. In the top left, a man and a woman lie on a purple towel. In the top right, a person is on a yellow and purple towel. In the center, two people are on a pink towel playing a board game. In the bottom center, a man is on a pink towel reading a book. In the bottom right, two women lie on a white towel. In the bottom left, a woman is on a green towel. Various beach items like bags, hats, and toys are scattered around.


Sydney
Festival
2023

SUN & SEA

AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Sydney Town Hall

6-8 January

Durational performance. 60 mins on a continuous loop.

Audience may leave any time

CAST AND CREDITS

Concept and development Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė and Lina Lapelytė

Director and set designer Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė

Lyrics Vaiva Grainytė

Composer and music director Lina Lapelytė

Curator Lucia Pietroiusti

Tour producer Aušra Simanavičiūtė

Production manager and stage manager Erika Urbelevič

Technical directors Lique Van Gerven, Dovydas Korba

Libretto translation (from Lithuanian to English)

Rimas Užgiris

Sound engineer Romuald Chaloin Galiauskas

Singing performers

Aliona Alymova, Teresė Andrijauskaitė, Milda Andrijauskaitė-Bakanauskienė, Svetlana Bagdonaitė, Marco Cisco, Daniel Monteagudo Garcia, Claudia Graziadei, Ieva Marmienė, Artūras Miknaitis, Vytautas Pastarnokas, Egle Paškevičienė, Lucas Lopes Pereira, Salomėja Petronytė, Kalliopi Petrou

Choir

Sydney Philharmonia Choirs with the Youth Choir BALSIS, members of River City Voices and Sydney Gay & Lesbian Choir.

Performers

Raminta Barzdžiukienė, Jonas Statkevičius, Vincentas Korba, Mantas Petraitis, Jeronimas Petraitis, Pranas Petraitis, Juozas Petraitis

ABOUT THE SHOW

Imagine a beach – you on it, or better: watching from above – the burning sun, sunscreen and bright bathing suits and sweaty palms and legs. Tired limbs sprawled lazily across a mosaic of towels. Imagine the occasional

squeal of children, laughter, the sound of an ice cream van in the distance. The musical rhythm of waves on the surf, a soothing sound (on this particular beach, not elsewhere). The rustling of plastic bags whirling in the air, then silently floating, jellyfish-like, below the waterline. The rumble of a volcano, or of an airplane, or a speedboat. Then a chorus of songs: everyday songs, songs of worry and of boredom, songs of almost nothing. And below them: the slow creaking of an exhausted Earth, a gasp. (Lucia Pietroiusti)

A NOTE FROM THE CREATORS

Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė: The beach is a very hot place, so it resonates well with the topic of climate change. On the one hand, it is a place to have fun. On the other hand, the beach is both a potential desert and a potential flood, which keeps expanding globally. Beach is the place where the fragility of bodies is exposed. It made us think about the parallel with cosmic bodies and the fragility of the planet Earth.

Lina Lapelytė: Beach is the place where everyone becomes kind of equal under the sun. Swimsuits unify people – you can meet different generations, qualifications, body types, cultural and gender identities. We wanted to have a collective voice – a choir – that is delivered by different attitudes and different thoughts but united by time and place.

Vaiva Grainytė: The sunny beach and cheerful holiday situation is just a surface with which to wrap the disaster rather than exposing it literally. Humour and irony allow the audience to enter the melancholy through a backstage door. The opera-performance consists of smaller sub-topics: the pleasures of consumption, time, boredom in everyday life, pollution, tourism, the interconnection of hedonism and the apocalypse, skin care, depression, nutrition, technology...

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ABOUT THE CREATORS

Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė works as a filmmaker, theatre director and visual artist. Her documentary film-essay *Acid Forest* was awarded at the Locarno International Film Festival.

Vaiva Grainytė's text-based practice shifts between genres, interdisciplinary theatre works and publications. Her recent bilingual, cross-genre novel, *Roses and Potatoes* (2022), playfully deconstructs the stereotypical concept of happiness.

Lina Lapelytė's performance-based practice is rooted in music and flirts with pop culture, gender stereotypes and nostalgia. Her works engage trained and untrained performers often in an act of singing through a wide range of genres.

Sun & Sea is the second collaboration for the three artists. The work was awarded the Golden Lion for Best National Participation at the Venice Biennale in 2019. Their previous work, the contemporary opera *Have a Good Day!* for 10 cashiers, supermarket sounds and piano, premiered in 2013 and is touring worldwide.



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