



THE EUROPE OF YOUR DREAMS

EN | The international performance group Superamas travels around Europe via the dreams of its citizens. The result is *Youdream*, a new production that includes elements of theatre and television as well as an Internet component. MICHAËL BELLON



© Giannina Urmeneta Ottiker

We spoke to Philippe, a French member of the Brussels-based multinational group (Superamas doesn't use surnames). The hard core of Superamas is made up of six people with backgrounds in the performing arts, music design, and cinema; they come from Austria, France, and Belgium. So they are ideally placed to put together a production about Europe. As usual, of course, they don't go about that task in an obvious way. The members of Superamas are convinced that Europeans' dreams can tell us more about Europe than we might imagine. Europeans like you and me can also make our own contribution to this interactive project. You might even get to see your own dreams made reality by Superamas onstage at the Kaaaitheater.

What was the idea behind *Youdream*?

PHILIPPE: We wanted to create a performance based on questions about European identity. What does it mean to be European nowadays? But we didn't want to address the issue in a merely political way. It is a political act to focus on this subject, and we are all disappointed in how little progress Europe is making, but the outcome of our work is a comedy. So we started collecting stories from people around Europe.

Not stories about what they think about Europe. But the stories from their dreams. We asked people to tell us what they dream about in their sleep, and looked at Europe through that perspective. Is there a Belgian way of dreaming? Is there anything specific in this collection of dreams

that would relate to one community? At the end of the day the collection of dreams becomes a kind of a semi-conscious European reality. That opens up a lot of room for us to play.

And it is still open to anybody to make a contribution.

PHILIPPE: The show is linked to the website www.youdream.be, where people can upload their dreams. The dreamer can upload whatever he or she wants. Sometimes it is not very comfortable telling someone about dreams, because they are embarrassing. Other dreams are quite common because they come up frequently. It is also interesting that we are never sure whether people are telling the truth. The show is also about the communication of the dreams. *Youdream.be* is also a platform where you can remodel your identity, or give vent to your frustrations.

How do you make the transition to the stage?

PHILIPPE: By uploading their dreams, people keep the show fed with ideas. We

construct and change the show according to what is uploaded. Of course we digest everything: we pick some out, we rewrite, reproduce, and re-enact. We play a game with unconsciousness and consciousness. Superamas makes your dreams come true. Even if they are impossible. On the site you can also find the "TV series", for which we have rewritten dreams for a number of characters.

So what is the conclusion? Is there such thing as a European dream?

PHILIPPE: If you look at the whole collection we gathered, you can conclude that you have an individual consciousness and a more collective one. The individual is influenced by conditions and surroundings that lead to certain similarities. Dreams cover a rather small range of emotions and feelings. On the other hand you see specific things arise that you wouldn't expect. I wouldn't dream about Tom Boonen, for example, but it did happen to some Belgian people... ⁴

NL | Het internationale performancecollectief Superamas reist door Europa via de dromen van zijn burgers. Het resultaat is *Youdream*, een nieuwe productie die zowel een theater-, een televisie- als een internetluik omvat. Upload je dromen op www.youdream.be.

FR | Le collectif de performances international Superamas parcourt l'Europe par le biais des rêves de ses citoyens. Le résultat: *Youdream*, une nouvelle production qui comporte aussi bien un volet théâtre que télévision et même internet. Uploadez vos rêves sur www.youdream.be.

SUPERAMAS: YOUDREAM



10 & 11/12 • 20.30, €12/16, EN (10/12, 18 > 19.30, €5 Focus Superamas, lecture by Pieter T'Jonck, NL)
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