

## Searching for traces of solitary deceased

**UNINVITED GUESTS, direction: DARUM, décor: Julia Grevenkamp, texts: Andrea Imler, Emre Akal, Thomas Perle, Alexandra Pâzgu, Mario Schlembach, composition: Kai Krösche, video: Victoria Halper, singing: Laura Andreß, audiowalks speakers: Gunther Hölbl, Andrea Imler, Nora Jacobs, Aenne Schwarz, Helmut Wiesinger, audiowalks sound: Arthur Fussy, guitar: Sebastian Schley, With: Laura Andreß, Victoria Halper, Nora Jacobs, Kai Krösche. Prod. DARUM in cooperation with WERK X-Petersplatz, VIENNA.**

Thirty people sit at a long table in the funeral hall of the Central Cemetery, eat potato soup with bread and raise their glass: "To D.!" But nobody has known D. Or perhaps just a little bit? One thinks to have met this person in the past few hours – or a possible version of him. D. died late last year, alone, with no relatives who could bury him. As one of about 500 deceased every year, he received a "solitary funeral" from the city of Vienna.

The trio Laura Andreß, Victoria Halper and Kai Krösche, founders one year ago of the DARUM collective, commemorate him in the performance *Uninvited Guests* that begins like a detective game and ends with a memorial service. The itinerant show starts at Werk-X theatre in the heart of Vienna. Anonymised information, from the certificate of registration to facebook postings, convey in a multimedia installation a feeling of D.'s life. A myriad of objects show his habits in a rebuilt apartment. One has to imagine a lot, of course. Pierogis (the national Polish dish) and vodka are served. *Uninvited guests* is a search for clues that commemorate a total of five different deceased between the ages of 39 and 68 selected after a thorough research. On five consecutive afternoons, the destiny of each one of them is transformed into a unique experience for all senses. The second part leads via bus to the Central Cemetery. A voice takes the travellers back in time, when horse-drawn wagons carried the coffins to the grave. At the cemetery, the group equipped with headphones walks along the alleys, listening to one of the texts commissioned to five authors. Among beautiful honorary tombs, there are many graves with a simple wooden plate. These are for the "solitary deceased". At D's supposed grave it turns out that, due to data protection, the plate remains anonymous. But the story about loneliness, death and the impenetrability of human existence is thought-provoking even after the funeral feast. **Irina Wolf**