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Eating a Man

Tuesday 19 November 2024
7pm, Lawrence Batley Theatre

Ensemble Scenatet:

My Hellgren cello

Vicky Wright clarinet

Rowland Sutherland flute

Matias Seibæk percussion

Fei Nie piano

Kasia Ziminska violin

Clara Stensgaard vocals

Anna Berit Asp Christensen staging and direction

Christian Winther Christensen & Anna Berit Asp Christensen
video

Maria Pi Houmann light design

Mette Hornbek Hansen technical manager

Christian Winther Christensen (Denmark, 1977)

Eating a Man (2021) 60' UK Premiere

Mingling a fresh perspective with constancy, Danish composer Christian Winther Christensen has developed a distinct and contemporary sound. His compositions focus on the smallest musical detail and the unsuspected theatrical gesture – music that moves virtuosically between sound and silence. Influences of sound explorers such as Helmut Lachenmann, György Ligeti and Simon Steen-Andersen are present, but Winther Christensen mainly maps out his own path.

One of the ensembles continuously promoting his work is Scenatet. Founded in 2008, the Danish ensemble presents each of its concert in a unique way, seeking an unusual, multidisciplinary concert

experience. Here, Scenatet performs the musical theatre work *Eating a Man* in collaboration with director Anna Berit Asp Christensen.

With *Eating a Man*, composer Christian Winther Christensen and stage director Anna Berit Asp Christensen have embarked on a musical and personal voyage exploring the concept of the unknown and the alien. The investigation has its starting point in Winther Christensen's 10-year-old documentary-work *Documentation about Apu Sakar*, wherein Winther Christensen agrees to eat an Indian man after his death. The purpose of the ritual is to honour the deceased by letting his spirit live on through the consumption.

Now, 10 years later, the work has been reimagined by Scenatet and new questions present themselves and demand musical answers: questions concerning the symbolic meaning of cannibalism, the possibility of honorable cultural exchange, and the nature of the experience of alienation. *Eating a Man* does not give any definitive answers but allows the audience not only to answer these uncomfortable questions for themselves, but also to interrogate the root of this uncomfortability.

***Eating a Man* is a performance opera commissioned and produced by Scenatet in partnership with November Music, SPOR festival, and hcmf// as part of the Sounds Now project co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union**

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