

GRACE ELLEN BARKEY & NEEDCOMPANY

PROBABILITIES OF INDEPENDENT EVENTS



© Grace Ellen Barkey

A Needcompany production
With the support of the Flemish authorities

The sun will probably rise, but there is a chance that it won't. How do you plan for chance? How often can you perform an experiment, and does the chance of success increase? In *Probabilities of Independent Events*, Grace Ellen Barkey asks absurd and quirky but vital questions on the probability (or improbability) of things. She seeks out the human significance behind the mathematical notion that independent events are not influenced by previous occurrences.

Where visual art, dance and performance meet, that's where you will find Grace Ellen Barkey's productions. The musical dramaturgy always plays a pivotal part. In *Probabilities of Independent Events*, her choreography starts out from pop and folk songs by Zappa, Queen and other musical icons. The arrangements are by the composer Rombout Willems, who also is the musical director. Together with the Needcompany orchestra and 14 dancers from Antwerp's Royal Conservatoire, they will make a party out of merry pointlessness, packed with humour and all that's radical.

In *Probabilities of Independent Events*, Barkey returns to absurdity. Anything is possible. It can't fail.

Number of ways it can happen

Probability of an event happening = $\frac{\text{Number of ways it can happen}}{\text{Total number of outcomes}}$

Director & choreographer Grace Ellen Barkey

Musical Director & arrangements Rombout Willems

Needcompany orchestra & performers Sung-Im Her, Jules Beckman, Jan Lauwers, Yonier Camilo Mejia, Simon Lenski, Maarten Seghers, Elke Janssens, George van Dam, Rombout Willems

Dancers Antwerp's Royal Conservatoire Isaac Butler, Martha Gardner, Fyllenia Grigoriou, Marah Haj, Oscar Pascual López, Hanne Van Driessche, Raphael Damasceno Ferreira de Moura, Joshua Pinchon Jones, Meron Verbelen, Agnese Forlani, Valeria Secchi, Arnau Moreno i Grau, Flora Virag, Viljar Irtun Moe

Costumes Lieve Meeussen

Assistance costumes Lot Lemm

Dramaturge Elke Janssens

Choreographic Assistant Sung-Im Her

Technical Director & Lighting Designer Ken Hioco

Sound Pierrick Drochmans

Assistant technical director Tijs Michiels

Production Manager Marjolein Demey

Producer Needcompany

Co-producer Concertgebouw Brugge

With thanks to Antwerp's Royal Conservatoire – AP Hogeschool, Yasemin Kandemir, Karel Tuytschaever et Nienke Reehorst

Tax Shelter financing uFund nv, Melissa Thomas, Christel Simons

With support from the Belgian Federal Government's Tax Shelter and the Flemish authorities



GRACE ELLEN BARKEY

The artist, choreographer and performer Grace Ellen Barkey was born in Surabaya (Indonesia). She lives and works in Brussels and is a co-founder of Needcompany (1986), a house of artists. Since 1992 she has been steadily and successfully building an international career with her own stage creations, whose nature lies where theatre, dance, live art and visual art meet. The musical dramaturgy is central to her work, and includes works by Gustav Mahler as well as Sonic Youth. In 2013 the iconic avant-garde American performance art collective The Residents has written music for her creation MUSH-ROOM. In her latest production FOREVER (2016), Grace Ellen Barkey raises the same questions as Mahler: "No one can sustain constant praise of life. Death or, rather, the finiteness of human life deserves a song or a dance too."

Grace Ellen Barkey is steadily building up a visual oeuvre of her own. Her most recent installations form a study of the transposition from a space to a narrowness in which the viewer is invited to become part of a sensory work. She has been collecting, photographing and filming flowers, leaves and other flora for many years in her own town garden in Brussels and her immediate surroundings. "A claustrophobic look at the notion that people are mortal while nature is eternal. Beauty is only appealing when it is transient. Only then does it acquire a history."

Grace Ellen Barkey used to also be one half of the artistic duo Lemm&Barkey, together with Lot Lemm. Their work has been exhibited at several museums including BOZAR (Brussels), Benaki Museum (Athens), Musée des Arts décoratifs (Paris), CC Strombeek, Dr. Guislain museum (Gent), Triënnale Hasselt / Superbodies i.a

NEEDCOMPANY

Needcompany is an artists' company set up by the artists Jan Lauwers and Grace Ellen Barkey in 1986. Maarten Seghers has been a member of Needcompany since 2001. Lauwers, Barkey and Seghers form the core of the company, and it embraces all their artistic work: theatre, dance, performance, visual art, writing, etc. Their creations are shown at the most prominent venues at home and abroad.

Since the very beginning, Needcompany has presented itself as an international, multilingual, innovative and multidisciplinary company. This diversity is reflected best in the ensemble itself, in which on average 7 different nationalities are represented. Over the years Needcompany has put increasing emphasis on this ensemble and several artistic alliances have flourished: Lemm&Barkey (Grace Ellen Barkey and Lot Lemm) and OHNO COOPERATION (Maarten Seghers and Jan Lauwers).

Needcompany revolves around the individual artist. Everything is founded on the artistic project, on authenticity, necessity and meaning. The medium itself is continually questioned, and there is constant examination of the quality of the content to be conveyed in relation to the form it takes. Needcompany believes in quality, cooperation and innovation. Needcompany is a leading voice in the social debate on the urgency and beauty of art at both a domestic and an international level.

NEEDCOMPANY

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International bookings

Key Performance/Koen Vanhove

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