

***Intimate encounter in a black box* by Anna Ångström, SVD Swedish Newspaper 19.09.2011**

The rain is whipping, a cold wind blows in between our bodies and the universe seems to vibrate from severe thunderstorms. You feel the `storm' in every fiber. In vain I sought protection, but instead I embraced invisible people in soaking wet clothes. The experience is significantly physical and takes place in the pitch-black room of Weld's basement.

Undertone, a performance of the French choreographer Sidney Leoni, presented inside the fascinating festival *Almost Out of Sight*, blurs the boundary between viewers and performers. The concept can be likened to a workshop where the audience is encouraged to use senses other than sight. We are welcomed by a blue shot that we are asked to smell, hear, feel and taste. Then we head down towards the dark, take off our shoes and are asked to take care of each other.

The first feeling is claustrophobic, a sort of lurking panic. We see nothing, and only feel the mass of bodies around us. I grasped cautiously. Squeezed someone's hand lightly, and stroke someone's back. It is intimate but not unpleasant. The unexpected meeting with a hard wall is reassuring and offer something to hold on to. But a certain hand pushes me out into the unknown again. Becoming habituated to the situation and the darkness strengthens the courage to take initiative.

The darkness makes it not only difficult to navigate – even the sense of time gets suspended. When the room suddenly brightens a bit, the space and its limitations are revealed, as well as the people who are in it. All of a sudden, the lights fade out to a dark blue / purple light mix, After a while, I notice that nude performers are spread among us. They bend their body forward and folds down in slow motion, so close that one cannot resist touching the movement of these living sculptures whose soft skin shine like marble.

The room is filled with a mysterious, sensual presence. *Undertone* brings out our more primitive instincts, as a beautiful reminder that man needs more than eye and intellect for his survival.

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