



Economic theory for Dummies

a performance by Amund Sjølie Sveen

We all know money isn't everything.

We all know we can't buy happiness.

We all know the rich are still getting richer and the poor are still getting poorer.

We all know the earth is about to roll over the cliff.

We all know it probably would be good to change a few things around.

We all love our new iPhones.

Economic theory for Dummies is a performance lecture by Amund Sjølie Sveen investigating our present economic system; the theoretical, historical, philosophical and psychological background of today's economic reality - and how the rhetorics of this system is present in our minds and media.

How is «human nature» related to economic terms and the conditions of modern liberal market economy? If it is true that culture is way ahead of nature - that our human emotions and instincts today, through evolution, are perfectly tuned for living in a world of scarcity, threats and the need for short-term-thinking - how does this work today, now that we actually live in a world of affluence, security and the need for long-term-thinking?

This project is a small contribution to the public need to regain power in the field of economy. We need to understand the economy in order to have an opinion about it. We need to understand the words and concepts of the 'economist-language'. We need to be able to separate politics from laws of nature. We need to grasp the connections between economy and ecology. We need a crash course, we need a bit of *Economic theory for Dummies*.

Credits:

Concept, text, visuals, music, direction by Amund Sjølie Sveen.

Dramaturg: Gry Ulfeng

Co-produced by: Steirischer Herbst, New Theater Institute of Latvia, Barents Spektakel Festival and Imagine 2020.

Supported by: Arts Council Norway, Freedom of expression foundation and Programme Culture of the European Commission

Premiered in Graz (AUS), at Steirischer Herbst, sept 2013.

Amund Sjølie Sveen (1973):

Born in Vadsø, in the far north of Norway, based in Oslo. Artist and percussionist. Has a master in solo percussion from Göteborg College of Music, Sweden. Is working with a wide range of expressions and medias which common ground mainly is the use of sound and the investigation of current political issues in the globalized world of market economy.

Has in recent years worked with a series of performance lectures including live music; *USB - United States of Barents* (2007) - discussing identity and IKEA in the northern corner of Europe, *The Norwegian Way* (2010) - looking at possible connections between art, oil and happiness in the richest country on earth, and *Sound of Freedom* (2011) - investigating the connections between sound, music, weapons and war.

www.amundsveen.no

Economic Theory for Dummies - touring dates:

Graz (AU), Steirischer Herbst, Sept 2013

Rotterdam (NL), Rotterdamses Schouwburg, Sept 2013

Athens (GRE), Athens Biennale - AGORA, Oct 2013

Riga (LAT), New Theater Institute of Latvia, Nov 2013

Amsterdam (NL), Frascati, Dec 2013

Bergen (NO), BIT Teatergarasjen, March 2014

Seoul (KOR), BO:M festival, April 2014

Busan (KOR), BO:M festival (satellite), April 2014

Tromsø (NO), Vårscenefest, May 2014

Stamsund (NO), Stamsund International Theater Festival, May 2014

Fribourg (CH), Belluard Bollwerk International, July 2014

Freiburg (D), Politik im Freien Theater, Nov 2014
