

HERISAU

Portofino

He's got talent - hell's bells!

No, he did not play the doublebass. No concert, no "Nightingale". But despite this, it was a delightful evening for ears and eyes. First of all the inside of his instrument offers the astounded audience a whole bunch of surprises. Father and son live in there - and try to escape their dull life.

His plan was to improvise "The Nightingale" on his doublebass, but Peter Rinderknecht is shy. And he was a bit embarrassed when he told his friend over the mobile phone, that he was not prepared enough. And then there were all these spectators. It's true, the "Alte Zeughaus" in Herisau was sold out that evening. Rinderknecht tried to gain time by talking to the audience, but he looked rather helpless - and convincing at the same time. His nimble mind jumped from here to there like a world champion. Eventually he was saved by the cuckoo - who announced the time, but was late...

Dull every day life

And now Rinderknecht started to present the lively inside of his instrument in all the different aspects. There was this elderly man who dressed up as cuckoo every single hour, stood in front of the little door and announced the time by shouting the appropriate number of cuckoos. Once finished he was pulled back into the doublebass by a skilful technical device. And there was his son who was due to take over the business, but hated the dull life in the doublebass. Slowly but surely the conflict between father and son got into the centre of the interest. By a swift trick the relationship was side-tracked from the dead end. Father and son tried to escape the dullness of their secluded life, but the father failed due to the fact that by sheer force of habit, he had strapped on the security belt.

Hot coffee

Peter Rinderknecht tells his story with an incredible passion for details. The conjunction between music and story gives you the feeling to sit in a musical. Although Rinderknecht is performing all on his own, cuckoo and son seem to be living actors at equal rights. The changes from dialogue to music and from scene to scene are quick, a bit like in a fast moving film. The various atmospheres are fascinating, giving each scene a different colour: dull is the every day life in the clock, relaxed and exotic the atmosphere at the seaport of Portofino. The fittings of the doublebass are astonishing, incredible. The furnishings include a refrigerator and a coffee machine able to brew a real hot Italian coffee! All these elements help to create a symbiotic relationship between Peter Rinderknecht, the doublebass and the figures of cuckoo and son.

Symbioses

All take profit of each others. The spectator loses gradually the ability to distinguish between reality and fantasy. It's easy to follow the actor into the different worlds he's opening up, easy to be side-tracked. "I'd like to go far away, but when I'm there, far - away is further still." The themes treated in this play touch everyone deeply. The audience was enthusiastic - younger and older people alike. So don't forget: if you plan to break out of the daily routine, skip the strapping on!