

## LE CRI - Accompanying the death of a tree

Video audio piece

**for one speaker and 4 tree choirs**

What do trees need to live and is there such a thing as communication between trees and other living beings?

What role do humans play in this social structure?

So there are two opponents. Here man and there the trees. Pairs of opposites such as fast, slow, mobile, static, autotrophic, heterotrophic. They structure the dramaturgy of the text. Man as a being in love with technology and progress, speaking with one voice, while the trees are amorphous, polyphonic, choral. The texts of the choirs are made up of individual letters.

The human voice and the 4 tree choirs appear alternately in a total of 10 chapters:

Chapter 1: The event: The piece begins with the most efficient solid wood cutting machine, the harvester. A kind of hymn celebrates its precision and speed: up to 2 trees can be felled, delimbed and sawn to length in one minute. The trees, with their centuries of growth phases, are no match for this.

Chapter 2: Origin, the formula for life: What does a tree need to live? It produces sugar and oxygen from light, air and water. We call this photosynthesis. This is the only way life could develop on earth.

Chapter 3: Origin of the earth: What science knows about the origin of the earth makes you wonder, marvelling at how much man knows and how accurately he can sort out events. In the following chapters, we accompany man on his way to becoming the "ruler" of matter and nature.

Chapter 4: Time: Eating and being eaten. It returns to the trees and focusses on their strategy to protect themselves from predators. Scents everywhere and aphids and ladybirds and bark beetles and....

Chapter 5: Survival: The miracle of stability. It is a true miracle how life was able to develop at all on Earth between an oxygen-free atmosphere, thick ice sheets and heat waves. But it was photosynthesis that was the breakthrough.

Chapter 6: The open system and cooperation. You need partners to survive. Trees find their partners in other trees, other species and other life forms, such as fungi and organisms.

Chapter 7: The technological extension of life. After the plants came ashore, it took a while for a creature to rise up, quadruple its brain and invent tools. Then, from the point of view of Earth's history, everything happened at breakneck speed.

Chapter 8: The anaesthetic, dying and eternity. The seasons always seem to wrest "dead" phases from the trees, the fruit is eaten, the leaves fall off and capillaries close. But for the broken branch, a new one grows back.

Chapter 9: Life is a struggle. A hymn to competition, to the creative power of man, to the belief that there is always progress, that technology will always provide a solution, even if you have to move to another planet or moon.

Chapter 10: The end. The play returns to the opening scene. Man and the tree choirs appear simultaneously and the opening scene as a hymn to the machine is paralleled with the death of the trees.

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