**90 seconds with Jetse**

**A performance about war for children from 6 years old, sounds heavy?**

I do like a challenge. In a talk with my own children I noticed that I fell short, because how do you explain war to children? That was the reason for this piece. Children intuitively know that there is such a thing as war. And it became clear to me that my knowledge about war does not extend beyond that of my children. So it is not a question of age, but of experience.

**How did you approach it?**

Two things you can't do: on the one hand you can't make jokes about war. You have an ethical responsibility to the subject. On the other hand, you should not try to bring the war on stage as real as possible, because the audience is too young for that. For me, the solution therefore was the surrealistic and absurd. We are not explaining the war, but dissect it into small pieces - smoke, screams, surrender, ruins. To make it manageable. In addition, my three actors declare war to the audience. And that responds. To the horror of the actors who try with all their might to end the war, which is less simple than you think.

**How do you deal with the parents? After all, it is they who decide to take their children to the theatre.**

That is indeed less easy. If you are out for something fun to do with your children on your free afternoon, you don't necessarily think of a performance about war, do you? I hope for parents who, like me, want to share these big issues with children in a gentle way. And I trust the teachers. They too must bring such a subject across with great responsibility. And we can take care of that.

**And what about the reactions of the children who saw the piece?**

When my actors try to make peace, children react disappointed with a massive "noooooooooooo! I have the feeling that they enjoy the fact that the actors are afraid of them. And, frankly, children just love chaos!

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