

Translation of the article “Händchen halten”, by Mathias Bischoff, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 30th of Nov. 2002

Holding hands – ‘Plateaux’ festival 2002, Mousonturm Frankfurt am Main, Nov. ’02

Holding hands

New productions at “Plateaux” in Frankfurt’s Mousonturm

(...) Very different yet the in its monotony exciting contribution from Antonia Baehr and William Wheeler. “Holding hands” is the half-an-hour long piece’s disarmingly simple name, and that very same is also almost its entire content. The two actors plainly just stand on the stage, hold each other by the hand, and look once cheerful, once frightened, once depressed. That at least in sync. After very very long 20 minutes, in which some audience members already left the room, an opera aria resounds, that the two play along lip-sync. But the actual happening occurs in the audience. We hear in the room’s silence every crackle and stomach gargle, we hear giggling when, minimally only, the two actors’ expressions move, so happy we are about the slightest hint of action. And we feel anger well up in our chest about the impudence to be forced to watch a non-happening, to attend the refusal of playing theatre. And so the small provocation at the end still fulfills its purpose: it arouses more emotions than some large-scale production.