



*turning into saints*

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### **Can the conjuring of religious myths stand the light of day?**

In the intersection between life and death, hope and suffering, redemption and loss, a theatrical journey opens up - rewriting the historical lives of the holy in a modern landscape. Past and present is staged through a selection from the one-act cycle "The Saint Plays" by Erik Ehn.

This is the re-told story of three legendary saints: Saint Barbara who was decapitated by her father, the Virgin Mary with her immaculate conception, and Saint Eulalia who was tortured with her hair aflame.

This is placed in a landscape that generates contemporary connotations through cultural references in different patterns, where puppetry, physical visual theatre and text based sound-theatre meet as partners in a waltz.

This is three meetings with a saint, a pattern and a prayer.

The trinity culminates in a song and you are invited to project yourself onto the saints' meta-historical rebellion in the borderland between empathy and faith.

The performance is in English.

## RADIO ELEPHANT



When Barbara was a little girl, her wicked father imprisoned her in a high tower. So Barbara lived in the tower. One day a priest passed under her tower. He was singing about Jesus Christ. And Barbara heard him. "I love Jesus too," she cried. "I am a Christian."

When her father heard this, he was furious. In those days, it was against the law to love Jesus or to be a Christian. "She is not my daughter any longer," her father shouted. "Beat her until she is almost dead. Then chop off her head."

The soldiers carried out the cruel order. But suddenly angels came and carried the soul of Barbara to heaven. Or, it was the father who chopped off her head and a terrible flash of lightning struck her cruel father and killed him where he stood. Or, Barbara managed to escape. Or, she was killed before she had her period and her head began to grow. And then she became the patron saint for artillerymen.

I heard this on the radio.

## TREE OF HOPE, KEEP FIRM

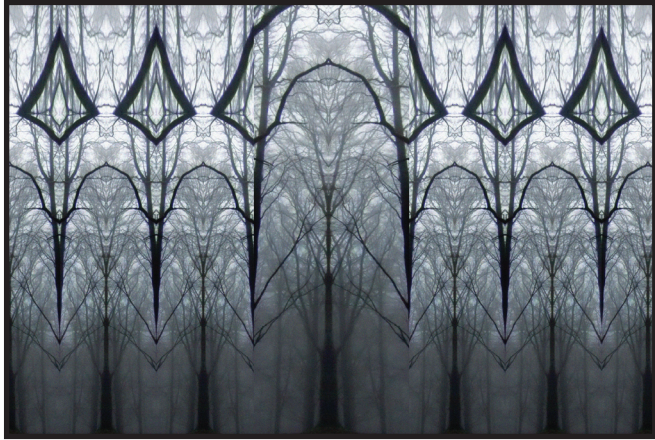


Humans have been sinful since Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, and sin is passed on from generation to generation, through the way we are conceived and born. It is not sex itself, but the feeling of lust during sex which is sinful. It is difficult to carry out a sexual intercourse without lust, therefore it is impossible to imagine that someone can be created without passing on sin. Jesus was conceived without sin.

Virgin Mary is not with a man, but is impregnated by God's word. The human body has several openings, and the word enters through the ear. Mary is without sin and the only one who shall bear her child without pain and without losing her virginity.

The moment when the Virgin Mary understands that she is pregnant is called the Annunciation. The church's representation of Mary has had great importance for a lot of people - not least women.

## PAIN



Ever since Eulalia was born, she had an admirable temperament and showed a great deal of love, affection and modesty. She had a sincere desire to lead on earth a Christian heavenly life.

When she was twelve, an order was given that everyone should offer sacrifice to the pagan gods of the empire. Eulalia was defiant and filled with a wish for martyrdom. She ran away from home and fought the court. Eulalia was seized, but if she sacrificed some salt and frankincense, she would be spared from torture. Eulalia refused. She was cruelly tortured with iron hooks in the chest and her flesh was torn from her bones. Then she was burned with torches and died as the fire caught her hair, stifled by smoke and flames. A white dove came from her mouth and winged its way towards heaven, and a family lost their daughter in the snow.

Saint Eulalia intercedes for all those who wish to stand against ruling powers.

## SONG FOR THE END

*One night you argue until you're tired and you  
Open the door and three birds fly away  
As if they were speaking secrets about you  
It's night and three birds fly away*

*And you hope the gossips understand your secrets  
Birds flash red throats and thread through the sky  
Where have you been that birds speak your secrets?  
Will they understand later and elsewhere in the sky?*

*And this will never happen again  
The birds have flown with your secrets to heaven  
Where will you go where have you been?  
And this will never happen again*

*Your reason is bird gossip  
And the three birds have all flown  
And the gossip breaks down to metered prayer  
And the birds have become unreasonable angels  
Singing back all you've ever known*

*And you stand at the door and watch  
The night birds fly away with your secrets  
And you turn back to the kitchen table with  
New love in your heart*

*And you take your lover's hands  
And you have no secrets  
You are understood elsewhere you have no reason for reasons  
The birds have told your secrets as light to the heavens*

*And this will never happen again  
And this will never happen again  
And this will never happen again  
And this will never happen again  
The end*

*Music/sound used in PAIN:  
Anxur (www.myspace.com/anxur)  
Fear of flying, Susanne Irene Fjørtoft  
Karen Skog Orkester*

*Music/sound used in TREE OF HOPE:  
Ave Maria, J.S.Bach, Alessandro Moreschi, 1904  
A delicate electrical sound and Firewings av Claudio Forlini*

*Erik Ehn. Birgitte Erikson. Sigurd. Karl Flyman. Stine Janvin Motland. Christina Henriksen. Kate Pendry. Øystein Johansen. Susanne Irene Fjørtoft. Karina Nielsen. Audun Skau Hansen. Ingvild Refsum. Lisa Eikrann. Grith Ea Jensen. Ingrid Rusten. Claudio Forlini. Javier Tvihaug. Supported by: Arts Council Norway, Bergen City Council, The Fund for Performing Artists and Moving Art. Co-production: BIT Teatergarasjen and Black Box Teater. Thanks to Elin Furubotn, Kjetil Holm Klavenes, Camilla Sivesind Tokvam, Wrap, Ewa Molik and to Rebecca Pike (sunnybrook1) for her realistic wing tutorial.*



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