

Aavraag Tegemoetkoming Reiskosten 2007



DIS- ORIENT EX- PRESS

**een film performance van UM
michael schmid & ula sickle**

DISORIENT EXPRESS UM

'I told you just now.

We have the evidence of the passengers and the evidence of our own eyes.'

Detective Poirot in Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express"

In the frame of Kunst/Werk - F,r,o,g,s OS the performance duo UM, consisting of choreographer Ula Sickle and musician Michael Schmid, organize their first common project around the last ride of the Orient Express, the legendary train which once connected Paris with Istanbul.

Now an ordinary train which runs nightly between Paris and Vienna, the Express will be discontinued altogether on June 9th, with the inauguration of a new high speed TGV line connecting Paris and Strasbourg. The first train to have crossed borders and the setting of many novels and films, the Orient Express has become synonymous with intrigue, luxury and exoticism. It's demise marks the end of an era of luxury long-distance travel.

Using video as their medium, the pair will embark on this last trip of the orient Express with a series of questions as script and the timetable of the train itself as scenario. Between stations the performers will engage in a series of interviews with the other passengers aboard the train, using their skills as performers to elicit an increasingly conditioned response from their captive audience.

Beginning in the present tense, with passengers who may or may not be aware of the historical significance of their journey, the interviewees will be asked to speak about themselves, their lives and lifestyles. As night falls and the train moves towards it's final destination, the questions and the protocol of the interview itself will become progressively performative and thus manipulative and disorienting.

UM will lead their subjects into a fictional past, a time and space which has become increasingly obsolete, living on as nostalgia.

Disorient Express is a project which arose recently, after the decision of the "Compagnie internationales des Wagons-Lits" to discontinue the services of the Orient Express was made public. Since this project is linked to a real event (the last voyage of the Orient Express), with its actual deadline, we are currently preparing applications for the financing of the post-production as well as finding venues interested in the showing of the film.