February 17th 2020

Attempts of their Lives

~~Second~~ Draft Screenplay
by
Natalie Galvau

From the narratives collected over the past few weeks, addressing the refugee crisis. Inspired by Martin Crimp's *Attempts on her Life.*

1

Coffee and Smoke

Performance piece. Adapted from Sae's poem on coffee and smoke, poetry session.

Poetry workshop #1

FADE IN -

Two characters sit smoking at a coffee table discussing the culture of a coffee bean (AD LIB). Their backs are to the audience and the coffee table with two mugs of coffee sit between the characters.
Everything is neat and minimalist. They are there alone, absorbed in the conversation and blanketed by the sharp smell of coffee and smoke.

In unison they pick up their coffees and exhale a puff of smoke. One leg folded over the other, tapping to a silent beat of which the following words follow:

PROTAGONIST:
I think the ritual
Of a coffee and a
Cigarette is of
Universal understanding
And inspiration
If only we would focus
More on the things that
Connect us…

Tapping continues as the scene plays out.

They turn their heads to look at each other showing their profiles to the audience.
They ~~cheer their mugs~~ and turn their heads to face forwards once again.

More interaction ?

FADE OUT - Performance sequence?

(2) See A Raid?

Script written from an immigration raids leaflet, ~~found~~.

FLASH IN-

See A Raid?
Don't walk by!
We can resist the raids together!

Makes sure people
Know they don't have to answer
Any questions

(Beat)

They can leave.

(Beat)

Walk with them.

(Beat)

Film the officers and police

(Beat)

Challenge the officers and police
Why me?
Why them?
Why us?

(Beat)

See A Raid?
Don't walk by!
We can resist the raids together!

(Beat)

Tell people around you
What is happening
Call your friends
Get the word out

(Beat)

See A Raid?
Don't walk by!
We can resist the raids together!

AD LIB throughout.

(3) ~~Music~~

Performed as a music number. Taken from the music writing session, hosted at Amazing People of the World.

APOW workshop.

FADE IN-

Music, Music, Music
Makes you feel amazing
Makes you feel excited
Music, Music, Music
We are musical and loving
Work towards our goals
To be happy
Suada, Simcha, Kushi
Joie, Farhad, Lumturi

Music, Music, Music
Makes you feel amazing
Makes you feel excited
Music, Music, Music
Makes you want to dance
Suada, Simcha, Kushi
Joie, Farhad, Lumturi
Music, Music, Music

Music is vibration

(Beat)

It's my expression

(Beat)

Music gives me meaning

(Beat)

It's empowering and fulfilling

(Beat)

Music is my everything

(Beat)

It's how I connect with
People and myself

(Beat)

Music is my power
My weapon
My escape
My direction
My identity
My hope
My home.

FADE OUT-

(4) Regulation 33 Political implications

The active law in which all ships at sea must respond to those in distress.

Regulation 33 - Distress Situations: Obligations and procedures

The master of a ship at sea which is in a position to be able to provide assistance on receiving information from any source that persons are in distress at sea, is bound to proceed with all speed to their assistance, if possible informing them or the search and rescue service that the ship is doing so.

(Beat)

This obligation to provide assistance applies regardless of the nationality or status of such persons or the circumstances in which they are found.

(Beat)

If the ship receiving the distress alert is unable or, in the special circumstances of the case, considers it unreasonable or unnecessary to proceed to their assistance, the master must enter in the log-book the reason for failing to proceed to the assistance of the persons in distress, taking into account the recommendation of the Organization, to inform the appropriate search and rescue service accordingly.

(Beat) actual pulse sound

The master of a ship in distress or the search and rescue service concerned, after consultation, so far as may be possible, with the masters of ships which answer the distress alert, has the right to requisition one or more of those ships as the master of the ship in distress or the search and rescue service considers best able to render assistance, and it shall be the duty of the master or masters of the ship or ships requisitioned to comply with the requisition by continuing to proceed with all speed to the assistance of persons in distress.

(Beat)

Masters of ships shall be released from the obligation imposed by paragraph 1 on learning that their ships have not been requisitioned and that one or more other ships have been requisitioned and are complying with the requisition. This decision shall, if possible be communicated to the other requisitioned ships and to the search and rescue service.

(Beat)

The master of a ship shall be released from the obligation imposed by paragraph 1 and, if his ship has been requisitioned, from the obligation imposed by paragraph 2 on being informed by the persons in distress or by the search and rescue service or by the master of another ship which has reached such persons that assistance is no longer necessary.

(Beat)

The provisions of this regulation do not prejudice the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules of Law Relating to Assistance and Salvage at Sea, signed at Brussels on 23 September 1910, particularly the obligation to render assistance imposed by article 11 of that Convention.

(Beat)

Masters of ships who have embarked persons in distress at sea shall treat them with humanity, within the capabilities and limitations of the ship.

(Beat)

Reg. 33 applies to all ships

(Beat)

Repeat throughout?

New internationalist's narrative

5

Regulation 33, Active

Script based on the account published of a search and recovery diver, Renato Sollustri, following the event from October 3 , 2013, where a ship carrying hundreds of refuge-seeking women, men and children, mainly from Eritrea and Ethiopia, sank off the coast of Lampedusa, Italy. Over three hundred of those on board drowned.

FADE IN-

A raft floating between lands, hosting over 30 people in its small body. Small waves moan under the haunting moonlight, the promise of a tragedy within its hollow depths.

A small child, held by its pregnant mother, splashes its hands in the rising water of the raft. Blissful and innocent. Its mother holds it tightly, tiredness and fear cling to her face. Those around her silently restless to the obvious loom of fate. So close yet so far. Perhaps this saying translates differently. Perhaps it means more. Slowly sailing yet sinking, the boat gets smaller and smaller.

FADE OUT:

(The next day) How to show this.

The dark blinding depths of the Mediterranean ocean floor.
4 search and rescue divers' searching what seems to be a sunken ship.
Drowned bodies tied together to be surfaced.

RADIO SPEAKER:
A sunken ship carrying hundreds of refuge-seeking women, men and children sank yesterday, off the coast of Lampedusa, Italy. Over three hundred of those on board drowned. Officials say that while they did attempt to respond to the SOS they did not unfortunately, make it on time

SEAWATCH VOLUNTEER #1:

… Shit.

(Beat)

We should have come here first -

SEAWATCH VOLUNTEER #1:
-There's no way we could have known the boat would sail that night it was a 50/50 chan-

SEAWATCH VOLUNTEER #1:
-There shouldn't be a chance at all

(Beat)

Fuck.

The Seawatch volunteer leans on the table. A scribble-filled map shows notes on popular refugee passages and routes across the sea.
There were four ships nearby, FOUR.

(continued:)

The Seawatch volunteer #1 smacks their hand down in frustration as volunteer #2 comes to console him.
The sound of movement grows louder and the volunteers rush to the back of the boat.
Camera pans to follow the volunteers out the door but remains inside, watching the scene play out through the doorway.

At the sight of what they drag out of the ocean, all crew members become agitated.
Seawatch volunteer #2 turns pale and sways back as if about to collapse.

Fade in -

SEAWATCH VOLUNTEER #2

(CHOKES UP) oh god...

NARRATOR:
~~He described~~

(Beat)
swimming into the hold of the submerged boat and seeing the body of a young woman who seemed as if she was pregnant.
(Beat)

He recounted

(Beat)

taking her out of the boat-

"We laid her on the seabed. We tied her with a rope to other bodies and then...
(Beat)
we rose with them from the depths of the sea"
(Beat)
When they surfaced and lifted her body onto a waiting boat, they found that she had given birth while the boat sank,
(Beat)
the body of her new-born son,
attached by his umbilical cord,
underneath her clothes.

Fade out -

6

Perceptions of Fear

New Int.

Apparently,

Somehow,

I still managed to look at it from a certain distance that allowed the illusion of it all still having been 'made up'?

The second was taking guests on board for the first time.

I remember a young woman falling to her knees,

crying.

That was the second time reality hit me –

this stuff is real, happening, and totally incomprehensible.

How are any human beings able to treat their own kind like this?

To abandon someone to their fate like this?

(Pause)

People from my orbit,

when they talk about fear, they mean stuff like fear of heights of losing their jobs.

Which is all right,

it is perfectly fine to have those fears.

But the fear you could see in the faces of our guests though was different and more sincere,

if you can call it that.

It was a fear for their lives.

① The Chilling Effect ?

Refuge Solidarity Summit.

Extract from a conversation between Seawatch crew and other humanitarian volunteers.

- Under international laws and conventions you will NOT return people from which people are trying to escape from - that is legally binding And the government are telling us to contravene those laws and take them back

In Tunisia there are… there are presidents that set … example showing legal cases that have been won so that Tunisia deports people against their will…those countries aren't safe countries so, so we cant take them there… And by maritime law…because all of this ties in…by maritime law, we are, we are duty bound to take them to the nearest port. Which are generally either, Lampedusa, Sicily, or Malta. Those are the closest places, so we are duty bound to do it
We are perhaps THE ONLY ONES in Europe that obey the law,
Right?
However, we are criminalised
Threatened.

Every single ship,
Every single ship
Is being located and stopped -
And you think -
Yeah fair enough - so they were a bunch of young activists, maybe, maybe they did do something criminal?
They were young?
Maybe they got something wrong?
But every single one of us have been implicated - it can't be all of us, because we're not that trained.
And the whole purpose of it, is to tie us in with red tape.
To confuse people.
To make it seem…to shred doubt and suspicion on our credibility by making us discreditable in some way… they gain political strength - like "well look at them, they're under investigation. There's no smoke without fire". So they shred doubt, they make it seem like were criminals - even though we are the ones obeying the law..

It, it ties us in with red tape so it slows us down and exactly what I said before, it removes routes in operation. We have to ask for permission to deploy from the generic coast guard. - Last week, I was in training and there was a boat reported which was two minutes away,
can we respond to that boat?
"no, wait",
Five minutes later we ask again, "no wait",
and then five minutes later they overtake us and go check the case..
And that's what this is about.
They are reducing the possibility for us to save these people. -

- How many boats are locked up in ports or still operating?

more interaction?
"members of the audience"?

(cont:)

-Yeah, so. That's quite a difficult question to answer that, Its always in a state of flux. 'cause this is the red tape they tie us in, you know, we come back. Like with my mission - we came back from being held up for fifteen days and they then came round and (laughs), the lengths they go to to slow us down…they then came in and asked to see the ship. Asked to see our documentation - so we show the documentation. They can't get us with that, so then they ask to see our fridge. -

-Its going to be health and safety!.. - *(said in state of disbelief)*

- *(lets out a sneer)* They take us to the kitchen and asked about our waste disposal system -
The system basically grinds up the food and released it into the sea so the fish can eat it, right?
They said, that the particulates that we are releasing into the sea are two millimetres too big. -

AD LIB of groans of disbelief and light murmuring

- I think it is really important to note the collusion of all the European governments coming together to stop us.
They're doing it in the complicity of organisations which should be helping. Such as ION, they are completely complicit in it and will not use their voice because guess who funds them?

(Beat) Change of tone:
There is an oxymoron in the logic of the police,
In so far as they say we are facilitating the legal entry of an asylum seeker, with they cannot do.
They are except from illegal entry.
It's the real paradox - everyone has the right to claim asylum in any country.
Legally speaking, you are always an asylum seeker, what is different is that you're recognised as one by the state. The state has an obligation to allow you to seek that.
So to enter illegally is obviated by the fact that you have the right to make that entry.
And so the underlying logic employed by our prosecution…they already admit that they are asylum seekers, they already admit that it is impossible for them to enter illegally.