



PRESS RELEASE

07 October 2021

Music theatre, performance and installation

Rwandan Records

Immersive music theatre by Sounding Situations

22/10/2021, 15:00 – 21:30 // 23/10/2021, 15:00 – 21:30 //

24/10/2021, 14:00 – 19:30 // continuous admission

The Humboldt Forum's performance programme will be opened by *Rwandan Records*. This immersive music theatre performance by Jens Dietrich, Milena Kipfmüller, Klaus Janek (Sounding Situations) and Eric 1key, together with artists from Rwanda and Germany, brings together pre-colonial stories and present-day tales. In a combination of live concert, audio performance and installation, visitors are invited to immerse themselves in these collective stories from Rwanda and Germany. Rwandan hip-hop artist Eric 1key and Berlin composer Klaus Janek create a soundspace of language, traditional sounds, electronic music, beats and field recordings.

At the mention of the word 'Rwanda', most people only think of the genocide which began in April 1994. But since then, the country has undergone substantial economic development, and has now emerged as an African tiger economy. For the younger generation, this raises the question of how to deal with a past that is as challenging a legacy as that of Germany. Occupying a space between grandiose visions of the future and longings for vanishing traditions, Sounding Situations, together with the Rwandan spoken word artist Eric 1key, present *Rwandan Records*: a record label, recording studio, bar and archive of personal memories. The project presents a new, unique glimpse into globalised self-image. The pop cultural reference points are the same in both Rwanda and Germany; the catchwords in public debates are the same: identity, migration, community, integration, homeland, tradition and prosperity. However, these terms are associated with completely different visions in Rwanda, giving them new, expanded meanings here.

Sounding Situations and 1key have recorded conversations with numerous people in Rwanda, creating an eclectic ensemble of voices. The voices in this ensemble, and their stories, form a poignant live symphony. Visitors' actions will be tracked to create a personal album of the stories heard, which can be downloaded for home listening. The composition will flow between different time periods and worlds, between traditional songs, pop music and electronic sounds.

***Rwandan Records* was first performed in 2019 for 'Find the File' at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt.**

Eric 1key, one of Rwanda's most dynamic artists, appeared together with Sounding Situations on the MS Stubnitz in Hamburg in June, then went on to celebrate the Premiere of the Saul Williams film *Neptune Frost* – in which he appears – at Cannes in July. His most recent EP, *Mass Powetry*, was released in September. Jens Dietrich works regularly in

Rwanda, most recently on the theatre production 'Transforming Transmission', which was premiered in the summer of 2021 in Kigali, Bujumbura and at the Kampnagel in Hamburg. Milena Kipfmüller won the Hörspielpreis der Kriegsblinden for her audio play adaptation of *Hate Radio*; together with Klaus Janek she also won the Music Theater NOW prize in 2018 for the musical theatre production Musraropera. Klaus Janek is the composer of the 2007 techno opera *Afterhours*, which had its debut performance at the Berghain club in Berlin. Janek's music explores the boundaries between classical and popular music, performance and installation, noise and music, traditional and contemporary, analogue and digital.

Tickets: €8, concessions €4

Cast: With Eric 1key and Klaus Janek // **Voices:** Wesley Ruzibiza, Dominique Alonga, Assumpta Mugiraneza, Eric 1key, Chris Schwagga, Hervé Kimenyi, Jean Marie Vianney Mushabizi, Deo Munyakazi, Yannick Kamenzi, Béata Mukamulisa, Gamalière Mbonimana, Imaculée Inshongore // **Directed & written by:** Jens Dietrich and Milena Kipfmüller. // **Artistic direction:** SNDNG STTNS (Milena Kipfmüller, Jens Dietrich, Klaus Janek) // **Technical consultant:** Assumpta Mugiraneza // **Stage management:** Jelka Plate // **Music & composition:** Klaus Janek // **Corporate Design:** Klaus Janek.

A Sounding Situations production in collaboration with the **HAUS DER KULTUREN DER WELT** and the **IRIBA CENTRE FOR MULTIMEDIA HERITAGE Kigali**.

RWANDAN RECORDS is supported by the **Capital Cultural Fund** and the **Goethe Institut Kigali**.

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