

## **On the video installation GREAT SCENE, 2005**

"Great scene", 23 min., 2005

video installation, 1:1

Two parts of the project: "Mhat Theatre" and "Dubrowka"

Projection format: 2 DVD + sound (Chinese tune)

The film project was realised in terms of performance. It consists of two parts screening on two walls/screens which are opposite each other. The only actor being aware of playing his part is me, a woman wearing a smart green dress in the film. The project was accomplished in Moscow in winter 2005. The first part was recorded in front of Mhat Theatre just before the beginning of a spectacle. The second one - in front of the entrance to the stage in Social Club in Dubrowka, where terrorists attack took place. Since that event this part of the building has been closed and monitored carefully by the police.

The whole project is filled with symbols and metaphors. The characteristic red light in hall theatre was intensified during cutting "Mhat" part. After using a computer procedure the light pours out from inside. It happens every time the door opens. The shape of the light forms into a star. On the one hand it looks quite innocent like taken from a fairy tale, but on the other – there is something in the light, something frightening a little. When cutting "Dubrowka" part, we added a mist effect to the scene being watched. As we know the window/glass is covered with mist when temperature is extremely different on both sides.

We can hear a Chinese tune in both films while watching. This is a nice to hear, romantic music which sets the audience in a blissful state. The facade of Mhat Theatre also reminds a traditional Chinese architecture. We can be easily lured by it and forget that China is a country with strong dictatorship. I did not show a characteristic sign of theatre in Dubrowka situated on its peak. I did it on purpose. Without the symbol even Russians would have problems in recognizing the place which is a typical example of architecture used in many buildings of public services.

At first you could have an impression that the film is a romantic story of a woman who is probably waiting for a man. However, the story becomes completely different when it comes to details. The woman looks desperate. She has been waiting for a long time, although it is cold and she has not got a coat. The title of the project "Great scene" is taken from Mhat Theatre. It is situated above the entrance of the great scene. The title refers also to Russia itself – the great political scene in the world. "Scene" is lit not sufficiently enough, so everything cannot be "seen". There are many points of view.

Agnieszka Kalinowska, 2005