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GESAMT

Disaster 501: What Happened to Man?

LARS VON TRIER'S CHALLENGE TO THE PEOPLE WILL PREMIERE OCTOBER 12.

Press screening October 11 at 10 am
at Kunsthal Charlottenborg as part of Copenhagen Art Festival.
See more information below and watch the [TRAILER](#).

Great love stories, devastating wars, evil fathers and innocent children: Great emotions come into play when a genius challenges the community. More than 400 people from 52 countries have submitted a total of 501 contributions of highly original and very personal material to the user-generated film project Gesamt, a work uniting people from around the globe. Gesamt has asked the questions: What is the result when people reinterpret the great and controversial art pieces of our time? Is it for everyone to make art? What is art? And do we stand out the most when we stand together?

Disaster 501: What Happened to Man?

People from countries such as Colombia, Ukraine, Thailand, USA, Brazil, Uzbekistan, Japan, Germany, Denmark and Spain have all answered to the challenge set by Danish director Lars von Trier. In August 2012 he asked people from around the world to reinterpret one or several of the following six art works: James Joyce's novel *Ulysses*, August Strindberg's play *The Father*, Albert Speer's monument *Zeppelinfeld* in Nuremberg, the painting *Where do we come from? Who are we? Where are we going?* by the French painter Paul Gauguin, the French composer César Franck's *Sonate in A major* and Sammy Davis Jr's step dance performance *Choreography*.

Participants were asked to create up to five minutes of material within one month and submit either a film, a video, stills, music or a sound piece to Gesamt. Director Jenle Hallund had the great task of going through all the material and putting it together for the final work. The result is a film installation with the title *Disaster 501: What Happened to Man?*, which as part of Copenhagen Art Festival will premiere at Kunsthal Charlottenborg in Copenhagen, October 12, 2012. The major part of the submitters answering to these questions comes from the US. From this part of the world 59 persons have sent their contributions to Gesamt. Next comes Brazil with 50 contributions, while Denmark has a number of 24 contributions.

A world of disasters

The idea behind the Gesamt project is to symbolize man as part of a community. It is the union of the people, the sense of togetherness that gives the power to create. But paradoxically the contributions coming in have told a different story: a story about loneliness and longing, says director Jenle Hallund. Her first priority has been to respect the emotions, the themes and the atmosphere of the submissions.

'I am very grateful for all the wonderful, personal and original testimonies that people have sent from around the world. It is impressing to experience how much work people have put into this', Jenle Hallund says.

The submissions have included everything from dramatic love stories to experimental art films. But one thing stood out:

'The majority of the submissions spoke of fear, loneliness, anger, destruction and hopelessness. I was seeing and listening to people from all over the world, from different cultures and different languages and they were exploring the declining state of our morality, the violence in the dance between the sexes and the complex father-daughter relationship. Each piece is a personal testimony of the realism of the individual's soul', she says.

But there is still hope, Jenle Hallund continues. In the midst of darkness a light persists. There is a hope for a better world and a testimony that we are not that different after all.

'If nothing else, the dialogue coming from so many cultures has shown me that the human condition is the same, no matter where in the world you live', she says.

Gauguin the most popular

Most submission are inspired solely by the French painter Paul Gauguin's work - a total of 127 testimonials. Albert Speer's *Zeppelinfield* takes second place with 58 submissions inspired solely by his monument, while the least popular is Sammy Davis Jr's performance *Choreography* with only 26 testimonials inspired by his work.

The presentation of Gesamt is as original as its creation. At Copenhagen Art Festival people will have the experience of allowing their senses and imagination to travel to all four corners of the world in a unique setting. *Disaster 501: What Happened to Man?* will be displayed on four screens and four audio systems in a black box. Each screen, organised in a square, will be running simultaneously together thereby creating Gesamt; a cacophonous tale created by people from around the world.

PRESS SCREENING:

A press screening of Gesamt will take place at October 11, starting at 10am.
Duration: 40 minutes.

If you wish to attend the press screening please contact the head of communication at Kunsthal Charlottenborg Helle Bøgelund. Submit with the name(s) of attendees and the media you represent.

Contact information Helle Bøgelund:

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OFFICIAL OPENING:

The opening of Gesamt, *Disaster 501: What Happened to Man?*, will take place in connection with Copenhagen Culture Night October 12, 2012 from 6pm-12am.

Admission tickets: a Copenhagen Art Festival All-round ticket, a Culture Pass or a regular entrance ticket to Kunsthal Charlottenborg.

EXHIBITION PERIOD:

Gesamt will be on exhibit as part of Copenhagen Art Festival from October 12 to December 30, 2012.

Location: Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Nyhavn 2, 1051 Copenhagen, Denmark.

Opening hours: Tuesday-Sunday 11am-5pm. Wednesday: 11am-8pm. Monday: Closed. Free entrance every Wednesday after 5pm. www.kunsthalcharlottenborg.dk. Information: (+45) 33 36 90 50.

For more information about Gesamt, please contact:

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Read more at www.gesamt.org

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Gesamt is produced by Copenhagen Art Festival and curated by Christian Skovbjerg Jensen. The concept is created by Lars von Trier (producer for Lars von Trier: Louise Vesth, Zentropa) and Jenle Hallund is the director of Gesamt.

Copenhagen Art Festival is an international festival of contemporary art organized by Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Gl. Strand Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art, Nikolaj Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center, and Overgaden Institute of Contemporary Art. The festival opened 24th of August and continues throughout the fall.

Gesamt contributors

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Cultural Partnerships – Copenhagen Art Festival

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Public contributors – Copenhagen Art Festival

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