

Old women? Who said that? We are still here!

EVORA GROUP PERFORMANCE – HOLSTEBRO FESTIVAL – AGM, 7-9, 11.24

SCENE 1 – TRIP WITH SUITCASES

Voice over:

A sentence on the subway
caught me off guard.

The message is simple:

You don't travel alone.

- What are you doing there?

- Waiting

- Wait for what?

- For the train

- To return home.

- For the time that doesn't come back.

- Where are you going?

- I don't know; to Vladiyskotiar.

- This is no longer for me!

Voice over:

Go home to sew socks!

She's doing nothing,

instead of taking care of her grandchildren!

- I'm too old for this!

- You are what?

- Who said that?

- Let's go!

- Let's go together!

- Ah, I missed the train...

- I'm lost.

SCENE 2 – FEET ON THE PATH (Transition scene)

SCENE 3 – MAIL CALL

- MAIL!!! The postal truck has arrived!

Letter to Manuel da Maria João.

Telegram to Mr. Nestor.

Postcard from Pedro to Margarida de Alfama.

- Every day I went to the post office to send him the letter.

To see if it had arrived the one, he never wrote...

- She ended up marrying the postman.

- I was a young man's war godmother.

So many letters came and went, that he wanted to meet me.

When he finally came back, we ended up getting married.

- I delivered so many letters and so much comfort I had to give,
to those who did not know how to read.

SCENE 4 – WORK AND THE DAYS

Singing traditional rural songs:

Harvester, beautiful harvester

I'm going to marry you

There in the fields, in the green fields

Calmly harvesting the wheat.

Under the olive tree

You can't date

Because the tiny leaf

Does not let the air pass.

Give me a drop of water

One I hear running

Between stones and pebbles

there must be some drops left.

I went to pick a pomegranate,

It was mature in the branch.

I went to find in a garden,

the woman that I love.

SCENE 5 – JUDGMENT AND SOCIAL CONTROL

Voice over:

Cover your legs!

Aren't you embarrassed to go out alone at night?

You have to help around in the house!

Study more! What for?

Could you not, at least, have put a scarf on your head?

- We're not like that!

- We don't want people to look at us like that!

- We are strong!

- We have the right to be happy!

SCENE 6 – TENSION – TAKE YOUR LIFE IN YOUR HANDS

- So, you didn't go dancing?

- It's not for me!

- When my man was alive, yes, I danced a lot. Not now!

- Why?

- Oh, we never danced, my husband and I....

- If my son saw me clinging to another man! What wouldn't be?

Voice over:

The day a man walks in through that door, I'll walk out the other!

SCENE 7 – BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE, DO NOT INTERFERE

- Between Husband and Wife, don't interfere!

- You cannot

- It's a crime

- That's up to them...

- But we can't allow it

- But you can't interfere between husband and wife!

- No! We have to act!

Voice over:

You wore that coat when I met you
and at breakfast you told me the story:
You bought it at a second-hand fair in Florence.
It accompanied you since then,
your most precious object
that served you better than any cloth else:

It actually served you better than us,
and so, I grabbed it, like we were dancing.
In this last waltz solo, I smelled dreams and rosaries on my skin,
the regrets, the vacations we never spent in August.

You were more alive there, where you were absent
than on any other day
(shoulders on the table, a fist in the mouth).
I clung to your coat,
I cried a lot holding to the coat.

(Francisca Camelo's poem)

SCENE 8 – FEAR - SOLITUDE

Music – Audio:

It was midnight when Fear came,
He knocked three times on the middle door
At the middle door
At the street door
When Fear came it was already the moon.

It was already moon, it was moonlight.
It was really supposed to scare me!
To scare me but it didn't scare me.
I was here waiting
And the dog barked at him.

SCENE 9 – WOMEN - SISTERS - COUSINS - AUNTS - GRAND MOTHERS - GODMOTHERS

– I sew and sew.

Broken flesh, Bent nerve.

The Virgin sews better than I do.

The Virgin sews for the healthy,

and I sew for the futile.

(Traditional prayer / Benediction)

– Rosemary, Lavanda, Herb-of-grace, Parietaria,

Celery, Billygoat Weed and Summer Savory.

Everything very well-trodden!

With God I lie-down, here on this bed.

I go to bed sick and get up limp.

(Traditional prayer)

- We don't let anyone take care of us.

- We let ourselves go down.

- Sometimes we don't let it and we don't ask.

- It's difficult to take care of someone who doesn't want to be taken care of.

- What about those who want to “take care” of us by force?

Taking decisions about our lives in their own hands?

- To take care of others, we have to take care of ourselves.

- To me, no one ever told me what it was like.

- And I thought I was going to die

- And the shame? Where to hide this trail, this rest...

Before being your grandmother,

my mother was my mother

and she wanted everything in order.

The earrings were small shiny balls

rescued from daily wreck.

It wasn't just the earrings; it was a lot of things.

(Marta Pais de Oliveira's poem)

My grandmother wove. Spin, weave, spin.
We could set the clock to that beat.
Spin, weave, spin. In silence.
But this silence was not made of sadness.
Not conformity.

(Filipa Martins' poem)

My grandmother that
not being a philosopher, she was wise,
She told me: Until you do not finish, do not praise.
There are sentences that if we open them like we do with the bread,
sticking our fingers into the core,
we see that they are old because they are true.

(Filipa Martins' poem)

SCENE 10 – MOBILE PHONES

- Grandma, Grandma, are you there?
Now it doesn't answer!
Never listen!
FUCK! I have 22 missed calls!

SCENE 11 – BATH – FINALLY I TAKE CARE OF ME!

SCENE 12 – RETURN – DEPARTURE

Voice over:

Ladies! Passengers! Let's go!
We wish you a very good trip!