

As Easy as 1, 2, 3

A duet by Kareth Schaffer with Anna Lena Lehr

Length: 3 minutes

Description

2 women are counting out loud in the dark. As the sequence of numbers repeats and changes (1, 2, 3...1, 2, 3, 4, 5...1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) the counting acquires a conversational, almost mundane tone. A flash of light illuminates the stage for a split-second before darkness again reigns. The briefest glimpse of 2 bodies tells a different, far more dramatic story than the counting voices: a crime scene is visible. The counting continues as the flashes of light increase in frequency. A jumbled narrative is thus portrayed, of a first meeting, of a first kiss, of jealousy, betrayal, rage, regret.

'*As Easy as 1, 2, 3*' explores the bare minimum needed to tell a love story on the stage—a minimum amount of light (1 light on the floor), a minimum amount of images (6 images), a minimum amount of time (3 minutes), and a minimum amount of movement. The flashes of light are produced by a single light at the front of the stage, and are controlled by a cable manipulated by the performers. The flash of light produces an optical illusion after the dark, hiding movement in an afterglow or suggesting movement where there may not be any. The images are laden with meaning, juxtaposing a classic tale of tragedy with the bodies of 2 (female) performers.

Visual Material

'*As Easy As 1, 2, 3*' was first performed as a part of 'Précis', a collection of 13 mini-choreographies by HZT students for the International Theater School Festival in Amsterdam, June 2013.

The Vimeolink is available at: <https://vimeo.com/69417007>

Tech

As Easy As 1, 2, 3 requires as dark a space as possible—ideally with black floor and walls. The only light requirements are a single blinder light (or a light with a similar lack of afterglow), positioned downstage center on the edge of the stage.

CVs

Kareth Schaffer (1987, USA/NL), is a choreographer and performer who lives and works in Berlin, Germany. She has performed her solo *Walking in Circles* at Uferstudios in Berlin and at Temporary Home in Kassel. Her alter-ego, Kareth Crackin' Bonez, conceived of and refereed a mudwrestling tournament in spring 2012 called *Mudwrestling for Meg*. In the summer of 2013 her quartet, *Closer to Us Than We Are to Ourselves*, was performed at Uferstudios and in Het Veemtheater, Amsterdam. Coming from a background in anthropology, since the start of her work in dance she has performed for and/or collaborated with artists such as Tino Sehgal, Justin Frances Kennedy, Martin Hansen, Lee Meir, and Nestor Garcia Diaz. She also plays the contrabass and sings in an all-girl country band, *The Many Merry Marys*. Kareth graduated in July 2013 from the BA program Dance, Context, and Choreography of the HZT Berlin.

Anna Lena Lehr (1985, Switzerland) received her BA in social work in Zürich in 2010, parallel to working and dancing with the theatre laboratory GubCompany and the Just Do It Atelier/DATANZDA. Anna Lena is currently studying in the BA Dance, Context, Choreography of the HZT Berlin. She has collaborated with Cécile Bally on the performance practice *I see you see me*, and with Jorge Rodolfo de Hoyos on his continuous research of the piece *Leakage Study*. In spring 2013 she first worked with Kareth in the production and performance of the quartet *Closer to Us Than We Are to Ourselves*.

