

EPILOGOS

Epilogos – the end of a speech in which the speaker aims to create an emotional response from the audience

Shay Kuebler Radical System Art is founded on an artistic background of dance, martial arts and theatre. The company focuses this interdisciplinary background towards composing a unique and dynamic physical art form that can be both technical yet also raw and instinctual. Radical System Art explores its 5th full-length project around the art of rhetoric and the use of value systems in society. *Epilogos* looks to explore our deep connection to morality and value systems, and how these aspects of human society have also become devices for control and manipulation. Value systems support and define our sense of morality. They create a deep connection into a sense of self worth and this has enabled value systems to be used as devices for control by those in positions of power to create powerful movements and groups.

EPILOGOS PROJECT COLLABORATORS

Artistic Direction, Choreography and Performance – Shay Kuebler

Video and Technology Design – Eric Chad

Sound Design – Kate de Lorme and Shay Kuebler

Light Design – James Proudfoot

Technical Direction – Ian Low

Dancers/Performers: Keiran Bohay, Maxine Chadburn, Hayden Fong, Chanel Howard, Katie Lowen and Lexi Vajda.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As an artist who developed in martial arts and theatre, with a mixture of both eastern and western philosophy, I wanted to approach this topic with a mixture of traditional and modern values as well as an eastern and western perspective. For *Epilogos*, the company is basing the work off of the value system of Bushido and the seven tenets of the Samurai.

What gives Bushido relevance is that it was a dominant value system in society that was eventually adopted and manipulated by those in power as a tool for control. In feudal Japan, Bushido was formed as a way for Samurai – the elite warrior class of Japan – to both honour and train themselves. It placed great importance on respect for other's and dedication to their art form. Although its origin was more purely derived for personal and social development, landlords and shoguns also adopted this value system as a way to control the samurai. It was a way to dictate their actions and amass control. Till this day in Japan, there's still residue of Bushido and this code of conduct in modern society. The 7 values of Bushido reach into tradition and modernity, and transcend numerous other value systems and cultures. Bushido connects to my background as an artist in martial arts and theatre, while also enabling the work to stretch between ideas of modern and traditional forms and speak to value systems in more universal way.

ARTISTIC TREATMENT

Epilogos looks to create 7 uniquely visual and physical pieces that highlight each tenet within the code of Bushido. Integrity, Respect, Courage, Honour, Compassion, Duty and Honesty will all be individually explored. The values will be explored in both a positive light, demonstrating

the values with power and clarity, and an extreme form, speaking to extremism and radicalization. Firstly, each value and performance excerpt will demonstrate the values in a moralistic and mediatized version – something to engage and seduce the audience. Within this idea to engage the audience, the work will also structure aspects of each piece to trace the **five canons of rhetoric**: invention, arrangement, style, memory, and delivery. Through the canons of rhetoric, each piece will look to be invented with a unique physical and visual language, and be arranged to uniquely highlight and detail each value. The last tenet of Honesty will play a significant role in the first half of the work. Honesty will invert the performance and expose the extreme and radicalized versions of each value – aiming to expose more humanity and less perfection to each of the 7 performances. Honesty will expose the background to each tenet, demonstrating how each value, when solely expressed to an extreme, becomes destructive. The tenet of honesty will look to speak to extremism, while also showing the necessity for each value to rely on the other – speaking to balance and need for the values to correspond. Honesty will also look to expose and strip down one of main characters in the work.

THE ORATOR



Knight Academy Lecture – Rosenberg Palace

Within the project, there's a singular figure that looks to reference notions of a politician, a speaker, a religious leader. This blending and characterization looks to again balance modern and tradition, while also supporting a structure in the work where the performance and representation of values on stage is a production within itself. This orator character is a leader, a dictator, and a director of the production and the performers on-stage. The performance and the performers are committed to the production and, reflectively, to the values performed in each section of the work. The connection of "the orator" to the characters creates both a didactic and moralistic nature to the performance – making the production a piece of media and propaganda to entice and seduce the audience.

The tenet of honesty will also aim to underpin the production and this character by demonstrating that the "orator" character is actually a collection of all the performers and the performance elements (lights, video and sound) and that these value systems only have power when they have people to believe in them.

The Physical and Visual methodology

With the orator character, the performance gains an entry point for the audience. From this point, we look to further explore the art of persuasion by each value being voiced by 7 unique physical and visual languages. By each value carrying a unique visual and physical form and treatment, we look to reference how art and performance are so directly infused into the craft of persuasion and rhetoric. Film, music, visual art, theatre, dance, and poetry have all been researched as points for the visual, sonic and physical exploration of the piece.

The definition and separation of each value will allow the project to explore how each value can be its own tribe, its own faction, and its own expression of an ideology. With one artist becoming the central figure for each specific value, we further explore how ideology and extremism can lead to both conflict and the separation of the group.