



# An Ominous and Beautiful Dream

by Erik Nederkoorn  
*Dagblad van het Noorden*, August 28, 2009  
[English translation]

Anyone arriving at the Romeo Tent yesterday evening expecting to relax, sit back, and be entertained by a straightforward story would have been disappointed. Nevertheless, sitting back—in the manner of letting it all wash over you—is perhaps the best way to fully experience *Red Fly/ Blue Bottle*, by the New York-based company, Latitude 14.

Look, listen, daydream, but don't try to understand the poetic turns of this piece word for word. Just allow yourself to dive into this ominous mystery, this mosaic of several art forms— theater, storytelling, music, poetry, fractured film and photo projections— contained within a beautifully designed set. And then, after it's done, have a nice long conversation with the friends you brought along about sense and meaning.

And hopefully, above all about beauty. Because the design of the projections in particular, is phenomenal.

*Red Fly/Blue Bottle* is about a nameless man who leaves his love (Clarissa) in search of a secret war, driven on by an angry red fly. He travels all over the country, across the universe and through all forms of time, as the audience journeys through the memory and emotional life of Clarissa, who is growing desperate in her sudden solitude. Eventually he returns home in one piece, bereft of his illusions, only to find that Clarissa's soul has disappeared into a blue bottle. "Another soul swallowed," intones the exterminating message of the omniscient narrator. Limit and loss, these are the central themes of this play.

But don't worry if you see something else in it, too. Because you, as the audience, have undergone a mysterious experience, one that appeals to your emotional faculties. You have been part of a fantastic journey and your sense of wonder has been engaged.

Music a little like that of the duo Godley & Creme, who, thirty years ago, might have written for a work such as this, accompanies these mystic, beautiful, poignantly performed songs— which are somewhat uniform as compositions, as a more varied approach would have literally pulled you out of the dream. And that is the reverse of what the makers—and you— would have wanted. Buy one of the remaining tickets right away and see if you, too, can simply enjoy a thing of beauty, and then afterwards ask the question: Why?