

IN THE DARKNESS, EVERYTHING WENT ALL BLACK

The sensory opera *In the Darkness, Everything Went All Black* was an experimentation with immersive sound in total darkness. It became an opera experience that investigated the sensory features of blindness. Do we listen more actively when we can't see? How do we perceive sound in the dark?

In the Darkness, Everything Went All Black was set in darkness, in another world perhaps. It was a place where something or someone is hiding in the dark. There were also other traces of life there, two persons were desperately trying to struggle with the situation they are put in, hoping to find a way towards the freedom and the light.

The opera was written for two singers and live electronics and performed in English. The concept was created by Hedvig Jalhed, Mattias Rylander, Jörgen Dahlqvist, Kent Olofsson, and Agnes Wästfelt. The music was composed by Kent Olofsson and the text was written by Jörgen Dahlqvist. The set design was created by Mattias Rylander. The opera was performed by the singers Hedvig Jalhed and Agnes Wästfelt.

In The Darkness, Everything Went All Black was conceived as a contrasting work to the other operas in Hedvig Jalhed's PhD project. It was produced as a collaboration between Operation Opera and Teatr Weimar with support from Kultur i Halland, Halmstads kommun, Stiftelsen Scenkonstens historia i Göteborg, Statens kulturråd and Nordisk Kulturkontakt. It was documented through IR-cameras. After each performance, the visitors had the opportunity to fill out an anonymous, electronic survey about their experience. This will constitute research material for the investigation of how very scarce verbal information accompanied by mood generating sounds, vocal timbres, and gestures, can trigger associations and imagination. *In the Darkness, Everything Went All Black* was performed seven times during 2018: at Halmstads Teater 6 July, twice at Nordic House in Reykjavik 28 October as a part of Óperudagar 2018, twice at Atalante in Gothenburg 2–3 November 2018, and twice at Inter Arts Center in Malmö as a part of Transistorfestivalen.

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Photos by Mattias Rylander.