

# TEDDY MAY DE KOCK



PORTFOLIO

# ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

BIO:

Teddy May is a Dutch performance maker based in London.

In 2007, de Kock graduated in acting, song and dance from the Erasmus (Rotterdam), followed by a BA in theatre at ArtEZ (Arnhem). In 2016, she graduated from the MA Performance Making at Goldsmiths, University of London. Her works are shown in galleries, independent art spaces, as well as theaters and festivals such as P.S this is live, South London Gallery, Le Musée du Fumeur, Royal Academy of Arts, Grand Theatre, Barbara Seiler Gallery, Cabaret Melancolique, Zabłudowicz Collection, ZeeZout, ArtsAdmin, Compagnietheater, Clearview, de Parade and Kondo.

Teddy also organises performance evenings & talent shows in Brixton en gives theatre workshops to children with SEND in London.

«My work explores 'theatricality in art' and the value of talent & entertainment today. I shape the fine lines of bad/good & kitsch/sophisticated in lively, energetic and (i try!) original ways while throwing myself on «stage» with both rehearsed and improvised material. My work draws from theatre but has left that medium years ago during theatre school in the Netherlands. I would describe my work as something no one has ever seen that 'lives' somewhere in between artists statements, musicals, performance, comedy and tragedy. It has red curtains but it's unrehearsed. It's chickens with wigs on, the Bold & the Beautiful gone mad, entertaining and deafening / beautiful and ugly / predictable and a slap in the face!»

De Kock was granted the Cultuurfondsbeurs from the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds (2015), the BANNER award for her performance in *PEER* (2017) and the Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant for her performance project *Going Places* (2021).



Everybody!



Where did we come from,  
Where do we go?



Be original!



the magic  
of not  
giving  
a  
shit



## ARTIST STATEMENT

First of all: be fucking cool.

Be original (yes: it is still possible)

Don't over estimate the purpose of a studio. You don't need a studio to be an artist because the best ideas come when one's not suppose to be creative, when one's on holiday..., cycling, water skiing, coooking, and you can shape your ideas into any kind of form, ANYwhere. Just use your imagination.

Writing about your practice: The moment you start using words such as 'fresh' you lost it. You're not a vegetable that is trying to sell itself in the supermarket.

Fucking except the fact you can and never will be truly honest as a human being as well as an artist and make THAT the new honest. (Enter: theatre as the new true performance art)

Crazy example, sometimes I'm high and have an epiphany, and would love to share it with the world, but then I realise it might upset my mum (that I'm high) and I somehow try to avoid that (guess that's a little too late anyway) but this is a good example of not giving a shit. You should actually not care what others think of you, even your mother, or you are indeed doomed as an artist. I will never make money with my art for this exact reason and will always be miserable about that. But I also don't care.

Are you a firm believer your art is going to change the world? Go ahead.  
But better would be, in my humble opinion, to physically work in a place that's kindof meaningful and then on top of that make your crazy art.  
I personally don't know a single person who does not want (or say they want) to make the world a better place. It's nothing special. Even people you totally disagree with, even evil people, fight for something they believe in and think is right. AND ISN'T THAT GREAT?!! EVERYONE BE THERE TRUE AUTHENTIC SELF.

Silence is not violence by the way, it's really lovely actually, and quiet, and it means my baby's sleeping and mummy can finally write some poetry.

To be a true artist, one needs to be in touch with ones core, but at the same time keeping in mind the spectator might not be super interested in someone reading straight from their personal diary. It's super tempting, I also do it, on stage. But is it really the way to go? Just a question. Don't know the answer.

The good thing about 'good art', it starts with you, but it magically (...) becomes universal.  
It's good + bad p  
old + new  
cool + hot  
successful + a failure  
fake + real.  
Sex + rape  
It's something kids understand, because they look for ways to connect, not through the obvious routes.  
Magical.  
Making an adult human 2 human connection, is HARD + SIMPLE. One would have to use 'simply' their imagination. In a very deep sense.

It's not important if others believe our sincerity, because only we know if we're for real or not. We can fool everyone but ourselves.

few casual performance tips:  
be a mother, to all.  
be a clown, a ghost, a magician, a diva.

Shapeshift into a super-sexy larger-than-life cameraman with a fake mustache...  
so MASSIVE, an elephant could hide there, and then: D O C U M E N T.  
Document nature, humanity, heaven, hell: ALL OF IT.  
Our hidden valley\_ways, the s(ssssh!)ecrets under our shiny, dirty toenails.  
D E T E C T the undiscovered and/or ignored animals, the clouds (which surely aren't real)  
The flowers & the trees. Because They Are All Performing.  
PERFORMING FOR YOU. It's... MESMERISING

Be so UNCLEAR de spectator feels like they suddenly need GLASSES.  
CONFUSE.  
BEDAZZLE.

Be aggressive AND gentle. sour AND sweet.  
E N E R G Y  
Make love AND war and IF you steal ideas from your friends, at least be smart about it and change it so much they don't recognise it as their own (and maybe even applaud you for it). ;)

Just stop if what you're doing is not giving you the feeling it might be illegal.

Allow yourself to give up when your idea is fucking shit. (everyone will be thankful)

Never underestimate the power of totally abandoning your script and IMPROVISE  
Never-ever underestimate the fact all your ideas come from somewhere else. And love that fact!  
Admire. Adore!  
But never NEVER stand in line for ANYONE.

Fill your lips with the fruits of all truths & lies and spit them out like fire  
and never hold back cause you're afraid to harm anyone.

BURN

THE

PLACE

DOWN

SO

YOU

CAN

GROW

NEW

THINGS

## Performances (2016/2023)

### 2023

ZeeZout Festival, curator+performer of the theatre stage, Amsterdam, NL  
*Holiday With My Baby (the musical)*, solo performance, Zabłudowicz Collection, London, UK  
*Holiday With My Baby (the musical)*, solo performance, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK

### 2022

*Jerwood Arts 1:1 FUND*, Thamesmead, UK  
*can't u see i am pregnant*, Hundred Years Gallery, London, UK

### 2021

*Going Places*, Poplar Union, London, UK

### 2020

*Waiting for Godot (#1)*, collaborative project, The Ivy House, London, UK  
*TROIS*, solo performance, Le Musée du Fumeur, solo performance, Paris, FR

### 2019

*MEDEA*, solo performance, Barbara Seiler Gallery, Zurich, CH  
*KOSMOSS*, collaborative project, Thamesmead, UK  
ZeeZout Festival, curator+performer of the theatre stage, Amsterdam, NL  
*Bold & the Beautiful*, solo performance, Trinity Gallery, London, UK

### 2018

*MEDEA*, solo performance, Cabaret Melancolique, London, UK  
*PROUDICKOCK*, solo performance, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK  
*The Conch*, performance/talk, South London Gallery, London, UK  
*«Nick»*, solo performance, Peckham Liberal Club, London, UK  
Performance lecture, LADA, London, UK

### 2017

*Of Course I'm Lying*, curator+performer, Kondo, Amsterdam, NL  
*P.S This is Live* festival, solo performance, Quartair Gallery, The Hague, NL  
*DUETS*, solo show, Clearview Gallery, London, UK  
*Vivication*, solo performance, Toynbee Studio's, London, UK  
*Video-Games*, solo performance, South East London Art Rooms, London, UK

### 2016

*RCA TALENT SHOW*, solo performance, Battersea, UK  
*PEER*, collaborative project, The Masters Festival, Goldsmiths, University of London, UK  
*I've Got So Much More To Give*, collaborative project, National Theatre, London, UK  
*Izumo no Okuni*, solo performance/video, London, UK

## Education

2015 – 2016  
MA Performance Making  
Goldsmiths University of London, UK

2007 – 2011  
BA Theatre & Acting  
ArtEZ Theatre Academy – Arnhem, NL

2003 – 2007  
MBO Theatre school  
Erasmus – Rotterdam, NL

## Residencies & Awards

2022-2023  
Jerwood Arts

2020 – 2021  
Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant (ACE)  
London, UK

2017 – 2018  
BANNER Award (ArtsAdmin)  
London, UK

2016 – 2017  
Cultuurfondsbeurs (Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds)  
Amsterdam, NL

2011 – 2012  
Station Noord (1 year residency)  
Groningen, NL

## Tumblr & Publications

<https://lidl-ted.tumblr.com/>

[https://www.academia.edu/35976612/The\\_Conch\\_at\\_South\\_London\\_Gallery\\_Carolina\\_Ongaro\\_in\\_conversation\\_with\\_Teddy\\_May\\_de\\_Kock](https://www.academia.edu/35976612/The_Conch_at_South_London_Gallery_Carolina_Ongaro_in_conversation_with_Teddy_May_de_Kock)

*Holiday With My Baby (the musical)*  
Royal Academy of Arts, 2023



*Holiday With My Baby (the musical)*  
Zabludowicz Collection, 2023









*cant uc i am pregnant*  
hundred years gallery, 2022











*Waiting for Godot*, The Ivy House, 2020



















*PROUDICKOCK*, Hannah Barry Gallery, 2018



*THE CONCH*, South London Gallery, 2018





*"I always just say that if I hadn't have had them on my own, I'm just the kind of chicken that would've had me some made."*









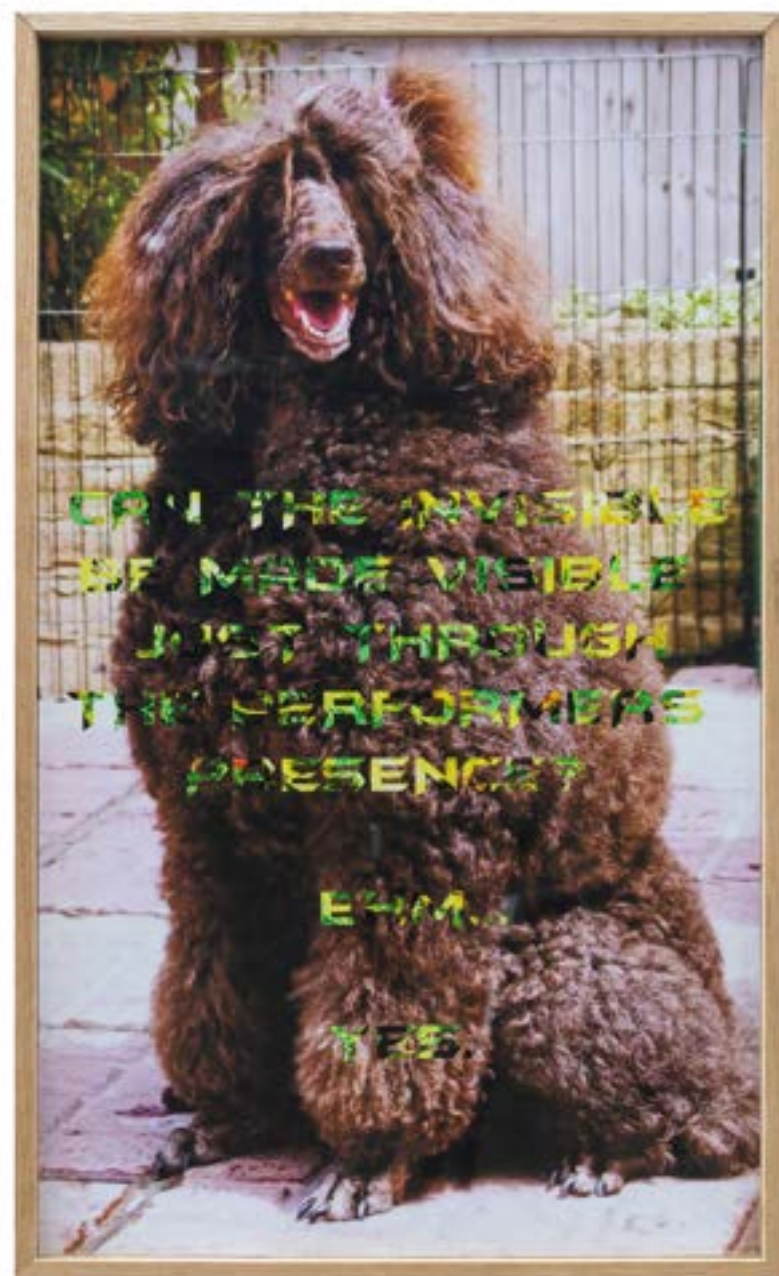
**"Yes, I got pregnant, I got in trouble with the law, I did some time. But the only reason why I felt inferior was because I allowed myself to."**











CAN THE INVISIBLE  
BE MADE VISIBLE  
JUST THROUGH  
THE PERFORMERS  
PRESENCE?

EMMA

YES





I would never stoop so low as to be fashionable,  
that's the easiest thing in the world to do.











*"It's a big decision how one prefers to die."*











OLDER WORK













*Velp (NL), 2012, Site specific performance*





