

## **Archeology of a performance - An ethnodramaturgic exercise**

*« Understanding an action enables you to repeat it »*

Jean Bazin

The 23rd of April 1983, the artist Daniel Spoerri organises a banquet bringing 120 people together in the parc du domaine du Montcel, Jouy-en-Josas (Yvelines, France). The following dishes are served to the selected guests: chitterlings (andouilles), guts, spleen, testicles, ears, tails, trotter, liver and heart. After the meal, all the twenty tables are buried in a long trench, including cutlery, dishes, table clothes and food remains. This performance is baptised « Le déjeuner sous l'herbe à l'occasion de l'enterrement du tableau-piège », echoing Edouard Manet's "Déjeuner sur l'herbe", himself referring to "The Pastoral Concert" attributed to Titian. In June 2010 and very recently in Septembre 2016 archaeological excavations are realised on site by the INRAP (the French National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research). Simultaneously, an ethnographic survey is conducted in order to account the complex social situation and its performative levers, whether we refer to the neorealist "action-performance" (Pierre Restany) of 1983 or its current developments as a "Mitspiel" (Claus Bremer).

What should one have to know of the original performance to describe it ? What do we learn of the anthropological principle of Daniel Spoerri's performance and how to evaluate the dramaturgic essence of anthropological knowledge? As a radical interdisciplinary and post-post colonial experiment, we will try to answer these questions in the process of the possible reenactment of the "Déjeuner sous l'herbe" by Togolese theatre companions.

With scenes of the documentary « Le déjeuner sous l'herbe » relating the 2010 excavation, by Laurent Védrine, Tingo Films, 2010

### **Mini-bio**

Bernard Müller is a researcher and dramaturg

He studies staging processes such as scenic arrangements (theater, ritual, performance, etc.), museographic displays, or any type of situation that explicitly notes a form of "spectacle". Specialised in the cultural history of West Africa (Nigeria, Bénin Republic, Togo, Ghana), his basically comparative research also extends to other areas (Europe, Brazil) ; and focuses more specifically on the relationship between art and ethnology.

He directs the seminar "Putting on stage and into narration" at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris) where he is member of the Institut de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur les enjeux Sociaux, a laboratory for interdisciplinary research in social sciences (<http://iris.ehess.fr/index.php?575>). Since 2015, he is associate researcher at the Institut für Ethnologie at the university of Leipzig.

<http://ethno.gko.uni-leipzig.de/index.php/museum/museum-on-the-couch>

As a dramaturg or assistant, he collaborated with Wole Soyinka, Yinka Shonibare or Daniel Spoerri, as well as to numerous theatre stagings, performances and scenographies. He initiated the present project.

He coordinates the activities of CURIO - Platform for experimental anthropology

An interdisciplinary research group on performance. <http://curioweb.org/c-u-r-i-o/>

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International Research Center

« Interweaving Cultures in Performance" »

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D-12165 Berlin