

About:

Nazaré - not the city, the woman

„When I started my research for the text, I called my mother on the phone and said: Tell me all you know about Nazaré. She answered: Well, there is this very interesting issue of MERIAN published recently. And I said: No, Nazaré - not the city, the woman! Hence the title."

"First I was commissioned to write a piece on the importance of Radio. A personal view. The Portuguese Carnation Revolution sprung to my mind immediately. Then I was asked to write a radio play about the Revolution itself, since I had lived in Lisbon in the Seventies. In April 1974 I was 10 years old. I knew instantly that this was going to be a very personal view on this historical moment, and I wanted to state that our personal lives, our yearnings and passion, can have a huge impact on the proceeding of History. For the better or worse. Since I was only a child then, I went looking for a grown up character who might have a longer story to tell."

„Even if more than half of the information given on the life of our maid Nazaré is fictional, I believe, I have not only depicted a loving portrait of a strong, cultivated and independent Portuguese woman, but also a portrait of the (some) German immigrants in the Portuguese capital. The description of the Portuguese society of the late Sixties and early Seventies is based on the recounts of my parents and a book of Kurt Meyer Clason - the head of the Goethe Center during that period. I watched numerous documentaries on Pre- and Post-Revolutionary Portugal. A priceless compilation of DVDs published by Portuguese weekly newspaper O Expresso. But three short citations of three very important Portuguese writers: Sophia Mello de Breyner Andresen, António Lobo Antunes and Herberto Helder mark three very deep seizures in Nazarés life."

„It is not a politically correct reflection on the Revolution, since I am neither a journalist nor an expert on political issues. I have personal issues with Portugal and the Portuguese. I believe I have written a very loving portrait of Portugal and the Portuguese, even if one might not think so during the first three pages of my text."

„I wanted to write a mutated radio play and I wanted a composer of mutated music to set the text to music. Nuno Rebelo is not only a friend since teen-age years, but also one of the very few composers and performers of experimental music I enjoy listening to. His sound is always warm and full, full of purpose too, but playful and highly artistic, without straining an oh so intellectual approach. He hardly speaks or reads German at all, but he understood my narrative style and the meaning almost intuitively."

The language of our performance will be Portuguese.

Katharina Franck, January 2008

A review:

"And from time to time the radio also shows that it is capable of transgressing borders and offering something other than its usual pre-packaged productions. Nazaré - not the city, the woman, a radio play produced for the Bavarian Broadcasting Company, is transformed by its author Katharina Franck together

with musician Nuno Rebelo into an acclaimed live performance, which pays tribute to host country Portugal with great narrative intensity."
(Christian Deutschmann. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, April 27, 07)