



# - REFRAIN -

Freely inspired by  
"CLYTEMNESTRA **O**R THE CRIME CRIMINE "  
by Marguerite Yourcenar

written, directed and interpreted by Annika Strøhm



**What is living?**

**Living – that is to continually eliminate from  
ourselves what is about to die;**

**Living – that is to be cruel and inexorable towards all that becomes  
weak and old in ourselves, and not only in ourselves.**

**To be continually a murderer?**

***F. Nietzsche (The gay Science)***



## HISTORY REPEATING

The text of M. Yourcenar, to be found in the book "Fires", is based on the greek tragedy "Oresteia". Agememnon returns from the war of Troy and at home Clytemnestra, his wife, is waiting. She kills him with the help of her lover, Aegisthus. In this monologue Clytemnestra gives the grounds for her action in a court of our days.

A servant and a master marry. The master has to conquer the world and goes to war. The servant waits for his return. The master returns. The servant kills her master. The man returns...

Marguerite Yourcenar tells us a love story that very often repeats itself.

The self-denial love of a woman towards a man; of a servant towards the great man. We might say that every woman who believes in love adores serving her man, but she does not like to be treated like a servant..

Clytemnestra loves her husband – master, and in the name of fidelity she almost turns invisible. When he returns from the war, both of them are nothing but shadows of themselves. Clytemnestra kills her old master.

The crime of Clytemnestra is in favour of life. She tears away something that is already dead. Like a dry leaf on a tree. A leaf on a tree turns dry. The tree let's the leaf fall down and die. The tree remains. New leafs start to grow.

We live our lives repeating the same roles, patterns, habits...repeating the same story for centuries. We like to live this way. This repetition gives us a sensation of living.

Yourcenar, so it seems, tries to push us to become masters of our own lives, through death. To let the dry leafs fall and to stop inventing thousands of ways of how to keep them hanging.

The text is written in lyric prose. The many poetic images make it stinging and dense, soft and fluid. Like fire.

***"You can hardly kill a dead man"***

*Clytemnestra*

## DURATION

50 minutes.

This monologue cab be performed also in English, French and Norwegian

**ARETÉ ENSEMBLE** – Piazza F. Zurlo, 18 70054 Giovinazzo (BA)

[www.areteensemble.com](http://www.areteensemble.com) - [direzione@areteensemble.com](mailto:direzione@areteensemble.com)/[organizzazione@areteensemble.com](mailto:organizzazione@areteensemble.com)

Tel: 339-6063758 / 338-2472761 / 0803327296

P. IVA 07012760729 C.F. 93346320729



## **ABOUT US:**

**Annika Strøhm** Born in 1972, Oslo, Norway. She received her diploma from the Nordic Theatre Academy conducted by Jurij Alschitz and with him she has worked as actress in various performances. She has studied/worked with among others A. Milenin, J.P. Dénizon, P. Byland, Ida Shigemi, T. Ludovico. In 2007 she established the association ARETE' ENSEMBLE together with Saba Salvemini. She lives and works in Italy since 2002.

## **Areté Ensemble**

Areté Ensemble is a cultural association in which Saba Salvemini and Annika Strøhm are founding members and to which several international artists have collaborated such as Valerio Malorni, Ursula Volkmann and Valentino Ligorio. The company had its first premiere in 2007 with *The night just before the forests* by B.M. Koltès and has then created several theatre performances touring all over Italy and Europe with great success: *Clitemnestra or the crime* (2008), *The Problem* (2010), *Medea* (2011), *A monkey at the university* (2012) *Emperor's new clothes* (2014). They also produce films. Their short films have been selected by Italian festivals and festivals abroad receiving many prizes (Genova Film Festival, Wordless Film Festival, Filmstock Festival, Detmold Film Festival, PiemonteMovie Film Festival...)

For further information: [www.areteensemble.com](http://www.areteensemble.com)