

## No Matter What - About - English

Somewhere near the toilets, an ominous showdown is taking place. In a tantalising mix of candid lyrics, energetic music and a grimey setting, two friends search for the limits of their 'faggot friendship\*': a very intimate friendship with no hidden romantic feelings. What are the limits of intimacy, now that falling in love plays no role?

No Matter What is a poignant, theatrical love letter to your very best friend. The performance is an ode to toxic patterns, destructive forces and new forms of intimacy. – *'Fuck, I wish I was your lover!'*

### Faggot Friends

Intimacy without love and/or sex, what about that? In literature and movies, queer friendships often revolve around a secret, unrequited love (think *Call Me By Your Name*, *Brokeback Mountain*, *Saltburn*). What forms does intimacy take in a relationship where this doesn't play a role? To explore this more broadly, the creators came up with the framework "faggot friendship." During the course of the research, it turned out there was little space for such platonic bonds within current systems, leading to a portrait of a dystopian friendship with palpable socio-political overtones.

\*R3LN4CHT recognises that faggot is a provocative word used in a discriminatory manner. This performance follows in the footsteps of a long history of creators, writers and individuals from the queer community; who reclaimed the word as a slogan. The frame of the 'faggot friend' is a conscious choice derived from the queerness of the creative team, including the questions it raises.

*L: DIT IS GEEN TRIGGER WARNING*

*D: Come play a game with us'*

### R3LN4CHT - *"The art in party, the av in rave, the heat in theater."*

R3LN4CHT is the brainchild of performer and theater maker Didi Kreike(they/them '94) and producer and dramaturg Kas Pijls (they/them '97). Together they search for alternative futures and new spaces for thinking outside prevailing conceptions. Within R3LN4CHT queerness is not the subject, but a means to address contemporary issues and perform artistic research. Kas and Didi's search for alternative spaces manifests itself not only in R3LN4CHT's approach to its themes, but also in R3LN4CHT's working form. Within R3LN4CHT, a fluid group of artists functions as a modular system: in different compositions they work on (site-specific) theater performances, installations, and club and community nights.

No Matter What is the second part in the Critical Spacing series, a series of performances in which R3LN4CHT questions boundaries and safety. Within this framework, friction and discomfort are used to create new spaces for thinking. Critical Spaces go beyond safe(r) spaces: the critical balance between discomfort, explicit themes and an inescapable connection with the audience is centered.

The work made under the guise of R3LN4CHT is explicit, demands active spectatorship and questions the codes of artistic spaces.

## **About the creators**

Cross-disciplinary maker and performer Didi Kreike graduated from the performance course at the Toneelacademie Maastricht Institute of Performative Arts in 2018. During and after his graduation, Didi further developed as a (location) theater maker at production house Likeminds, focusing on the intersection between installation art and nightlife. From a love of punk and night culture, she founded R3LN4CHT in 2023. The modus operandi of this collective restart arose during his participation in Het Atelier (Oerol and Over het IJ). His installation 'a.queer.obj' was awarded the Joop Mulderplak 2021: an incentive prize for talented makers; in which artistic pioneering, individuality and 'sense of place' are paramount. Besides theater work, Didi is co-presenter of the TV program Koken met Konijnen (Cooking with Rabbits) with VPRO Youth, and the spin-off web series Daten met Dieren.

For No Matter What, Didi worked intensively with good friend Lodewijk van Dijk (he/he, '96). Lodewijk, aka Lolo von Dyk, is an experimental all-round physical performer, DJ and event organiser from Rotterdam. As, among other things, the creative brain behind De Paardenrave and booking agency STRO Agency, he puts down nightlife concepts that focus on the visitor's experience. Lodewijk stood at the cradle of R3LN4CHT, is a key figure in their connection with the night and developed the club concepts together with Didi. Lodewijk and Didi previously collaborated on the theater productions a.queer.obj (Didi Kreike, The Atelier 2021), Digital Ducttape (Hipsick, 2022), Beyond Consent (R3LN4CHT, 2023) and CROWD CONTROL (DOX Special, 2023).

## **Dates**

17 Oktober, Club RAUM, ADE, Amsterdam  
1 November, Felix Meritis, Amsterdam  
21 November, Worm UBIK, Rotterdam  
22 November, Worm UBIK, Rotterdam  
23 November, Het Nationale Theater (Zaal 3), Den Haag

## **Credits**

Concept: Didi Kreike || Performers: Lodewijk van Dijk, Didi Kreike || Text: Eddie Azulay together with the performers || Music: Joost Maaskant || Direction: Lynn Schutter || Dramaturgy: Kas Pijs || Scenography: Didi Kreike || Creative producer: Kas Pijs || Communication: Ruben Kotkamp || Audio technician: Rinse de Jong || Production: Remy de Graaf || Producer: R3LN4CHT in coproductie met Over het IJ en Likeminds

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