

The (Dis)Appearance of Rituals

trafó KÖRTÉKÉK
MŰVÉSZETI
HÁZ



Dávid Somló

Date

**Saturday
2.00 PM**

**21 November
2026**

Venue

**Trafó House
Club**

Dávid Somló's participatory lecture performance 'The (dis)Appearance of Ritual' explores the role and absence of communal rituals within the accelerated everyday life of contemporary society. The performance emerges from an artistic research process that grew out of his Halász Péter Award-nominated participatory work 'Delicate Balancing of a Twig'. Through this research, Somló investigates the community-building potential of shared symbolic actions. The performance takes the South Korean-born German philosopher Byung-Chul Han's book *The Disappearance of Rituals* as its artistic and sociological point of departure. According to Han, rituals give lasting form to time and can create forms of community that are not primarily based on the exchange of information or constant communication.

Theoretical reflections are interwoven with forms and collective practices drawn from Somló's participatory artistic practice. The audience is therefore not simply listening to the performance, but actively taking part in a shared inquiry into how ritual experiences might reappear in contemporary life.

Contributors

**Richárd MELYKÓ
Napsugár TRÖMBÖCZYK**

Special thanks

**Zsófi PACZOLAY
Imre VASS**

Co-produced by

**Trafó House
of Contemporary Arts**

Supported by

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National Cultural Fund**

Duration
120 minutes

Stage
**All versions are
context and site-specific
Travelling crew: 1 or 2**

Genre
**Participatory lecture
performance**

Language
English

Trigger Warning
16+

Opened
2026

What makes us feel part of a community, even among strangers? How can rituals create community without communication? What happens to our attention and our sense of time when we no longer have forms for pausing, experiencing transitions, or bringing things to a close?

Tours & Festivals

INOTA Festival, Inota (HU), 2026
Sziget Festival, Budapest (HU), 2026
PINA Festival 6., Káptalantóti (HU), 2026
Trafó House, Budapest (HU), 2026
Jan-May — Ritual Laboratory
I-V WATER Contemporary Art Festival, Burgas (BG), 2025
The End of Violence Festival / Trafó House, Budapest (HU), 2025
Kerekdomb Festival, Tálya (HU), 2025
Festival of Memory / Fara Hoprich, Martinkovice (CZ), 2025
Homo Novus International Festival of Contemporary Theatre, Riga (LV), 2025
PASSAGE Festival, Helsingør (DK), 2025
KoresponDance Festival, Zďar nad Sázavou (CZ), 2025
Valley of Arts, Kapolcs (HU), 2024
PLACCC Festival, Budapest (HU), 2023

Dávid SOMLÓ is a Budapest-based performance maker and sound artist working with spatial-relational practices. Using simple elements, structures and instructions, he composes performative situations that strengthen one's connection to attention, the body, the surroundings and the people present.