

Mara Genschel
My name is William Shakespeare

I am going to perform a small poem from 1595. The title is: „Ah damn, just look it up yourself!“ // It was written in old spelling, so please excuse my english in advance. // I am honoured to be invited to this beautiful place, that used to be a Rossmann Shop. Regarding to the logo, Rossmann means ‚horseman‘, but not in the sense of a man who rides a horse, but in the sense of a person who is half stallion (the hind legs, the ass, the penis etc.) and half „man“ (the chest, the frontlegs (plus some extra arms!) and the brain. // The piece I am going to perform is kind of like this „stallionman“. Not really, but kind of. You shall know all, that you are like to know in the end of this beautiful text. // (If not, ah damn, just look it up in the beautiful booklet, you got right on your lap!) // Here we go. // I will now perform the small poem. // Or, to be more precise: I am going to perform a poem written by a poet which is in turn written by me in 1595, badly translated by Deepl, so please excuse my english in advance. // That is, to be even more precise: I am going to reenact a performance about performing a poem that is badly translated by Deepl, written by a poet which is in turn written by me in 1595, who is in turn again written by the same poet for a performance back in 2018. // As you all know now it is 2023, so there was plenty of time for her to learn it by heart. // This performance was mostly written in german, because the poet is german, born in the former capital of west-germany, with a german passport and so on. So please excuse my english in advance. // Here we go. //

If I happen to offend you, it's because (...)

However there is a crucial point, a punch line about this performance you might want to know before I start: The person who wrote the poem is a terrible poet! // Her spelling is really bad, no matter if it is old spelling or Deepl translation or whatever. // And so is her punctuation. She finds it very difficult to use correct punctuation, so what happens in terms of meaning is everything. Gets messed, up and so on. // I invented her in order to demonstrate my intellectual supremacy on the one hand. // On the other hand I am looking forward to making fun of her and her insecurities and failures because as you all know, the times we are living in are quite uncertain and we all need a good laugh every now and then. // What could possibly be funnier than a female read body failing on stage with a poem called: „Ah damn, just look it up yourself!“ // Haha! // Here we go. //

If I happen to offend you (...)

However there is also a second punch line you might have noticed already: The person who wrote the poem is also a terrible performer! She finds it very difficult to learn any text by heart, especially when it was translated from old

spelling by Deepl for example. // I made her up in order to delight, not to offend you. // If she offends, it is with her good will. // That you should think, she comes not to offend, // But with good will. To show her simple skill, // No. // To show her simple skill, That is the true beginning of her end. // And so on. // She has huge difficulties memorising what I gave her five or, more precise: 428 years ago. I do not know why, because she had plenty of time to learn it by heart. Maybe she does not like the text. // Consider then, she comes but in despite. // But why should she come in despite, she is not in highschool anymore. As far as I know, she did submit to this event. // Or did she not. // Was it me. // But why shall I. // Why shall I let a total jerk like her perform my poem. // To make fun of female read bodies. // To show that I have always been the „stallionman“. // To blame a female read body of being born in the former capital of west-germany, with a german passport still making poems about the „stallionman“ instead of fighting against the collapse of climate and humanity. // She is not here as minding to contest you, // Her true intent is. All for your delight. // No. // All for your delight she is not here. // She is not here. That you should here repent you, // No. // That you should here repent you, the poet is at hand and by her show // No. // The poet is at hand and by her show: // „Ah damn, just look it up yourself!“ //



(Vorher)



(Nachher)