

# I WANT (NO) REALITY

YETI FILMS &  
NEEDCOMPANY PRESENTS  
**NEEDCOMPANY  
ON LIFE AND ART**  
A DOCUMENTARY FILM  
BY ANA BRZEZINSKA



YETI FILMS IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH NEEDCOMPANY WITH THE SUPPORT OF POLISH FILM INSITUTE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CULTURE & KORDEGARDA GALLERY PRESENTS A FILM  
BY ANA BRZEZINSKA I WANT (NO) REALITY. NEEDCOMPANY ON LIFE AND ART EDITED BY AGNIESZKA GLIŃSKA P.S.M. DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY PIOTR TOKARSKI AND KAROL JURGA  
SOUND DESIGN BY FILIP KRZEMIEN AND ANDRZEJ SITEK PRODUCED BY DANUTA GĘGOTEK & KATARZYNA SINIARSKA WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ANA BRZEZINSKA POLAND, BELGIUM, 2012, 52'  
[www.facebook.com/IWANTNOREALITY](http://www.facebook.com/IWANTNOREALITY)

Design: Edge: Raj [www.edgeinfo.pl](http://www.edgeinfo.pl)



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**Featuring:** Jan Lauwers, Grace Ellen Barkey, Viviane De Muynck, Maarten Seghers, Hans Petter Dahl, Anneke Bonnema, Misha Downey, Julien Faure, Benoît Gob, Lot Lemm, Yumiko Funaya Inge, Van Bruystegem, Eleonore Valere, Tijen Lawton, Sung-Im Her

**Written & Directed by:** Ana Brzezińska

Producers: Danuta Gęgotek & Katarzyna Siniarska

Editor: Agnieszka Glińska P.S.M.

DOP: Piotr Tokarski, Karol Jurga

Sound Post-production: Filip Krzemień, Andrzej Sitek (Dreamsound)

Graphic Design: Edgar Bąk

Production Manager: Danuta Gęgotek

Partners: ORKA Post-production Studio, National Audiovisual Institute, Institute of Music and Dance

Promotion of the movie supported by the Cracow Film Commission, Polish Docs & HOB0 Art Foundation

Co-financed by: Polish Film Institute, National Centre for Culture & Kordegarda Gallery

Co-producer: Needcompany

Production Company: Yeti Films

RUNNING TIME 52'

AVAILABLE FORMATS HDCAM & Blu-Ray

LANGUAGE English, French

GENRE creative documentary

**Poland – Belgium 2012**



NEEDCOMPANY



Promotion support



Partners:



taniec POLSKA [pt]



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## ABOUT THE MOVIE | I WANT (NO) REALITY

**I WANT (NO) REALITY** is a sensual & entertaining glimpse at a 5-year relationship of a young director with a group of artists who made a fundamental choice of putting creativity beyond everything else in their lives.

Ana Brzezińska's debut movie features Needcompany, an internationally famous theatre ensemble – one of the most popular avant-garde theatre companies in Europe. Creators of the movie show that there is more to Needcompany's spectacular success than mere artistic prowess. **I WANT (NO) REALITY** is a radical affirmation of the belief that without love, trust and courage in breaking rules of *reality*, every single human activity becomes vain.

The founder and artistic director of Needcompany, Jan Lauwers is a Belgian director and visual artist. For the last 25 years his interdisciplinary ensemble has been known for its passionate human stories, bringing new standards to contemporary art.

The movie's international promotion is supported by Cracow Film Commission (Polish Docs). Partners of the movie are: ORKA Post-production Studio, National Institute for Culture, National Audiovisual Institute and the Institute of Music and Dance.

**Polish premiere: 9. PLANETE+ DOC FF 18 May 2012 (in competition: Doc Art Award)**



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Jan creates large, epic theatrical narrative, strikingly elaborate and multi-dimensional. He tries to challenge the era we live in with the place of art in the modern world; confronting the 20th century tradition. Grace lets her imagination roam free and avoids any political themes. She is more interested in exploring the areas of human instinct and the subconscious. That's how I see their work.

When I first met them it was love at first sight. I met them in Avignon and I saw their performance for the first time. It was 2005 or 2006. They were presenting a workshop for one of the parts from their *Trilogy* in a churchyard of Cloître des Célestins. It was brilliant. I was completely amazed. I knew I had to get to know this people. And when they were showing the complete *Trilogy* a year later, I approached Jan in the foyer and talked him into giving me our first talk.

I wanted to make a movie about people who changed my life, and who work in a medium so transient, so hard to record. That was my starting point.

Theatre only exists during the show or a rehearsal. It cannot be recorded or described properly outside the stage. Everyone who has ever worked for the theatre knows it is a unique medium. You invest everything in your work and when the show is over, your own memories and the audience's recollections are all there is ever left. Theatre artists create a rather special environment. I would like to avoid bringing forward an impression of false sublime, but there is a certain dramatic aspect to their everyday existence. Going out on stage is an extremely arduous work and it leaves you without any real proof that you achieved something. Which is something of true importance nowadays. Only people with real passion are able to bear with it. You may feel envious when you look at them, but then again no one would really like to switch places with a theatre actor. Their everyday routine is not exactly what you call a wholesome lifestyle.

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## WHY NEEDCOMPANY? | ABOUT NEEDCOMPANY

Needcompany is a theatre ensemble established in Belgium in 1980s, a country embodying the very idea of European integration and yet torn by internal divisions. Together with an Indonesia-born choreographer Grace Ellen Barkey, Belgian visual artist Jan Lauwers decided to create a non-commercial theatre company in order to tell stories one could not tell alone.

Through all these years they managed to pull together a group of outstanding, multidisciplinary artists. Today, Needcompany is considered one of the most popular and innovative theatre companies in Europe.

- *Needcompany is so close to my heart because of its complex, severe, but in the end, very positive approach to human life. It's not only the whole "concept of love", manifesting itself in everything they do, but also their methods of work and their attitude towards people and current artistic phenomena – says Ana Brzezińska, director of I WANT (NO) REALITY.*

For years, Needcompany's main focus was the need to cooperate. Every artist brings something unique to the teamwork and simultaneously continues to work on his/her individual projects.

Although the ensemble tours more than 200 days a year, it manages to keep in close touch with everyday reality. Needcompany's shows speak about war, violence, fears and anxieties of the modern world, and yet the way they tell their stories is ever so colourful, vibrant and optimistic. They borrow elements from European tradition to create a new language, in which they dare speak out loud: a human being needs another human being more than anything else in the world.

### Selected Shows:

1996 *Needcompany's Macbeth*

2000 *Needcompany's King Lear*

2004 *Isabella's Room*

2006 *The Lobster Shop*

2007 *The Porcelain Project*

2008 *The Deer House*

2008 *The Sad Face | Happy Face trilogy*

2011 *The Art of Entertainment*



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## DIRECTOR | ANA BRZEZIŃSKA

Born in 1983 in Warsaw. Director and video artist. Graduate of the Drama Directing Department at the Polish Academy for Dramatic Arts in Krakow. Her articles on film and theatre have been published in major Polish cultural magazines. Longtime collaborator (editor, producer) at TVN, the biggest Polish private TV station.

Her theatrical debut was a multimedia show "We Are oh so Lucky" (2009), carried out in cooperation with Harakiri Farmers, a performative duo. It was presented at numerous local and European international theatre festivals.

She created numerous video works for various institutions, including: Centre of Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Needcompany, and top Warsaw-based theatres: TR Warszawa and Nowy Teatr.

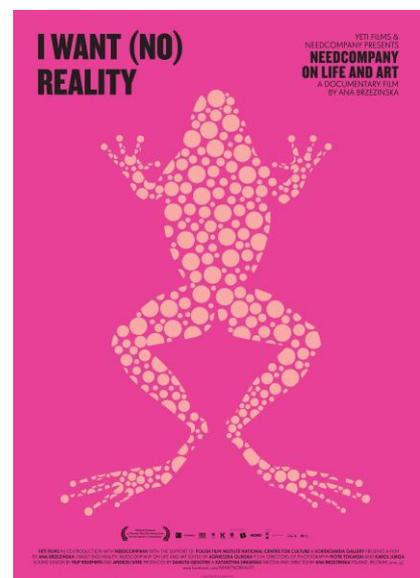
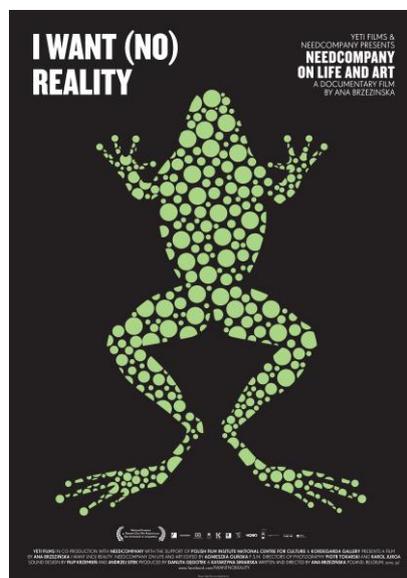
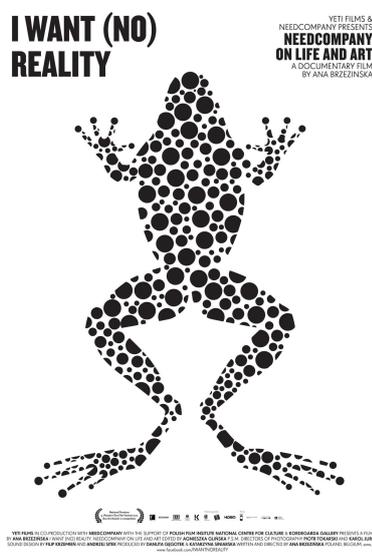
In 2009 Jan Lauwers commissioned her to direct a four-part video series presented at "The Tragedy of the Applause", an international exhibition in Roubaix, France.

## EDITOR | AGNIESZKA GLIŃSKA P.S.M.

Agnieszka Glińska (born in 1975) is one of the most talented and renowned Polish film editors. Polish National Film School graduate and lecturer (2008-2009). Member of Polish Editors Society (P.S.M.).

Selected Filmography:

- 2011 *Hakawati*, dir. Marcin Sauter
- 2010 *Bye, bye Dublin*, dir. Rafael Lewandowski
- 2010 *The Mole*, dir. Rafael Lewandowski
- 2010 *Father, Son and Holy Cow*, dir. Radek Węgrzyn
- 2009 *All that I Love*, dir. Jacek Borcuch (Sundance, in competition)
- 2009 *Mother Theresa of Cats*, dir. Paweł Sala
- 2008 *Limousine*, dir. Jerome Dassier
- 2008 *Warsaw Dark*, dir. Christopher Doyle



## QUOTES BY NEEDCOMPANY MEMBERS

*Life is absurd anyway so you better try to make something out of it in a good way.*

Jan Lauwers, the founder and artistic director of Needcompany

*When I saw a show by Jan Lauwers, I finally reconciled with the theatre. It was exactly the way I had always imagined it to be. I saw people, not actors, and that changed everything.*

Benoît Gob, actor and painter

*I very much start from the image. It's a bit different than Jan, because Jan is really a storyteller. Although he's a visual artist, in theatre, he starts really with a story. He wants to tell stories, it's necessary for him to tell stories. And for me, it's absolutely unnecessary, I don't want to tell any story, I don't want to make 'sense'.*

Grace Ellen Barkey, the cofounder of Needcompany and choreographer

*The price to pay is loneliness.*

Viviane De Muynck, actress

*We have these weird, twisted, fucked up, sick personalities that make you become an actor. You have to have some kind of weird thing in you, otherwise you can't stand there for thousands of people, night after night, and you don't actually feel anything. It's like the normal mode.*

Hans Petter Dahl, composer, actor



## PRODUCTION COMPANIES



**Yeti Films** is an independent film production company founded in 2002 by director Piotr Mularuk, Adam Mularuk and Magdalena Napieracz, which focuses on international co-productions. One of the few Polish production companies with a vast network of European partners and know-how in the financial and legal aspects of international co-production.

## NEEDCOMPANY

**Needcompany** is an artists' company set up by the theatre-maker and artist Jan Lauwers and the choreographer Grace Ellen Barkey in 1986. They form the core of the company, and it embraces all their artistic work: theatre, dance, performance, visual art, writing, etc. Their creations are shown at the most prominent venues at home and abroad.

Since the very beginning, Needcompany has presented itself as an international, multilingual, innovative and multidisciplinary company.

This year Needcompany is celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> year of their artistic activity.



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*Watch the official trailer: <http://youtu.be/CwaCehHhRrU>*

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