

Feelings of children of emigrants (from a family tree written recently)

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Date/Time	Event	Place
24-26 Feb 2006	ERARITJARITJAKA Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne	New Zealand International Arts Festival Wellington Opera House 111-113 Manners Street Wellington

Friday 24 Feb 7.30 pm

Saturday 25 Feb 7.30 pm

Sunday 26 Feb 1.30 pm

Sunday 26 Feb 7.30 pm

www.nzfestival.telecom.co.nz

Book at Ticketek

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The hit of the 2004 Edinburgh International Festival Eraritjaritjaka is an enigmatic and magical piece of European theatre, manipulating the audience's experience of time and space

"...one of the most mind-bogglingly brilliant feats of hi-tech appropriation of sound and vision you're ever likely to witness." The Herald, UK

Concept, Direction and Music:
Heiner Goebbels

Actor: Andre Wilms

Lighting and Set Design:
Klaus Grünberg

Live Video: Bruno Deville

The Mondiaan Quartet
Based on texts by Elias Canetti
In French with English surtitles

Feelings of children of emmigrants (from a family tree written recently)

The common feeling of children of emmigrants, who are born in the new country - to feel compelled to choose one culture over another albeit subconsciously, to choose what they are most comfortable with.

Switzerland became for us a land far away in Europe, a land of mountains - so what? We had mountains here! A land where relatives live and died - the subjects of grainy black and white photographs and little communication - letter writing was uncommon. E-mail was not invented and international toll calls were only made in the event of death.

When I was growing up, difference was not welcomed or valued so the aim was always to be the same as my friends. My interest in the distant country of my parents and "foreign family" was ashamedly miniscule and that being so I denied

myself rich and interesting access to this heritage.

It was not until I was middle-aged with a family of my own that in August 2003 I found myself standing on a balcony in Canton Nidwalden. Surrounded by mountains, the picture postcard views so familiar from childhood calendars with the chalet and flowering window boxes - so beautiful, so awesome!

I found myself asking - how could they leave such a place? A place of such beauty and the newly discovered relatives so welcoming, such an orderly organised society? The land and the family were somehow familiar. I felt connectedness to them - I recognised physical similarities as well as mannerisms. It was time to ask the questions - indeed it was almost too late - so many of those who lived these times have died.