

/ Wenn Liebe käme / If love came
// 15th Festival, Union des Théâtres de l'Europe at schauspielfrankfurt

schauspielfrankfurt presents the European theater festival for the first time from April 21 to May 7, 2006 **// 15th Festival, Union des Théâtres de l'Europe**. The Union des Théâtres de l'Europe was established 15 years ago by theater maker Giorgio Strehler.

Seven high-class productions from seven European nations offer a fascinating insight into European theater. Venue: Große and Kleine Haus, **schauspielfrankfurt**.

The slogan for this year's festival, curated by Brigitte Fürle, is: *Wenn Liebe käme*. It describes the attempt to live life: with love as a memory, with the impossibility of closeness and the longing for human kindness, the cruelty of not being loved and the absence of love, the uncertainty of the future through to the disappearance of the Self. Yet it also holds out the possibility: What if love did come?

schauspielfrankfurt as organizer of this European theater festival continues the numerous international co-productions and guest performances that have been held since Elisabeth Schweeger's appointment as artistic director and which have proved highly popular with a broad public – **schauspielfrankfurt** as a place of international discussion.

In order to talk to you about the organization and background to the theater festival, we would like to invite you to a press interview, which will also be attended by the artistic director of the Union des Théâtres de l'Europe, Eli Malka. The director of the **schauspielfrankfurt**, Elisabeth Schweeger, curator Brigitte Fürle and director Wanda Golonka will also be available to answer your questions.

/ Press interview 15th Festival, Union des Théâtres de l'Europe
/ April 5, 2006 / 12.00 PM
/ Glas Haus / Großes Haus / Willy-Brandt-Platz
/ Please register at tibor.stettin@buehnen-frankfurt.de

The Festival will be opened on April 21, 2006 at 06.00 PM in the Glas Haus of the **schauspielfrankfurt**. The opening will be attended, amongst others, by the Mayor of the City of Frankfurt/Main, Petra Roth, the Hesse Minister for Higher Education, Research and the Arts, Udo Corts, the Artistic Director of the Union des Théâtres de l'Europe, Eli Malka, the director of **schauspielfrankfurt**, Elisabeth Schweeger, and the curator of the Festival, Brigitte Fürle.

The Festival will be financed from funds of the City of Frankfurt and the Union des Théâtres de l'Europe with the support of the Hesse Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts. All productions will be shown with German translations or German supertitles.

The **15th Festival, Union des Théâtres de l'Europe** starts with the production **// Greed** by Sarah Kane on April 21, 2006 **//**. The director and choreographer of **schauspiel frankfurt**, Wanda Golonka, will interpret Sarah Kane's penultimate play in her physical, subtle style.

It will be followed by the first performance of **// Sonja** by Tatjana Tolstaja directed by Alvis Hermanis – again an adaptation of a Russian novella. The star Latvian director was already successful with his production at **schauspiel frankfurt // The Ice – collective reading of a book with the aid of the imagination** (after *The Ice* by Vladimir Sorokin) for instance, which was shown?? at the 14th Festival of the Union des Théâtres de l'Europe in Rome, and has been invited to other international theater events on numerous occasions.

Like Alvis Hermanis, Àlex Rigola is also a winner of the *Young Directors Project Award* (Salzburg Festspiele, 2004). In Frankfurt he is showcasing his highly successful multi-media version of Bertolt Brecht's **// Santa Joana dels escorxadors** (Saint Joan of the Stockyards).

The production from Great Britain will be **// The Changeling** by Thomas Middleton and William Rowley, an Elizabethan splatter thriller on love, sex and death directed by Declan Donnellan. The director has received several international prizes for his unique interpretations of British theater classics.

Two young directors will also be presenting their work: author and director Viktor Bodó from Budapest with his version of a psychedelic trip into a Kafkaesque phantasmagoria **// Ledarálnakeltüntem** (ChoppedAndDisappeared). Also the Sicilian director, actor and cunto master (an art of storytelling) Vincenzo Pirrotta with a play little known in Germany by Luigi Pirandello **// La sagra del Signore della nave** (The Feast for the Lord of the Ship).

The Festival ends on May 7 with Portuguese Fado, interpreted by two successful generations of singers from Portugal; a melancholy homage to the night life in Lisbon, to Fado and the transience of life and love with the production **// Cabelo Branco é Saudade**.

On performance days the Glass House of **schauspiel frankfurt** will be open from 5 PM onwards as a café and bar, a meeting-place for encounters with artists. It will also be the location for various accompanying programs: the Festival cinema, the radio play lounge and even a botanic installation: *Liebespflanzen-Haus* (Love Plants House).

Best wishes

Tibor Stettin
Press

// **15th Festival, Union des Théâtres de l'Europe**

/ Patron: Petra Roth, mayor of Frankfurt/Main

// **Gier** / by Sarah Kane

/ German by Marius von Mayenburg

/ Direction, staging, costumes: Wanda Golonka

/ **April 21, 22 / 8.00 p.m. / Großes Haus**

/ Production schauspielfrankfurt

// **Sonja** / after a novella by the same name by Tatjana Tolstaja

/ In Russian with simultaneous translation in German

/ Direction: Alvis Hermanis / first performance

/ **April 22, 23, 24 / 7.30 p.m. / Kleines Haus**

/ co-production schauspielfrankfurt and Jaunais Rîgas Teâtris

To mark the 50th anniversary of Bertolt Brecht's death

// **Santa Joana dels escorxadors** / *Saint Joan of the Stockyards*

/ by Bertolt Brecht

/ In Catalan with German supertitles

/ Regie: Àlex Rigola

/ **April 26, 27 / 8.00 p.m. / Großes Haus**

/ Production Teatre Lliure, Barcelona

// **La sagra del Signore della nave** / *The Feast for the Lord of the Ship*

/ by Luigi Pirandello

/ In Italian with German supertitles

/ Regie: Vincenzo Pirrotta

/ **April 27, 28 / Kleines Haus / 7.30 p.m.**

/ Production Teatro di Roma

// **The Changeling** /

/ by Thomas Middleton and William Rowley

/ In English with German supertitles

/ Direction: Declan Donnellan

/ **April 29 / Großes Haus / 8.00 p.m.**

/ Production Cheek by Jowl, London

// **Ledarálnakeltüntem** / *ChoppedAndDisappeared*

/ by Viktor Bodó and András Vinnai after *The Trial* by Franz Kafka

/ In Hungarian with German supertitles

/ Direction: Viktor Bodó

/ **May 3, 4 / Großes Haus / 8.00 p.m.**

/ Production Katona Színház, Budapest

// **Cabelo Branco é Saudade / Fados**

/ *Gray Hair is Melancholy / Fados*

/ Regie: Ricardo Pais

/ **May 6,7 / Großes Haus / 8.00 p.m. (May 7, 7.00 p.m.)**

/ Production Teatro Nacional de São João, Porto