



**SCHAUSPIEL
GRAZ**

**DRAMA|TIK
|ER|INNEN
FEST|IVAL
GRAZ**

WIR?

12.–16.6.2019

Deutscher Literaturfond

Tickets & Infos unter: dramatikerinnenfestival.at

We?

Everyone is talking about WE at the moment, as if it were an entity that could be singularly defined. All across the country, people invoke this WE in a variety of ways – sometimes with a bellicose air, sometimes with solidarity in mind and sometimes from a nationalist perspective. The frequent use of the word reflects a yearning for community, belonging and location, in the face of a world that is constantly changing. A world that people perceive to be more and more insecure, confusing, even threatening. WE is contrastingly used in the hope to create a sense of belonging, and provide a sense of security in difficult times. Perhaps this is why we are searching for a collective WE, one that intends to include our entire society and excludes all those we do not want to belong .

Perhaps another reason this reoccurring WE rhetoric, lies in the ever increasing divisions in our society and the dissolution of familiar WEs that used to work across society as a whole. However, this argument overlooks the fact that both our society and every single individual always consist of many WEs. So the task at hand is not to create a WE that includes everything, but rather a WE that is willing to accommodate difference, develops the ability to tolerate diversity, and includes processes of negotiation.

This theatre and its authors are attempting to navigate this field of conflicting issues, and the current edition of the Dramatists' Festival shows their diverse approaches. In readings, discussions, performances and productions, WE will address the search for a connection of the WEs in conversation and analysis, seeing the theatre as a place of assembly, where we show a microcosmic version of how society could work on a larger scale. We are looking forward to an inspiring Dramatists' Festival.

Edith Draxl & Iris Laufenberg

THEATRE | PERFORMANCE | 4
TEXT | THEATRICAL | 14
CONVERSATION | DISCOURSE /
PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME | 19

OPENING

WE | 12.06. | 17:00 | 75'

REDOUTENSAAL

Free Admission

The word WE defines who belongs and who doesn't, who is inside and who is outside. It is a word that is used to shape politics and the author Gerhild Steinbuch takes it as an occasion to create a spoken performance together with musician Bernhard Fleischmann, as a call to advocate for a different world

Begrüßung durch Iris Laufenberg und Edith Draxl Grußwort Deutscher Literaturfonds e.V., Darmstadt, Prof. Gunther Nickel Verleihung des Ernst Binder-Stipendiums 2019 durch den Freundeskreis Schauspielhaus e.V. und Kulturstadtrat Dr. Günter Riegler

Welcome by Iris Laufenberg and Edith Draxl

Welcome address by Deutscher Literaturfonds e.V., Darmstadt

Presentation of the 2019 Ernst Binder-Stipendium by Freundeskreis Schauspielhaus e.V. and Dr Günter Riegler, City Councillor for Culture

FLORIAN KLENK & DORON RABINOVICI

ALLES KANN PASSIEREN.

EIN POLITTHEATER

Guest Performance of Burgtheater Wien, Austria

WE | 12.06. | 19:00 | 75'

REDOUTENSAAL

€ 8.50 (no red.)

You will recognise them by their language. Rabinovici and Klenk have assembled speeches by the new strong men of Europe into a mosaic that reveals the current turn towards illiberal politics evident in their language. This unadorned presentation by a cast of four female actors features excerpts from original speeches by Matteo Salvini, Viktor Orbán, Herbert Kickl, Jarosław Kaczyński and Heinz-Christian Strache.

A project by Florian Klenk & Doron Rabinovici

Featuring Stefanie Dvorak, Sabine Haupt, Petra Morzé, Barbara Petritsch

THEATRE | PERFORMANCE

STIJN DEVILLÉ

CONVERSATION WITH THE RAIN

Het nieuwstedelijk, Leuven, Belgium

WE | 12.06. | 21:00 | 110'

HAUS EINS

€ 17.50 | € 9 (red.)

In English with German surtitles

A couple moves into a brand new, empty apartment in Singapore. They want a fresh start, to leave everything that happened behind them. Full of enthusiasm, the woman launches herself into her new job as CEO of an international Nanotech-business, but old memories catch up with her. The man wanders aimlessly through the monsoon, in conversation with his dead daughter, with her Facebook-account, with the rain. Until suddenly, the rain answers back. A touching story about love, loss and how two people try to deal with them.

The author and director Stijn Devillé is one of Belgium's most prominent authors. He is currently artistic director at Het nieuwstedelijk, Leuven's municipal theatre. Devillé's texts are regularly translated into German and have received several international awards; his play "Leni & Susan", for instance, won the audience award at the 2016 Heidelberger Stückemarkt.

Text & Direction Stijn Devillé

Featuring Tom Van Bauwel & Sara Vertongen

Live-Music Gerrit Valckenaers & Geert Waegeman

Child's Voice Marion De Schepper

Set Benoit Aigret, Andreas Ketels – kunstenvliegmerk

Costumes Veerle Hasselman

Sound Design Stefan De Reese & Tom Buys

Video Walter Verdin

Lighting Design Mark Van Denesse

Development Rain Printer Arne Broeders & Wouter Driessens, Prof Luc Geurts

Technical Manager Kishan Singh

Dramaturgy Els Theunis

FERDINAND SCHMALZ

SCHLAMMLAND GEWALT

Austrian Premiere, Schauspielhaus Graz

WE | 12.06. | 21:00 | 60'

HAUS DREI

€ 10.50 | 8.50 (red.)

Audience discussion with Ferdinand Schmalz following the performance

Torrential rains come down on the day of the village fête, and the grounds – more swamp-like by the minute – bring forth repressed conflicts. In Ferdinand Schmalz' powerful prose text, two actors, six brass musicians and fifty bottles of beer reveal how changes in climate and society set the idyll of the Alps, as old as time itself and believed to be forever unchangeable, on a slippery downward slope.

In 2013, Styrian Ferdinand Schmalz won the Retzhofer Drama Prize for his debut work „am beispiel der butter“ and in 2014, he was selected as Emerging Author of the Year by the critics' jury of the magazine Theater heute. In 2017, he won the Ingeborg-Bachmann-Award. As part of the 2019.20 season, his play “jedermann (stirbt)” will be presented at Schauspielhaus Graz (premiere on 14 November at HAUS EINS).

Direction Christina Tscharyiski

Featuring Eva Mayer, Clemens Maria Riegler

Live-Music Reinhold Kogler (tuba), Daniel Fuchsberger (drums / trombone), Heinz Rauscher (clarinet), Franz Eckhard (trumpet), Bernhard Potzmann (trumpet / drums), Paul Kogler (horn)

Set & Costumes Sarah Sassen

Dramaturgy Laura Kohlmaier

MIROSLAVA SVOLIKOVA

DER SPRECHER UND DIE SOUFFLEUSE

World premiere of the winning play of the Dramatists' Award of the Austrian Theatre Alliance, Theater am Lend

WE | 12.06. | 21:00 | 90'

PREMIERE

TH | 13.06. | 19:30 | 90'

THEATER AM LEND

€ 17.50 | € 9 (red.)

The performance is supposed to begin, but it doesn't. Instead, the speaker enters and attempts to stall the audience. The prompter, whom nobody ever listens to, starts spinning monologues, the errand boy is continually on the phone and argues with the director. King Lear has lost his way somewhere: Who am I?, he shouts, Who loves me?, he asks, And am I already dead? The stage is there, the electricity fails, finally, the electrician comes by;

Everything appears light and easy in this comedy about speaking and being, about the old and the new, where actors are stuck in traffic, someone needs a signature to confirm his existence, where there is always a storm raging somewhere. Actually, it's all about the audience, but the audience isn't aware of this yet. Who is talking and about whom, why have we all come here and what is my role? Maybe in the end the play has begun, the actors have arrived and who – if you don't mind my asking – are you?

Miroslava Svolikova studied Visual Arts and Philosophy in Vienna and Creative Writing for the Stage at uniT Graz. Her plays received numerous awards and have been translated into several languages. She received the Retzhofer Drama Prize in 2015. Most recently, her play "europa flieht nach europa", WP 2018, was presented at Deutsches Theater Berlin in a production of Burgtheater Wien. "Diese Mauer fasst sich selbst zusammen und der Stern hat gesprochen, der Stern hat auch was gesagt" was premiered at Schauspielhaus Wien in 2017.

Direction & Stage Pedro Martins Beja

Featuring Gerhard Balluch, Patrick Berg, Hanna Binder, Florian Tröbinger, Lukas David Schmidt

Costumes & Make-up Elisabeth Weiß

JULIAN HETZEL

THE AUTOMATED SNIPER

Guest performance of Frascati Theater Amsterdam, Netherlands

TH | 13.06. | 20:00 | 60'

FR | 14.06. | 20:00 | 60'

HAUS EINS

€ 17.50 | € 9 (red.)

In English

A remotely controlled automatic weapon shoots at the stage and the performers on it. The sniper is located somewhere outside our field of vision. The brutality takes place in the virtual realm. In his piece, Julian Hetzel explores the gamification of violence. How far would we go? What would we shoot at a pinch? "The Automated Sniper" is a critical comment on modern warfare, it is contemporary dance, abstract sculpture and a risky play on the moral norm of our times.

Julian Hetzel is a director, author, musician and visual artist. His stage plays and installations chiefly follow a docu-fictional approach and interweave political discourses with actions and locations from our day-to-day lives. His latest project to be presented in Graz was "Schuldfabrik" at steirischer herbst 2016.

Concept & Direction Julian Hetzel

Featuring Bas van Rijnsoever, Claudio Ritfeld, Ana Wild

Machine Design Hannes Waldschütz

Costumes Karianne Hoenderkamp

Lighting Nico de Rooij
Dramaturgy Miguel Angel Melgares

SIBYLLE BERG

**MENSCHEN MIT PROBLEMEN, TEILE I BIS III
UND JETZT: DIE WELT! / UND DANN KAM MIRNA / NACH UNS DAS
ALL**

Schauspielhaus Graz

TH | 13.06. | 19:00 | 180'

Audience discussion following the performance

HAUS ZWEI

€ 17.50 | € 9 (red.)

Personal fortunes in the face of our current political climate: How does it feel to be a young person at the beginning of a new millennium, or ten years later as the single mother of a teenager who has been socialised in the age of late capitalism or even later on as a woman in the prime of her life with no child and no partner. Witty and bitter, trenchant, strong in form and entertaining.

Sibylle Berg was born in Weimar and lives in Zurich today as a Swiss citizen. In her own inimitable style, she writes a much-read column for SPIEGEL ONLINE, has authored numerous novels and widely produced theatre plays. Her work has been translated into 30 languages.

Direction Franz-Xaver Mayr

Featuring Pascal Goffin, Raphael Muff, Ninja Reichert, Evamaria Salcher, Tamara Semzov, Lara Sienczak

Set Korbinian Schmidt

Costumes Michela Flück

Music Matija Schellander

Dramaturgy Karla Mäder

CLEMENS J. SETZ

ERINNYA

World premiere / Commissioned by Schauspielhaus Graz

FR | 14.06. | 20:00 | 75'

HAUS ZWEI

€ 17.50 | € 9 (red.)

In this work by Clemens J. Setz, nuclear family structures clash with the latest technologies. Matthias, a young man with anxiety disorders, tries in vain to lead a seemingly normal life with the help of the "Erinnya". This digital and supposedly democratic network generates sentences in real time and whispers them to him via a headset. But is the world of his in-laws ready for this kind of speech and thought? And who exactly is doing the thinking and speaking? This production by Schauspielhaus Graz was invited to the 2019 Heidelberger Stückemarkt.

Like hardly any other contemporary dramatist, Graz-based Clemens J. Setz addresses the promise of a world made more beautiful and just by technology. In his texts, he navigates the internet's moral depths as well as the inherent power structures of algorithms and artificial intelligences.

Direction Claudia Bossard

Featuring Alida Bohnen, Alex Deutinger, Nico Link, Tamara Semzov, Susanne Konstanze Weber, Martina Zinner

Stage Frank Holldack

Costumes Elisabeth Weiß

Composition Jan Christoph Godde

Dramaturgy Martin Baasch

CLEMENS J. SETZ & DAS ERSTE WIENER HEIMORGELORCHESTER

FR | 14.06. | 21:30 | 60'

HAUS DREI

€ 10.50 | € 8.50 (red.)

The most exquisite lo-fi-pop sound, played on small, cheap consumer keyboards. For years, Erstes Wiener Heimorgelorchester (First Viennese Home Organ Orchestra) has delighted its audiences in Austria and abroad, and they won the FM4 protest song contest. Their album "Rund", featuring lyrics by Clemens J. Setz, was released in 2016.

COPY & WASTE

LITTLE SHOP OF FLOWERS

Coproduction as part of the project “Ceci n’est pas un HYPE”! by copy & waste with Schauspiel Leipzig, Germany

FR | 14.06. | 19:30 & 21:30 | 70’

STUDIOBÜHNE DER OPER GRAZ

€ 17.50 | € 9 (red.)

In “Little Shop of Flowers”, the company “Green Mind Exposure” invites us to avail ourselves of a special service for 21st century city dwellers: NATURE TO GO! The algorithm of the system that visitors are logged into will calculate an individual treatment method which can be experienced collectively and more effectively than any hike in the forest. A multi-media tour de force through the topical fields of philosophy of art and nature, the experience of artificiality and the invention of nature.

Funded by Fonds Doppelpass of the German Federal Cultural Foundation.

Since 2007, copy & waste have developed inter-medial theatre productions and performances that chiefly deal with the changes that cities are undergoing in the 21st century – and with the more and more diffuse boundaries between facts and fiction. In changing constellations, the team consists of experts for theatre, video art, music, directing, scenography, dramaturgy, text and science. In 2018, copy & waste received the George Tabori Award.

Direction Steffen Klewar

Featuring copy & waste

Design Silke Bauer

Video Roman Hagenbrock

Music Laura Landergott, Kriton Klingler-Ioannides

Dramaturgy Katja Herlemann

TANJA ŠLJIVAR

DRAUFGÄNGERINNEN

ALL ADVENTUROUS WOMEN DO

Guest performance of Junges Deutsches Theater Berlin, Germany

FR | 14.06. | 19:00 | 90’

SA | 15.06. | 19:00 | 90’

THEATER AM ORTWEINPLATZ

€ 17.50 | € 9 (red.)

“No one ever, no one ever at all in all this time, no one ever in the street, at the shops, at the doctor’s, none of the teachers, fathers, mothers, aunts, uncles, sister-in-laws, in-laws-

spouses, no one ever, no one ever asked us HOW IN THE WORLD we became pregnant. None of us can remember exactly how IT was, who IT was, why IT was.”

In 2014, the “collective pregnancy” of seven teenagers is a great media scandal in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Because what should not have happened cannot have happened. A great deal of assumptions and judgements are made about these girls. They themselves have no say. Tanja Šljivar gives them a voice...

The result is a many-voiced choir of the unheard, radically demanding self-determination – of their own bodies, their own lives. It shows that it makes no difference to be cast out of a society that you never belonged to in the first place.

Tanja Šljivar was born in Banja Luka (SFR Yugoslavia). She studied Dramaturgy at the Faculty of Performing Arts at the Belgrade University of the Arts and Applied Theatre Science in Gießen. She was a Fellow at International Writers’ House in Graz and Writer-in-Residence at Museumsquartier 21 in Vienna and in Pristina in Kosovo. During this time, she wrote her play “Draufgängerinnen. All Adventurous Women Do”, which gained her a nomination for the 2017 Retzhofer Drama Prize.

Direction Salome Dastmalchi

Featuring Peter Steden, Eren Gündar, Livia Marlene Wolf, Marthe Müller Lütken, Chenoa North-Harder, Emmi Büter, Bruno Liebler

Choreography Niloufar Shahisavandi

Design Paula Wellman

Dramaturgy Birgit Lengers

DIE REVOLUTION FRISST IHRE KINDER!

A film and theatre project by Jan-Christoph Gockel & Ensemble

World premiere / Commissioned by Schauspielhaus Graz

In cooperation with africologneFESTIVAL

SA | 15.06. | 18:00 | 160’

HAUS EINS

€ 17.50 | € 9 (red.)

A conversation with Jan-Christoph Gockel, Komi Mizrajim Togbonou, Simone Dede Ayivi and Fiston Mwanza Mujila will follow the performance

“Die Revolution frisst ihre Kinder! (The Revolution is Eating its Children!)” is the story of a theatre company that travels to Burkina Faso and finds itself in the middle of a revolution. The female director descends into a directing frenzy: Finally, she has reached the roots of her art, finally, political reality merges with fiction. In the style of a “mockumentary”, the play looks behind the scenes of a municipal theatre’s operations. The boundaries between reality and fiction, Europe and Africa, Danton’s Death and the murder of the former state president and freedom fighter Thomas Sankara become more and more blurred. For this production, director Jan-Christoph Gockel, the actors and the team travelled to Burkina Faso and set out to find the traces of the 2014 revolution.

Jan-Christoph Gockel studied Directing at Hochschule für Schauspielkunst „Ernst Busch“ in Berlin. In his productions, he investigates social and political issues, which he approaches by interweaving real and fictitious elements, actors and puppets, music and documentary material. Together with Michael Pietsch, he founded the company peaches&rooster, which represents contemporary political theatre at the interface of drama and puppetry. His production of “Der Auftrag: Dantons Tod” (by Heiner Müller and Georg Büchner) at Schauspielhaus Graz won the 2017 Nestroy Theatre Prize.

Direction Jan-Christoph Gockel

Featuring Julia Gräfner, Florian Köhler, Raphael Muff, Michael Pietsch, Evamaria Salcher, Komi Mizrajim Togbonou

Set & Costumes Julia Kurzweg

Puppet Construction Michael Pietsch

Video Eike Zuleeg

Lighting Thomas Trummer

Dramaturgy &

Production Management Jennifer Weiss

Co-Production Management Gerhardt Haag (africologneFESTIVAL)

NELE STUHLER

KEINE AHNUNG

A production by Nele Stuhler, Sophiensaele Berlin, Germany, and DRAMA FORUM

FR | 14.06. | 21:00 | 90'

SA | 15.06. | 19:00 | 90'

THEATER AM LEND

€ 17.50 | € 9 (red.)

Knowledge is fact. Knowledge is power. Non-knowledge is pretty embarrassing, in fact. The protagonist in Nele Stuhler's play, however, is completely clueless – about international or domestic politics, political correctness, nutrition, ironing and plenty of other things. But what could it mean to confess to cluelessness without glorifying not-knowing in the process? Supported by the Berlin Senate Administration for Culture and Europe, by the Heinz und Heide Dürr Stiftung and the Fonds Darstellende Künste with resources from the Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

Nele Stuhler was born in Berlin. Her first theatre productions were created at the Berlin Volksbühne's youth theatre P14. She studied Applied Theatre Science in Gießen and Creative Writing for the Stage at uniT in Graz and she is a member of the theatre collectives Laien des Alltags and Fux. With the latter, she has recently worked at Schauspielhaus Wien and Münchner Kammerspiele. For her play “Fische”, she received the Advancement Award of the City of Munich for German-language drama.

Text & Direction Nele Stuhler

Featuring Sarah Gailer, Paula Thielecke

Design Aleksandra Pavlovic
Sound Laura Eggert
Dramaturgy Lisa Schettel

EINE IDIOTIE VON PHILIPP LÖHLE
DIE MITWISSER
Austrian premiere, Schauspielhaus Graz

SA | 15.06. | 21:00 | 95'
HAUS ZWEI
€ 17.50 | € 9 (red.)

The increasing digitisation of many areas of life is a much-discussed topic everywhere, including the theatre. Philipp Löhle, however, turns the tables and presents the consequences of this digitisation in a most charming and entirely analogue way: In Löhle's text, the internet is called Mr Kwant and is a friendly gentleman, helpful, reliable, free of charge and truly useful! Until you get laid off because Mr Kwant is simply more efficient. And it goes without saying that he is a better businessman and a better lover, too, so that your own wife prefers to sleep with Kwant instead of you. And that is only the beginning.

Philipp Löhle is one of the most frequently internationally produced German-language author of his generation. He studied History, Theatre, Film and Media Sciences and began to write while he was still at university. He has received numerous awards, including the jury award of Heidelberger Stückemarkt. In his plays, he manages again and again to explore social issues by creating grotesque or fairy-tale like refractions.

Direction Felicitas Braun
Featuring Henriette Blumenau, Mikhail Gusev, Fredrik Jan Hofmann, Sarah Sophia Meyer, Clemens Maria Riegler, Leontine Vaterodt, Hanh Mai Thi Tran
Set & Costumes Aleksandra Kica
Video Moritz Grewenig
Dramaturgy Jennifer Weiss

BLACK OFF
Stand-up Performance by Ntando Cele and Manaka Empowerment
Prod., Durban, South Africa/Bern, Switzerland

SA | 15.06. | 21:00 | 120'
DOM IM BERG
€ 17.50 | € 9 (red.)
In English

“Blackfacing” on the theatre stage or on television has been making headlines again and again. Ntando Cele turns the tables: In her stand-up concert performance “Black Off”, Bianca White, Ntando Cele’s white alter ego, makes an entrance in a blonde wig, blue contacts and “white-face”. Bianca is a “Rhodesian” globetrotter. She holds self-help seminars, meditates, campaigns for children, has even adopted a couple and dreams of a white world where everyone can overcome their “inner and outer blackness”. Until her black alter ego, the punk-rocker Vera Black, walks in and turns the place inside out...

Sponsored by PRAIRIE, the co-production model of Migros-Kulturproduzent with innovative Swiss theatre and dance companies.

The artist Ntando Cele was born in South Africa and lives in Bern. She studied Acting in Durban and at DasArts in Amsterdam. Her work suspends the boundaries between physical theatre, video installation, concert and performance. She combines music, text and video to reproduce her own identity onstage. “Black Off” is a combination of her works “Face Off” and “Black Notice” and addresses hidden everyday racism through politically incorrect statements and jokes. It gleefully dissects prejudice and stereotypes and confronts the audience with their own perceptions.

Idea & Concept Ntando Cele

Text, Co-Direction & Sound Raphael Urweider

Featuring Ntando Cele (acting, singing), Patrick Abt (guitar, sidekick), Pit Hertig (drums), Simon Ho (piano)

Composition Simon Ho

Video Ntando Cele

Lighting Tonio Finkam

DRAMAPARTY

DRAMA ON THE DANCEFLOOR

SA | 15.06. | 23:00

DOM IM BERG

Free Admission

WE! will celebrate the (pen-)ultimate day of the festival! The Grrrls DJ Crew behind the turntables will make sure that the festival ends in gorgeous drama. Their beats will make our hearts skip and our legs twirl. For all Dancing Queens & Drama Kings!

Featuring Grrrls DJ Crew

TEXT | THEATRICAL

LOCAL LITERARY SUPPLY – LET’S GET OUT INTO STYRIA

DRAMA FORUM in cooperation with theaterland steiermark

The Dramatists’ Festival in Bad Aussee, Judenburg, Leibnitz and other places
Free Admission

Private hosts open their doors to authors and their “fresh” texts and invite their friends and neighbours to a very special reading. On the couch, at the kitchen table, under the gazebo or at their favourite restaurant – the Local Literary Supply will bring the world of contemporary drama to you! An unusual taste of what is to come at the presentation of the 2019 Retzhofer Drama Prize.

Featuring authors from the DRAMA FORUM

EWELINA BENBENEK & FLORIAN FISCHER / PAUL WIERSBINSKI & FRANZ VON STROLCHEN

AUTHORS’ WORKSHOPS

DRAMA FORUM in cooperation with Deutscher Literaturfonds e.V. and Schauspielhaus Wien

TH | 13.06. | 21:30 | 2 x 20’

HAUS DREI

Free Admission

Ewelina Benbenek resurrects Greek tragedy and investigates topics of female resistance and social oppression. Paul Wierbinski creates a never-ending declension of wanting as a poetic play on words and explores the all and the nothing. These authors’ workshops are an opportunity to experience the creative process of writing new theatre plays up close – you can expect an exclusive insight into professional text work.

Ewelina Benbenek is an author and a scholar of literature and culture. She occasionally works as a dramaturg, among others at Kampnagel – International Center for the Finer Arts.

Florian Fischer is a director and artist. He has been working independently in Munich, Braunschweig, Sarajevo, Mannheim, Basel and Ghent since 2014. His multi-disciplinary works have been presented at various festivals, for instance at the Fast Forward Festival in Braunschweig, at the Your Chance Festival in Moscow and the Young Actors’ Week in Salzburg.

Paul Wiersbinski studied Video Art at Städelschule in Frankfurt. His theatre plays were premiered at Schauspiel Frankfurt, Staatstheater Mainz and others. In his independent

performance projects, he stages his own prose writings that navigate the area between science and art.

Franz von Strolchen studied Directing and Performance Making at London's Goldsmith College and founded his own international theatre company "Lonely Project" in 2005. His works are located at the interface of reality and fiction, investigating forms of communication and perception.

Text & Direction Ewelina Benbenek, Florian Fischer

Featuring Steffen Link, Ana Stevanovic, Vera von Gunten

Text & Direction Paul Wiersbinski, Franz von Strolchen

A MATTER OF INTERPRETATION 2019 – RETZHOFFER DRAMAWALKS

9 authors, 9 plays, 9 creative interpretations to go – two guided walks in and around the Herz-Jesu-neighbourhood

TH | 13.06. | 17:00 | 90' to 120'

FR | 14.06. | 17:00 | 90' to 120'

SA | 15.06. | 17:00 | 90' to 120'

START

Main Entrance Alte Technik (Rechbauerstraße 12)

€ 10.50 | 8.50 (red.)

Once again, the Matter of Interpretation is the core of the Dramatists' Festival and will again present the texts that are competing for the renowned Retzhofer Drama Prize on two guided walks.

6 artists will translate text excerpts from the young dramatists' works into scenes, installations, images, spoken language.

The audience will walk along with them, listen and encounter dramatic texts in private and public spaces.

DramaWalk #1 will interpret texts by Anah Filou, Jorinde Minna Markert, Anna Morawetz, Thomas Perle and Patrick Schneider.

Drama Walk #2 will interpret texts by Thyl Hanscho, Caren Jeß, Pedro Martins Beja, Stephan Roiss and Patrick Schneider.

The DramaWalks Artists Karl Ferdinand Börner, Andrea Fischer, Felix Hafner, Harald Günter Kainer, Martina Mahlkecht, Sandra Schüddekopf Direction Sandra Schüddekopf

Featuring Alexander Braunshör, Hagnot Elischka, Katharina Knap, Jaschka Lämmert, Karola Niederhuber, Anna Rot, Lotta Schein, Johannes Schüchner, Sebastian Thiers, Jan Walter and others.

AWARD PRESENTATION RETZHOFER DRAMA PRIZE 2019

And the winner is... ?

SU | 16.06. | 11:30 | 330'

BILDUNGSCHAUS RETZHOF

€ 10.50 | 8.50 (red.)

10:30 | Bus shuttle from Graz (Departure from Franz-Graf-Allee), Opera

€ 5.00

Please register at: dramatikerinnenfestival@uni-t.org

We are very much looking forward to this year's presentation of the Retzhofer Drama Prize, one of the most important awards for emerging dramatists in German-language theatre. Following the announcement of the winning play, the text will be presented in a staged version. Furthermore, there will be an excerpt from the text "The Nation" by Eric de Vroedt (German version by Ira Wilhelm), which won the 2018 Toneelschrijfprijs and has already caused a great stir in the Netherlands. Two texts, two awards – an interesting comparison – followed by a buffet and a closing party in front of the beautiful backdrop of Schloss Retzhof.

Winner of the 2019 Retzhofer Drama Prize The authors nominated for this prize have been working on their texts for a year. This year's winner of the Retzhofer Drama Prize will be selected from among the completed plays by an international jury of five. This prize will set the winning play on a route that has taken previous winners all the way to the Burgtheater Wien and Deutsches Theater Berlin...

Theatre maker Eric de Vroedt is a household name outside the Netherlands, too. In recent years, he has directed several shows at Schauspielhaus Bochum and at Theater Dortmund. In his home country, where he has taken over the position as artistic director of the National Theatre in The Hague as successor to Theu Boermans, he is not only known as a director but also as an author.

Artistic Direction Sandra Schüddekopf

Musical Direction Boalous

Authors Katharina Cromme, Anah Filou, Thyl Hanscho, Caren Jeß, Jorinde Minna Markert, Pedro Martins Beja, Anna Morawetz, Thomas Perle, Stephan Roiss, Patrick Schneider

STEFANIE SARGNAGEL

STATUSMELDUNGEN

Reading

TH | 13.06. | 18:00 | 60'

KÜNSTLERHAUS – HALLE FÜR KUNST & MEDIEN

Free Admission

Cooperation: Dramatists' Festival & Künstlerhaus, Halle für Kunst & Medien

In early 2019, Stefanie Sargnagel hit the headlines when she posted a tweet about a decision of the ORF (Austria's national radio and television organisation) regarding the Eurovision Song Contest. The Austrian broadcaster decided to send the electro-pop musician Pænda to the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest as the country's representative. Sargnagel had previously been a champion of the singer Hyäne Fischer. After the decision, Sargnagel posted this tweet on the social media platform Twitter: "Österreich, du dummes Huankind ich kill dich (Austria, you stupid child of a whore, I'll kill you)". A few days later, Twitter closed down the author's account permanently. On the occasion of Jan Böhmermann and bt's exhibition "Deuscthland#ANSNCHLUSS#Östereich" at Künstlerhaus – Halle für Kunst & Medien, Sargnagel invites the audience to a reading about the limits of satire.

Stefanie Sargnagel studied Painting at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, but she spent most of her time at her day job at a call centre. Today she writes in a radically subjective and very wise manner about the so-called simple life, about feminism, about hopelessness and depression. She appears taciturn, but becomes eloquent at times; now and then she'll draw something, breaking open all genre boundaries, and write texts that we don't need to call novels in order to be captivated by them.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LOWLANDS

Focus on current texts from the Netherlands and from Flanders Staged readings

SA | 15.06. | 10:00 to 15:00 (incl. lunch)

SA | 15.06. | 15:00 DISCUSSION "Texts from the Rehearsal Process" with Dutch and Flemish theatre makers

Moderation Martin Baasch

REDOUTENSAAL

Free Admission

As part of this year's international Dramatists' Festival Graz, Dutch Performing Arts and the Flanders Art Institute in cooperation with Flanders Literature will present selected authors and guest performances, giving exclusive insights into the Dutch-Flemish theatre scene. Some of these texts, excerpts of which will be presented in staged readings, have been translated specifically for the Dramatists' Festival Graz and will be heard for the first time in the German-language region.

APERÇU DE L'INCONNU (A GLIMPSE INTO THE UNKNOWN)

Michel Bijnens graduated from the Brussels Theatre Academy in 2013 and is one of the most interesting young Belgian authors. To research his plays, he frequently immerses himself into the cosmos of his characters and lends them a very specific language of their own. In "Aperçu de l'inconnu", eight characters present their own perspective of a labyrinth of investigation files on an infamous series of brutal robberies. The result is a series of harrowing portraits of people who reach their limits in the search for the truth.

MEN. DE MENING HERZIEN (MEN. THE REVISED OPINION)

The BOG.collectie is an artists' collective that consists of Judith de Joode, Benjamin Moen, Lisa Verbelen and Sanne Vanderbruggen. Their performances are especially impressive because of the radical nature of their form and their musical character. In "MEN", four actors string together seemingly random statements that appear to deal with insignificant things at first and then move on to serious debates about the EU and paedophilia. Moral boundaries are challenged and the audience is forced to take a stand. "MEN" is an analysis, both a denouncement of and a paean to opinion.

WIJ/ZIJ (US/THEM)

Carly Wijs is an author and director and teaches at the RITCS Theatre School and at P.A.R.T.S. in Brussels. Her text "US/THEM" is based on a real event. In September 2004, Chechen rebels stormed a school in the Caucasus and took hundreds of pupils hostage. Wijs' text describes how two young people try to reconstruct these traumatic experiences. Painstakingly, they draw a plan of the school, with sneakers turning into classrooms and balloons into explosive devices. A play that impresses young and grown-up audiences equally and has been performed in English in London, Montreal and Cape Town.

TRUE COLORS

Dramatist Maaïke Bergstra studied Writing for Performance at HKU Utrecht and works closely with local theatre companies. In 2015, she became known to a larger audience through a production of her text "From Deep Blue", directed by Daria Bukvic. In her latest play, "True Colors", Bergstra tells an intricate family story between experiences of racism, blackfacing, identity politics and misunderstood solidarity. With her business "True Colors", Anneke campaigns for the rights of migrants and People of Color. She takes this commitment to the extreme by calling herself a Person of Color during an interview. But when her adopted brother suddenly shows up, aspirations and reality, present times and childhood memories begin to unravel.

BIJ HET KANAAL NAAR LINKS (A LEFT TURN AT THE CANAL)

Alex van Warmerdam is an actor, theatre director, film maker and visual artist. In the 1970s, he founded the influential theatre company Hauser Orkater. Apart from his theatre work, he has also made a name for himself as the director of several feature films. In "A Left Turn at the Canal", he describes the Bouman family and their neighbours, the Meyerbeer's, who loathe each other. But they are the last two remaining white families in a world that has been overrun by immigrants. What can be done to preserve the white race and their own world view? Van Warmerdam's writing borders on tastelessness, cynicism and dull aggression, and yet it manages to cram its totally disagreeable characters into two adjoining front yards in a highly intelligent manner.

Direction Olívia Fantúrová, Anne Mulleners, Jan Stephan Schmieding

CONVERSATION | DISCOURSE

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

FOR ARTISTS, INTERNATIONAL AND AUSTRIAN COLLEAGUES AND THE INTERESTED AUDIENCE

FEMALE NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVES

TH | 13.06. | 10:00 to 16:30 (incl. interval)

STUDIO KI

Free Admission | Participation is only possible after registration at dramatikerinnenfestival@uni-t.org

A study from the year 2018 has shown: Only 10% of all theatre texts performed were written by women. Together with the Stammtisch Schreibender Frauen and the Women*s Action Forum, we will read and discuss texts by women and hatch strategies to make half the world of the theatre female too.

Direction Gerhild Steinbuch & friends

DISCOVERING THE WORLD IN THE THEATRE

FR | 14.06. | 10:00 to 13:30

STUDIO KI

Great theatre texts for children and young audiences need to be heard, seen – and written. That is why from 2021, the Retzhofer Drama Prize will be awarded in the categories of children's and young people's theatre too. On this occasion, we will present a successful text and talk about it with children as the experts. Following this, the grown-ups will consider what the necessary next steps may be.

Direction DRAMA FORUM of uniT together with TaO! and Next Liberty

Text Katharina Cromme

Featuring Felix Hafner, Ninja Reichert, Ana Stevanovic

MEETING OF THE PLATFORM AUSTRIAN DRAMATURGS' SOCIETY

FR | 14.06. | 11.00 to 14:00

MEETING POINT

FOYER, HAUS EINS

At the Dramatists' Festival, the Austrian platform of the Dramaturgs' Society (dg) provides an opportunity for exchange amongst each other and with other theatre makers across national borders.

THE AUTHOR IS PRESENT

FR | 14.06. | 15.00 to 16:30

SALON, 1st Balcony

Once again, the Dramatists' Festival Graz will be an opportunity for interesting conversations. Authors meet their future translators, agents meet new directors and dramaturgs meet their international colleagues.

AUTHORS OF THE 2019 FESTIVAL

EWELINA BENBENEK | SIBYLLE BERG | MAAIKE BERGSTRA | MICHAEL BIJNENS |
BOG.COLLECTIE | NTANDO CELE | KATHARINA CROMME | COPY & WASTE | SIMONE DEDE
AYIVI | STIJN DEVILLÉ | ANAH FILOU | JAN-CHRISTOPH GOCKEL | THYL HANSCHO | JULIAN
HETZEL | CAREN JESS | JUDITH DE JOODE | FLORIAN KLENK | PHILIPP LÖHLE | JORINDE
MINNA MARKERT | PEDRO MARTINS BEJA | BENJAMIN MOEN | ANNA MORAWETZ |
FISTON MWANZA MUJILA | THOMAS PERLE | DORON RABINOVICI | STEPHAN ROISS |
STEFANIE SARGNAGEL | FERDINAND SCHMALZ | PATRICK SCHNEIDER | CLEMENS J. SETZ |
TANJA ŠLJIVAR | GERHILD STEINBUCH | NELE STUHLER | MIROSLAVA SVOLIKOVA | SANNE
VANDERBRUGGEN | LOT VEKEMANS | LISA VERBELEN | ERIC DE VROEDT | ALEX VAN
WARMERDAM | PAUL WIERSBINSKI | CARLY WIJS |

TICKETS & INFORMATION

Tickets and counting tickets, where available, for all events can be purchased at the ticket centre of Bühnen Graz at Kaiser-Josef-Platz 10 and at the respective box offices. Detailed information about reduced prices is available at www.dramatikerfestival.at. Evening box offices open one hour and 30 minutes respectively before the beginning of the events.

TICKET CENTRE

Bühnen Graz

Kaiser-Josef-Platz 10

8010 Graz

Tel.: 0316 8000

tickets@ticketzentrum.at

ticketzentrum.at

More information on the programme is available at dramatikerinnenfestival.at

VENUES AND LOCATIONS

SCHAUSPIELHAUS GRAZ: HAUS EINS, HAUS ZWEI, HAUS DREI, REDOUTENSAAL
Hofgasse 11, 8020 Graz

THEATER AM LEND
Wienerstraße 58a, 8020 Graz

DOM IM BERG
Schlossbergplatz 1, 8010 Graz

OPER GRAZ, STUDIOBÜHNE
Kaiser-Josef-Platz 10, 8010 Graz

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT GRAZ (MAIN ENTRANCE, ALTE TECHNIK)
Rechbauerstraße 12, 8010 Graz

STUDIO KI
Bürgergasse 9/II, 1. Stock, 8010 Graz

TAO! – THEATER AM ORTWEINPLATZ
Ortweinplatz 1, 8010 Graz

KÜNSTLERHAUS – HALLE FÜR KUNST & MEDIEN
Burgring 2, 8010 Graz

UNIT – DRAMAFORUM UND KUNSTLABOR GRAZ
Jakominiplatz 15, 1.Stock, 8010 Graz

BILDUNGSHAUS RETZHOF
Dorfstraße 17, 8435 Wagna