

FINNPHONIA no 10



Fundamental Monodrama Festival

09-17 Juli 2010
Kulturhaus Niederanven

The tree has entered my hands,
The sap has ascended my arms.
The tree has grown in my breast
DOWNWARD.
The branches grow out of me, like
ARMS.

Tree you are,
MOSS you are,
You are violets with wind above
them.
A child - so high - you are,
And all this is folly to the world.

"A Girl" by Ezra Pound

For the first time, the Fundamental Monodrama Festival takes place from July 9 to July 17 2010 at the Kulturhaus in Niederanven. This international festival is dedicated to the Monodrama, a theatrical genre focussing on a single actor, usually portraying one character. Monologue, vocal performance, physical theatre and "poetry slam" are just a few forms of expression characterizing the art of the monodrama.

4 productions showcased throughout the entire festival are world premieres including Brief einer Unbekannten by Stefan Zweig and staged by Linda Olsansky; Pornorama - ein Männermärchen by and with Karen Köhler; the texts The Tale of (Hoo) and I will tell a short story by Nahidh al-Ramadhani.

In order to organize and produce such an event a project like the Fundamental Monodrama Festival, it requires an interdisciplinary collaboration - therefore the organizers have combined the specialized knowledge and experience of theatre professionals such as the actor and director Steve Karier, the dramatic advisor Olivier Ortolani, the architect and stage designer Diane Heirend, the specialist in German studies Pierre Marson and the historian Rosch Seimetz.

The organizing team are also very grateful about the support of young theatre professionals such as Luxembourgish director Anne Simon (interviewed in a forthcoming issue), as well as students from the University of Luxembourg and from Universities within the Greater Region.

Slam Poetry

Slam poetry is a form of performance poetry that occurs within a competitive poetry event, called a "slam", at which poets perform their own poems (or, in rare cases, those by others) that are "judged" on a numeric scale by randomly picked members of the audience. Critics of Slam poetry say that the quality of the performer often wins the day irrespective of the quality of the poetry. Its defenders say that this is like saying a poem printed in the finest type on the most exquisite paper will win the Pulitzer Prize.

Silently I step up with a subversive
subtext

Trying to feed the need for more
than just remedial subjects
Placing my faith in the belief that
the general public
Will open their minds to more than
just an industry puppet

"Waiting For The Beat To Kick In" by Scroobius Pip

Monologue

Whereby the character may be speaking his or her thoughts aloud, directly addressing another character, or speaking to the audience, especially the former. Monologues are common across the range of dramatic media (plays, films, animation, etc.). Monologue as a term The term "monologue" was actually used to describe a form of popular narrative verse, sometimes comic, often dramatic or sentimental, which was performed in music halls or in domestic entertainments in the late nine the and early twentieth century.

Physical Theatre

Physical theatre is a growing art form worldwide. In Europe, especially, physical theatre is a known and recognized form, seen most prominently at festivals such as the London International Mime Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Companies such as Complicite, Theatre du Soleil, and La Fura del Baus have been creating exciting and innovative productions of physical theatre for decades, winning awards, and traveling the globe.

A simple definition set of definitions - Physical theatre:

- goes beyond verbal narrative, incorporating physical and visual elements on a level at least equal to verbal elements
- is more than simply abstract movement – it includes some element of character, narrative, relationships, and interaction between the performers, not necessarily linear or obvious
- includes a wide variety of styles, approaches, aesthetics can include dance-theatre, movement theatre, clown, puppetry, mime, mask, vaudeville, and circus

Performances to catch

Martin Engler takes on the near myth that is Allen Ginsberg and his play Howl, largely considered one of the most infamous chants of all time, banned upon release for it's obscenity laden lyrics and, Engler aims to



shock further by including Hum Bom!, Ginsberg's treatise of the Gulf War. These performances will be accompanied by live contrabass soundtracking by Ralph Huefenus.

Round table interviews and discussions include the origins and meanings of Monodrama with insightful theoretical and practical experiences offered by actors, directors and historians.

Swimming To Iraq sees Steve Karier and Anne Simon (dir) attempt to tell the story of evolution, they start off with the idea of Theatre at war and discover Theatre at peace instead. An original sound recording of al-Ramadhani will complete this.

Actor's Cafe and Expos

Alongside the performances and dramatic atmosphere there will chance to engage in Q&As with cast and crew and take in exhibitions from Luxembourg photographer, Bohumil Kostohryz, with this being a first showing in Luxembourg.

*In my craft or sullen art
Exercised in the still night
When only the moon rages
And the lovers lie abed
With all their griefs in their arms,
I labour by singing light
Not for ambition or bread
Or the strut and trade of charms
On the ivory stages
But for the common wages
Of their most secret heart.*

*Not for the proud man apart
From the raging moon I write
On these spindrift pages
Nor for the towering dead
With their nightingales and psalms
But for the lovers, their arms
Round the griefs of the ages,
Who pay no praise or wages
Nor heed my craft or art*

"In My Craft Or Sullen Art" by Dylan Thomas

The Kulturhaus

The Kulturhaus Niederanven is aiming at a fruitful collaboration between artists, the country's cultural institutions, schools, nurseries, youth centres, social institutions as well as local associations, in particular those of the community Niederanven. The Kulturhaus opens its gates to become a regional meeting place, not only for the inhabitants of the community but for everyone interested in novelty, creativity, the spectacular and enchantment...

Adults: 15€/17€ (evening with two shows)
Tickets for under 25-year olds: 10€/12€ (evening with two shows)
Festival Pass: 80€ (admission to all festival events)
www.fundamental.lu
www.khn.lu



Luc Spada - Frederik Schleiter



Karen Köhler - Alexander Paul Engler



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