This will be a special year for Needcompany and on this occasion we are sending you an XL newsletter. We can start with some very good news! Both Jan Lauwers and Viviane De Muynck have won the Flemish Community’s 2006 Culture Prize. Jan Lauwers received the prize in the playwrighting category. Last year, French translations of Lauwers’ last two plays (inside world and The Lobster Shop) were published by Actes Sud and this year the number of publications of Lauwers’ work will increase even more. At the publishers Meulenhoff/Mameau he was working on the publication of his plays in Dutch. Viviane De Muynck received the prize in the performing arts category. She continues to capture hearts in the pan of Isabella and as the French poetess Claire Goll in All is vanity.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

This spring Jan Lauwers will move even more than ever being himself to the world as an artist working in several media. For two months he will be showing his visual work in a solo exhibition entitled Restlessness, curated by Jérôme Sans at the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels. I use as many different meanings of expression as I possibly can. At first I found that frustrating: now I see it as a blessing. I am no longer afraid of it. The restlessness it causes serves as a driving force. Every neuron raises attention questions. In visual art you have to decrease your vanity, while in the theatre world you have to foster it.

I believe in a strong bond with history. I don’t believe in originality or revolution. I believe in the serenity of history and its tradition. A drawing must aspire to universality, it must be able to exist on its own with a drawing by Raphael or Klimt. There should be no distinction. Any drawing is a drawings. There are a sort of manuscripts of our society and so also of art; the two are inexorably linked. I imagine a bird flying. There are two ways of looking at that image. Either the bird likes flying and skims through the air tooth the sheer depth of it or the bird can’t stand flying and tries to avoid it, when case flying is a monstrous necessity. I think the second approach is the right one, but I like to believe in the first. I but ugliness is a good point of departure for my work.

Excerpts from an interview with Jérôme Sans

This exhibition will be accompanied by a substantial volume on Lauwers’ art work, focusing on the period from 1996 to 2006. It is published by Mercatorfonds, BOZAR, Actes Sud and Needcompany. French and English editions will be available in bookshops, at the exhibition and at all NC performances. It will appear on the French market in September.

In addition to Restlessness, a number of Insideout C-Song Variations, a short film created with the support of the VAF. Needcompany recently added the travelling colloquium to its range of activities. This provides the opportunity for reflection on beauty and truth in the theatre, and will take place in Brussels, Liège and Vilnius. The colloquium in the Kaaitheater Studios (in Brussels) will be a very special occasion. The international publication No beauty for the then human life is now. On Jan Lauwers’ theatre work with Needcompany will be launched at the company of Georges Bataille, Nicolas Troum and Erwin Jans. This book of essays in English, edited by Christel De Muynck and published by Lehmann, Marvin Carlson, Felix Sprang and Arnd Stalpaert of Ghent University, comprises more than 20 pieces on Lauwers’ work from the Epigone of Georges Banu, Nicolas Troum and Erwin Jans. This book of essays in English, initiated by Christel De Muynck and published by Lehmann, Marvin Carlson, Felix Sprang and Arnd Stalpaert of Ghent University,

**NEEDCOMPANY**

With the support of the Flemish authorities.

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**ON THE ROAD**

After the opening performances in Belgium and Paris (Théâtre de la Ville), The Lobster Shop will continue its progress around Europe.

Both Grace Ellen Barkey’s Chunking and Viviane De Muynck’s All is Vanity will be performed at numerous venues in Flanders in the months to come. They also continue to tour abroad.

In the meantime Isabella’s Room is still enjoying rose reviews; it was mentioned several times as the best production of 2006 in the most prominent paper in São Paulo, the Folha de São Paulo. More intercontinental excursions are planned, with preparations for a tour of Korea and Japan.

**ASSOCIATED ARTISTS – AN INTRODUCTION**

Grace Ellen Barkey, who founded Needcompany with Jan Lauwers in 1986, has since 1992 been making her own productions at the company. Since then her directorial work reached operas more than 200 performances with Needcompany. In 2000 she was invited to make her own productions at the company. Since then her directorial work reached operas more than 200 performances with Needcompany. In 2000 she was invited to make her own productions at the company.

GOLDFISH GAME

The Lobster Shop, Ivry sur Seine (Paris Opera), late April 2007 – Tickets +33 1 42 74 22 77

TWO PIECES

3, 4, 5 May 2007 – Tickets +33 2 2610866

3, 4, 5 May 2007 – Tickets +33 3 89 36 28 34

La Rose des Vents, Villeneuve d’Ascq
21, 22, 23 February 2007 – Tickets +33 3 320 61 96 90

Cantakerey Dom, Ljubljana
10, 11 March 2007 – Tickets +386 1 24 17 299 / 300

Deutsche Nationaltheater und Staatskapelle, Weimar
27 April 2007 – Tickets +49 3643 755 334

Festival Internacional de Teatro y Artes de Calle, Valladolid
25, 26 May 2007 – Tickets +34 9483 62 42 46

**CHUNKING**

CC. Sint-Niklaas
6 March 2007 – Tickets +32 3 766 39 39

CC. Strombeek
21 March 2007 – Tickets +32 2 263 03 43

CC. De Went, Aalst
23 March 2007 – Tickets +32 53 73 28 12

Deutsches Nationaltheater Weimar, Fr-Ernt
25 April 2007 – Tickets +49 3643 755 334

De Velinx, Tongeren
3 May 2007 – Tickets +32 12 39 38 00

Ikonos Festival, Teatro Social, Brescia
12 May 2007 – Tickets +39 03 02 30 91 05

STUK, Sotteval, Luzen
15 May 2007 – Tickets +32 16 320 320

**ALL IS VANITY**

Witshuline, Woluwe
13, 14 February 2007 – +32 2 761 60 30

Théâtre de Namur
15, 16 February 2007 – Tickets +32 81 226 026

CC. De Went, Aalst
23 February 2007 – Tickets +32 53 73 28 12

Rotterdamse Schouwburg
26 February 2007 – Tickets +31 10 411 81 10

De Velinx, Tongeren
28 February 2007 – Tickets +32 12 39 38 00

Stadsschouwburg Amsterdam
2 March 2007 – Tickets +31 20 624 23 11

desSingel, Antwerp
9, 10 March 2007 – Tickets +32 3 248 26 28

Stadsschouwburg Groningen
17 April 2007 – Tickets +31 50 368 0 368

Théâtre de la Ville, Les Abbesbes, Paris
3, 4, 5 March 2007 – Tickets +33 4 72 44 22 77

National Drama Theatre, Vilnius
18 May 2007 – Info +370 5 2610866

**RESTLESSNESS**

Pais de Schone Kunsten/Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels
2 March to 6 May 2007 – Tickets +32 2 507 82 00

**NEEDCOMPANY DECONSTRUCTION**

BRXLBRAVO, Pais de Schone Kunsten/Palais des Beaux-Arts – Horla Hal, 10–am-6 pm
3, 4 March 2007 – Tickets +32 2 507 82 00

**JUST FOR BRUSSELS**

Pais de Schone Kunsten/Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels – Terasken
20, 21 April 2007 – Tickets +32 2 507 82 00

**GOLDFISH GAME**

Canvas (belgian television)
16 March 2007 around 23.00

**COLLOQUIA**

Kaaitheater Studios, Brussels
6 March 2007 – Info +32 2 201 59 59

Cantakerey Dom, Ljubljana
12 March 2007 – Info +386 1 24 17 100

Studio Meno Fortas, Vilnius
19 May 2007 – Info +370 5 2083866

**WORKSHOPS**

desSingel, Antwerp
6, 7, 8 February 07 – Info +32 3 248 28 28

PACT Zollverein, Essen
12, 13, 14 March 2007 – Info +49 201 812 22 00

Trafó, Budapest
23, 24, 25 April 2007 – Info +36 1 215 1600

Studio Meno Fortas, Vilnius
17, 19, 20 May 2007 – Info +370 5 2083866

**ISABELLA’S ROOM**

LG Arts Center, Seoul
30, 31 March, 1 April 2007 – Tickets +82 2 205 0114

Satanza Arts Theatre, Satanta
6, 7, 8 April 2007 – +81 48 858 5511
RESTLESSNESS
Solo exhibition by Jan Lauwers
Curator Jérôme Sans

NEEDCOMPANY DECONSTRUCTION
Walk-in installation by Lauwers/Lemm&Barkey

JUST FOR BRUSSELS
Performance/Installation
With Lemm&Barkey, OHNO Cooperation, Maison Dahl
Bonnema, The NC-ensemble
Special Guests: Davis Freeman & Paul Lemp

GOLDFISH GAME
A film by Jan Lauwers
A production by Needcompany and De Filmfabriek. With the support of Fonds Film in Vlaanderen, Canvas, Canal+ and Brugge 2002.

COLLOQUIA
With the support of the Culture 2000 Programme of the European Union.
Brussels: Georges Banu (Université Paris III - Sorbonne Nouvelle), Nicolas Truong (responsible for 'Théâtre des idées' at the Avignon festival, journalist on Le Monde), Christel Stalpaert, Frederik Le Roy (Ghent University) and Erwin Jans.
Vilnius: Hans-Thies Lehmann (Universität Frankfurt am Main), Luk Van den Dries (Universiteit van Antwerpt), Audronis Liuga.

WORKSHOPS
Viviane De Muynck
With the support of the Culture 2000 Programme of the European Union.

THE LOBSTER SHOP
Jan Lauwers
A Needcompany production, coproduced by Festival d’Avignon, Théâtre de la Ville (Paris), Théâtre Garonne (Toulouse), PACT Zollverein (Essen), Cankarjev Dom (Ljubljana), La Rose des Vents (Seine Nationale de Villeneuve d’Ascq), Autine en Normandie, La Filature (Seine Nationale de Mulhouse), Kaaitheater (Brussels), deSingel (Antwerp).
With the support of the Culture 2000 Programme of the European Union.

CHUNKING
Grace Ellen Barkey
With: Julien Faure, Benoît Gob, Tijen Lawton, Louise Peterhoff, Maarten Seghers and Lot Lemm
A Needcompany production, coproduced by PACT Zollverein (Essen), Festival de Marseille and La Rose des Vents (Seine Nationale de Villeneuve d’Ascq).

ALL IS VANITY
After Claire Goll
Adapted and performed by Viviane De Muynck
Lighting and directing: Jan Lauwers
A Needcompany production, coproduced by Théâtre de la Ville (Paris), Festival d’Avignon and Théâtre Garonne (Toulouse).
With the cooperation of Kaaitheater (Brussels) and deSingel (Antwerp).

ISABELLA’S ROOM
Jan Lauwers
With: Viviane De Muynck, Tijen Lawton, Hans Petter Dahl, Anneke Bonnema, Benoît Gob, Julien Faure, Maarten Seghers, Misha Downey, Louise Peterhoff, Jan Lauwers, Ellie Janssens, Lemm&Barkey
A Needcompany production, coproduced by Festival d’Avignon, Théâtre de la Ville (Paris), Théâtre Garonne (Toulouse), La Rose des Vents (Seine Nationale de Villeneuve d’Ascq), Brooklyn Academy of Music (New York) and welt in basel theaterfestival.

Dear Friends,

Things are going well, but it is too much and in Rio the laughter is exuberant. We, the company, were recently walking along Copacabana Beach, where we saw the frigate birds diving into the sea in marvellous formations. There was a stormy, brooding atmosphere and we felt ill at ease. The harsh beauty of this city is confusing. You give street-children money, perform your play for the better off in the evening and at night swim in the pool on the hotel roof, where a humming bird quivers in front of a lamp.

Then my mobile rings and our manager asks whether it’s really advisable to perform in Tel Aviv with all that violence and whether I would write the newsletter on Needcompany’s 20th anniversary without delay. I open my laptop on the marble surround of the roof terrace and come up with the sentence ‘things are going well, but it is too much and in Rio the laughter is exuberant’. I reread the sentence and heave a deep sigh.

An intercontinental travelling theatre company and commitment: nothing is to be taken for granted... It is marvellous that Needcompany has existed for 20 years.

Thank you.

J.L.

February 2007,