

THE LOBSTER SHOP

Théâtre de la Ville, Paris

31 January, 1,2,3,4 February 20007 – Tickets +33 1 42 74 22 77

La Filature, Mulhouse

8, 9 February 2007 – Tickets +33 3 89 36 28 34

La Rose des Vents, Villeneuve d’Ascq

21, 22, 23 February 2007 – Tickets + 33 320 61 96 90

Cankarjev Dom, Ljubljana

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

Deutsches 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 +34 983 42 62 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 Werf, Aalst

23 March 2007 – Tickets +32 53 73 28 12

Deutsches Nationaltheater Weimar, E-Werk

25 April 2007 – Tickets +49 3643 755 334

De Velinx, Tongeren

3 May 2007 – Tickets +32 12 39 38 00

Ikos Festival, Teatro Sociale, Brescia

12 May 2007 – Tickets +39 03 02 30 91 05

STUK, Soetezaal, Leuven

15 May 2007 – Tickets +32 16 320 320

ALL IS VANITY

Wolubilis, Woluwe

13, 14 February 2007 +32 2 761 60 30

Théâtre de Namur

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

CC De Werf, 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

deSingel, Antwerp

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

Stadsschouwburg Groningen

17 April 2007 – Tickets +31 50 368 0 368

Théâtre de la Ville, Les Abbesses, Paris

3, 4, 5 May 2007 – Tickets +33 1 42 74 22 77

National Drama Theatre, Vilnius

18 May 2007 – Info +370 5 2610866

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 playwriting category. Last year, French translations of Lauwers’ last two plays (*Isabella’s Room* and *The Lobster Shop*) were published by Actes Sud and this year the number of publications will increase even more. At the publishers Meulenhoff/Manteau they are 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 part of Isabella and as the French poetess Claire Goll in *All is Vanity*.

SPECIAL EVENTS

This spring Jan Lauwers will more than ever be showing 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 means 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 medium raises different questions. In visual art you have to destroy your virtuosity, 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 hold its own with a drawing by Raphaël or Klimt. There should be no distinction. Any distinction is anecdotal and so unimportant. We have the prehistoric cave drawings as proof. Drawings are a sort of manuscript of our society and so also of art; the two are inextricably linked.

Imagine a bird flying. There are two ways of looking at that image. Either the bird likes flying and skims through the air for the sheer hell of it, or the bird can’t stand flying and tries to avoid it, in which case flying is a tiresome necessity. I think the second approach is the right one, but I like to believe in the first. That ambiguity is a good point of departure for my work.

Extracts from an interview with Jérôme Sans

NEEDCOMPANY

With the support of the Flemish authorities.

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 *Sideshows* will also take place in the PSK. In the exhibition’s opening weekend (when BRXLBRAVO will also be on) there will be **Needcompany Deconstruction**, in which the company will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in a *walk-in installation* in the Horta Hall, designed specially for the occasion by Lauwers/Lemm&Barkey. The NC ensemble will completely take over the Horta Hall for two days.

Needcompany will also be presenting **Just for Brussels** in the PSK. In addition to Needcompany’s major stage productions, its *associated artists* frequently make use of their freedom to generate additional projects. At the PSK you will be able to see installations/performances by Lemm&Barkey, Maison Dahl-Bonnema, OHNO Cooperation and others, with *special guests* Davis Freeman and Paul Lemp.

The same weekend will see the preview of **C-Song Variations**, a short film created with the support of the VAF.

Needcompany recently added a **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, Ljubljana and Vilnius. The colloquium in the Kaaitheater Studios (in Brussels) will be a very special occasion. The **international publication** *No beauty for me there where human life is rare. On Jan Lauwers’ theatre work with Needcompany* will be launched in the company of Georges Banu, Nicolas Truong and Erwin Jans. This book of essays in English, initiated by Christel Stalpaert of Ghent University, comprises more than 20 pieces on Lauwers’ work from the Epigonen period to today’s *The Lobster Shop*. Hans-Thies Lehmann, Marvin Carlson, Felix Sprang and Arnd Wesemann are among the authors who will focus their attention on his oeuvre.

The book will be on sale at the colloquium and at all the NC performances and will afterwards be distributed to selected bookshops by Academia Press and International Film & Theatre Books.

Jan Lauwers’ first full-length film, **Goldfish Game** (2002), will have its first airing on Belgian television this spring (on CANVAS).

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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 rave 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 the production *Few Things* (2000) she has worked increasingly closely with Lot Lemm, which led to the launch of **Lemm&Barkey**, a label under which they have already carried out several projects. Their latest – **The Porcelain Project** – emerged from a fascination for the fragility and transparency of porcelain. Lemm&Barkey create a world in which porcelain objects move in accordance with their own choreography.

Under the name **OHNO Cooperation**, Maarten Seghers and Jan Lauwers are seeking out the iconography of pop music. For the first version they collaborated with the video artist Nico Leunen (Cobblersson Incorporated). In **O.H.N.O.P.O.P .I.C.O.N.O..** they have made a distorted version of pop iconography. This is a highly sensory installation, subtitled ‘the tragedy of applause’.

Maison Dahl Bonnema is the name assumed by Hans Petter Dahl and Anna Sophia Bonnema. These two performers have played an important part in Jan Lauwers & Needcompany’s productions since 1999. They are now working on a new project under Needcompany’s wing. It is **The Ballad of** – a mini-opera. Singing in order to bring about alienation, to explore new registers, to present stories and ideas in a different way.

So, a whole series of events in 2007 – we shall be expecting you!

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ISABELLA’S ROOM

LG Arts Center, Seoul

30, 31 March, 1 April 2007 – Tickets +82 2 2005 0114

Saitama Arts Theatre, Saitama

6, 7, 8 April 2007 – Tickets +81 48 858 5511

RESTLESSNESS

Paleis voor Schone Kunsten/Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels

2 March to 6 May 2007 – Tickets +32 2 507 82 00

NEEDCOMPANY DECONSTRUCTION

BRXLBRAVO, Paleis voor Schone Kunsten/Palais

des Beaux-Arts - Horta Hal, 10 am - 6 pm

3, 4 March 2007 – Tickets +32 2 507 82 00

JUST FOR BRUSSELS

Paleis voor Schone Kunsten/Palais des Beaux-Arts,

Brussels - Terarken

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

Cankarjev Dom, Ljubljana

12 March 2007 – Info +386 1 24 17 100

Studio Meno Fortas, Vilnius

19 May 2007 – Info +370 5 2610866

WORKSHOPS

deSingel, 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 2610866

With the support of
the Culture 2000
Programme of the
European Union



Culture 2000

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

With Grace Ellen Barkey, Anneke Bonnema, Timothy
Couchman, Dick Crane, Gonzalo Cunill, Hans Petter Dahl,
Viviane De Muynck, Misha Downey, Victor Lauwers, Tijen
Lawton, Carlotta Sagna, Simon Versnel.

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.

Ljubljana: Primoz Jesenko, Nicolas Truong, Christel
Stalpaert. Moderator: Ursula Cetinski.

Vilnius: Hans-Thies Lehmann (Universität Frankfurt
am Main), Luk Van den Dries (University of Antwerp),
Audronis Liuga.

WORKSHOPS

Viviane De Muynck

With the support of the Culture 2000 Programme of the European
Union.

NEEDCOMPANY

February 2007,

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.

THE LOBSTER SHOP

Jan Lauwers

With Hans Petter Dahl, Grace Ellen Barkey, Tijen Lawton,
Anneke Bonnema, Benoît Gob, Inge Van Bruystegem,
Julien Faure, Maarten Seghers, Lot Lemm

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
(Scène Nationale de Villeneuve d'Ascq), Automne en Normandie,
La Filature (Scène 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 (Scène
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,
Elke Janssens, Lemm&Barkey

A Needcompany production, coproduced by Festival d'Avignon,
Théâtre de la Ville (Paris), Théâtre Garonne (Toulouse), La Rose
des Vents (Scène Nationale de Villeneuve d'Ascq), Brooklyn
Academy of Music (New York) and welt in basel theaterfestival.