THE PORCELAIN PROJECT

World Premiere

Kaaitheater, Brussels 10, 11, 12 October 2007 _ Tickets +32 2 201 59 59

STUK, Leuven 16, 17 October 2007 _ Tickets +32 16 320 320

Rotterdamse Schouwburg 19 October 2007 _ Tickets +31 10 411 81 10

Stadsschouwburg Amsterdam 30 October 2007 _ Tickets +31 20 624 23 11

CC Brugge 17 January 2008 _ Tickets +32 50 44 66 26

PACT Zollverein, Essen 15, 16 February 2008 _ Tickets +49 201 812 22 00

La Rose des Vents, Villeneuve d'Ascq 22, 23, 24 April 2008 _ Tickets +33 320 61 96 96

Tramway, Glasgow 13, 14 May 2008 _ Tickets +44 845 330 3501

THE BALLAD OF RICKY AND RONNY – A POP OPERA

World Premiere

Kaaitheaterstudio's, Brussels 11, 12, 13 October 2007 _ Tickets +32 2 201 59 59

De Brakke Grond, Amsterdam 23, 24 October 2007 _ Tickets +31 20 626 68 66

La Rose des Vents, Villeneuve d'Ascq 22, 23, 24 April 2008 _ Tickets +33 320 61 96 96

DECONSTRUCTION 07

SPIELART, Haus der Kunst -Terassensaal, Munich 17, 18 November 2007 _ Info: www.SPIELART.org

SO MAN,

SPIELART Festival, Munich 23, 24 November 2007 _ Tickets +49 89 54 81 81 81

CHUNKING

Springwave Festival, Seoul 28, 29 May 2008 _ Info: www.springwave.org

Newsletter September 2007

Dear Friend,

In De Morgen, a Flemish newspaper, the theatre critic WH wrote that the Avignon Festival was opting more for Flanders' city theatres and no longer for individuals such as Jan Fabre and myself.

In this article the world is pretty much turned on its head.

Vincent Baudriller, the director of the Avignon Festival, never ever chooses institutions, only individual performing artists (actually I am currently discussing a major new project with him).

In fact WH writes that Flanders' new theatre policy, whereby the major theatres swallow up the independent artists while at the same time having no more large ensembles, is now bearing fruit. It has nothing to do with it. It is Ikeda, Cassiers or Verhelst that is chosen. After all, WH has never written that deSingel, Fabre's main producer, was invited. Or in our case, the Kaaitheater. It is not the KVS that is suddenly brilliant. Jan Goossens, the director of the KVS, says that he does not keep to any artistic line, but follows a political one. If one says that the KVS has been selected for the festival in the shape of three productions, it is still not the KVS that can take the credit, but the 'independent' artists (WH also writes that a production by the KVS has even been sent to the OFF Festival. This OFF Festival is a bastion of conservatism with a complete lack of selection criteria).

Why is this important? Well, I shall continue to resist the prohibitively expensive Germanisation of our Flemish theatre system, whereby the intendants and dramaturges determine who makes what and with whom. Our Flemish system is (or was) an open and flexible one in which a huge range of diversity is (or was) possible. Putting mistaken emphasis on the major theatres will lead to anaemia. The purpose of city theatres is to produce plays, but the quality depends on the artists.

The tone of the article leads to the destruction of good new theatre-makers such as Abattoir Fermé and gives too much power to people like Gerard Mortier, who see to it that a theatre ticket costs 120 euro or more, which makes theatre as expensive and elitist as, for example, football. And surely no one wants that?

Apart from this, things are going better than ever for Needcompany.

And WH can be sure that we shall have disappeared long before the international interest in our work is spent.

And as always we are making theatre, for you and you alone, dear reader.

Kind regards,

JL

The Porcelain Project – Grace Ellen Barkey's new creation – is based on a fascination with the fragility and transparency of porcelain. Lemm&Barkey show us a world in which dancers and porcelain move together. The setting for the performance is composed of hundreds of porcelain objects created by Lot Lemm. Grace Ellen Barkey brings them to life, together with the dancers, in a world full of fantasy. The first night is at the Kaaitheater in Brussels on 10th October 2007. This is followed by a tour of Flanders, the Netherlands, Germany and France.

The Ballad of Ricky and Ronny – a pop opera by MaisonDahlBonnema – is on in the Kaaitheaterstudio's. Rough, bold and incredibly itself. Dark clouds of words by Anna Sophia Bonnema paint the odd world of Ricky and Ronny, set to music by Hans Petter Dahl. Existential pop is adapted to form a curious story of two people detached from the world. The tragic cult story of Ricky and Ronny opens on 11th October 2007.

The SPIELART Festival in Munich looks into the future and wonders *What's next?*' Four curators provide an answer. Jan Lauwers is one of them, and he says: Maarten Seghers. Under the Needcompany wing, Maarten Seghers (OHNO Cooperation) is doing a creation of his own, called **So man**.

A solo session. A fake bootleg. A hysterical attempt.

Jan Lauwers is making an installation specially for the Haus der Kunst and SPIELART in Munich, in which he will as far as possible combine every aspect of his entire mental world. After more than 20 years of exploration in the media of art, dance, theatre, literature, music and film, Jan Lauwers is bringing them all together in **DECONSTRUCTION 07**, a 6-hour long marathon performance by the permanent members of NC: a *walk-in* installation. The Lobster Shop will be performed in Frankfurt am Main on the occasion of 'European Dramaturgy in the 21st Century'. In December it will be on in Belgium again (Brussels, Ghent), and also in Zurich, Espoo (Finland) and Barcelona. All is Vanity, with Viviane De Muynck, will be on in Gerona, Bucharest and Sartrouville. Isabella's Room will start on its fourth season touring Europe and in the spring will also be in Bogotá and Taiwan. Chunking will also be going intercontinental in the spring, travelling to Seoul.

3rd September saw the launch of an extra edition of **L'Énervement** by Actes Sud. They are the French distributors of the book that looks at Jan Lauwers' visual work from 1996 to 2006. More information on Jan Lauwers' art work can be found on www.janlauwers.be.



With the support of the Flemish authorities.

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Culture 2000

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

THE LOBSTER SHOP

Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt With the cooperation of the Theatre Academy of Hessen (HTA) and the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt/Main. 28, 29 September 2007 Tickets +49 69 40 58 95 20 Schauspielhaus Zürich 30 November, 1 December 2007 Tickets +41 44 258 77 00 Les Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels 12, 13, 14, 15 December 2007 Tickets +32 2 218 21 07 Vooruit, Ghent 20, 21, 22 December 2007 Tickets +32 9 267 28 28 Espoo City Theatre, Espoo (Tapiola) 26, 27, 28, 29 February 2008 Tickets +358 9 439 3388 Teatre Lliure, Barcelona 6, 7 March 2008 Tickets +34 932 289 747 Kortrijkse Schouwburg 11 March 2008 Tickets +32 56 23 98 55 Dubbelspel/30CC & STUK, Stadsschouwburg Leuven 14 March 2008 Tickets +32 16 20 30 20 Tramway, Glasgow 16, 17 May 2008 _ Tickets +44 845 330 3501

ISABELLA'S ROOM

Deutsches Nationaltheater Weimar, pèlerinages Kunstfest Weimar 31 August 2007 _ Tickets +49 3643 745 745 TANZtheater INTERNATIONAL, Schauspielhaus, Hannover 2 September 2007 _ Tickets +49 511 16 84 12 22 Festivalul National de Teatru, Teatrul National Bucuresti, Sala Mare, Bucharest 13, 14 November 2007 _ Tickets +40 21 314 71 71 Le Manège de Reims 6, 7 December 2007 _ Tickets +33 3 26 47 30 40 XI Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro de Bogotá 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 March 2008 _ Tickets +571 320 14 48 and +571 2 17 45 77 Taipei Arts International Association, National Theater, Taipei, Taiwan 22, 23, 24, 25 May 2008 _ Tickets +886 2 2392 5322

ALL IS VANITY.

Temporada Alta 2007-Festival d'Automne de la Catalogne, Gerona/Salt 27 October 2007 _ Tickets +34 902 33 22 11 Festivalul National de Teatru, Teatrul Bulandra, Sala Izvor, Bucharest 11, 12 November 2007 _ Tickets +40 21 314 75 46 and +40 21 212 05 27 Théâtre de Sartrouville 19, 20 February 2008 _ Tickets +33 1 30 86 77 79

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 and 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 (Le Havre), La Filature (Scène Nationale de Mulhouse), Kaaitheater (Brussels) and deSingel (Antwerp).

With the backing of the European Union Culture 2000 programme.

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. In association with Kaaitheater, Brussels.

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).

NEEDCOMPANY

THE PORCELAIN PROJECT

Grace Ellen Barkey

With: Misha Downey, Julien Faure, Benoît Gob, Tijen Lawton, Maarten Seghers, Taka Shamoto, Lemm&Barkey.

A Needcompany production, coproduced by Théâtre Le Quai (Angers), La Rose des Vents (Scène Nationale de Villeneuve d'Ascq), PACT Zollverein (Essen) and Kaaitheater (Brussels).

THE BALLAD OF RICKY AND RONNY – A POP OPERA

MaisonDahlBonnema

With: Hans Petter Dahl and Anna Sophia Bonnema

A Needcompany/MaisonDahlBonnema production with the cooperation of the Kaaitheater (Brussels) and ImPulsTanz (Vienna International Dance Festival).

DECONSTRUCTION 07

Walk-in installation by Jan Lauwers with NC performers

A Needcompany production in collaboration with SPIELART Festival (Munich) and Haus der Kunst.

SO MAN,

OHNO Cooperation

With: Maarten Seghers A Needcompany production, coproduced by SPIELART Factory and Kulturstiftung des Bundes. Funded by the German Federal Foundation and Allianz Kulturstiftung.