

THE DEER HOUSE

World premiere

Salzburger Festspiele, Perner-Insel, Hallein
28, 29, 30 July 2008 _ Tickets +43 662 8045 500

SAD FACE / HAPPY FACE A TRILOGY

World premiere

Salzburger Festspiele, Perner-Insel, Hallein
1, 3, 5 August 2008 _ Tickets +43 662 8045 500

THE PORCELAIN PROJECT

MaZ, CC Brugge
17 January 2008 _ Tickets +32 50 44 30 60

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

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

I'M YOUR PRIVATE DANCER

Strombeek Cultural Centre
4 January to 3 February 2008 _ Information +32 2 263 03 43

Jan Lauwers & Needcompany have two firsts for the Salzburger Festspiele this summer: the world premiere of both **The Deer House** and the **Sad Face / Happy Face trilogy**. The first two parts of this trilogy about mankind were **Isabella's Room** and **The Lobster Shop**, and *The Deer House* is the third. Past, future and present are brought together in three marathon performances.

I was prompted to write The Deer House by the sometimes tragic peripheral events that take place within the close circle of NC. While we were on tour somewhere in France, one of our dancers, Tijen Lawton, received the news that her brother, the war photographer Kerem Lawton, had been shot dead in Kosovo. His tragic death provided the starting point for a play about a group of theatre-makers who are increasingly faced with the harsh reality of the world they travel around in. Everything is politics, but art isn't everything. Art always gets caught between the pages of history: it is futile and has no influence on any events at all, which is where the mysterious necessity for it lies.

Jan Lauwers

Closer in time is the tour of **The Porcelain Project**. In October Grace Ellen Barkey elicited a great many reactions with this performance, which spans the border between dance and art.

The glorious romantic ballets of yesteryear pale in comparison to this performance. The fairytale picture box Barkey opens up for us screams of exaggerated kitsch, but at the same time whispers to us of a dark allegory on power, lust and desire. Even after a strong dose of pleasure pills, Shakespeare would never have been able to fantasise all this. ... A crazy fairytale that effortlessly entices you into ink-black excess: it has rarely looked so credible.

Danielle De Regt / De Standaard

Anyone who wants to see this porcelain madness from close-up can do so in Bruges, Essen, Villeneuve d'Ascq and Glasgow in the next few months.

In January Lemm&Barkey will be taking part in the group exhibition *'I am your private dancer'*, curated by Luk Lambrecht for the Strombeek Cultural Centre, which includes work by Bruce Nauman, Franz West, Mario Garcia Torres and others.

The Ballad of Ricky and Ronny – a pop opera by MaisonDahlBonnema will be on in Villeneuve d'Ascq.

Hans Petter Dahl and Anna Sophia Bonnema unerringly play on the line between the ordinary and the absurd, between love and alienation. ... Their rock duets lurk somewhere between Nico and Leonard Cohen. Dry as dust, stripped of their gentle seduction, they reveal only the cruelty of the ordinary. Of a love that has more than overstepped its own boundaries.

Elke Van Campenhout

Jan Lauwers designed the **Deconstruction 07** installation specially for the SPIELART festival at the haus der kunst in Munich.

In my work with Needcompany I am always experimenting with time. For instance, I create museum installations (deconstructions) in which we put on performances lasting a whole day, and the observer decides for himself how long he wants to watch a particular action. The place (in this case a museum) and the action (theatre) are deconstructed by the subjectivity of the time involved in observing. So these deconstructions are the essential bridge between the two media I work in.

Jan Lauwers

Then you stroll around Deconstruction 07, this expedition camp in an erotic dreamland, becoming seduced by yearning, moments of love and a wonderful tenderness, forgetting time and the world. The beholder disappears into Lauwers' big heart just like into a fairytale with numerous threads.

Egbert Tholl / Süddeutsche Zeitung

So man, - the solo piece by Maarten Seghers (of OHNO Cooperation) - was received with wonder at the SPIELART festival. It presents a unique world where the fascination for the moment is magnified.

According to one spectator: "This was the Manifesto of Banalism, the big hit of the festival. Absolute rubbish at its best – no – the contemporary form of Dadaism!"

Katharina Heudorfer

In addition to the tours of *The Lobster Shop*, *Isabella's Room*, **Chunking** and **All is Vanity**, the latter with the inimitable Viviane De Muynck, Needcompany is increasingly becoming a company where several theatre-makers can develop and show their own work. Lemm&Barkey, MaisonDahlBonnema, OHNO Cooperation: in 2007 they have all made a clear statement. Undoubtedly to be continued.

THE LOBSTER SHOP

Espoo City Theatre, Espoo (Tapiola)
26, 27, 28, 29 February 2008 _ Tickets +358 9 439 3388

Teatre Lliure, Barcelona
6, 7 March 2008 _ Tickets +34 902 10 12 12

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

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

CHUNKING

Springwave Festival, Seoul
28, 29 May 2008 _ Tickets +82 2 725 1164 5

ALL IS VANITY

Théâtre de Sartrouville
19, 20 February 2008 _ Tickets +33 1 30 86 77 79

WORKSHOP

Ménagerie de verre, Paris
10, 11, 12, 13, 14 March 2008 _ Information +33 1 43 38 33 44

NEEDCOMPANY

With the support of the Flemish authorities.

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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

Produced by Needcompany and 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), Kaaithheater (Brussels), deSingel (Antwerp).

With the support 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

Produced by Needcompany and coproduced by the Avignon Festival, 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 theatre festival. In association with Kaaithheater, Brussels.

CHUNKING

Grace Ellen Barkey

With: Julien Faure, Benoît Gob, Tijen Lawton, Louise Peterhoff, Maarten Seghers and Lot Lemm

Produced by Needcompany and 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

Produced by Needcompany and coproduced by Théâtre de la Ville (Paris), the Avignon Festival and Théâtre Garonne (Toulouse).

With the assistance of Kaaithheater (Brussels) and deSingel (Antwerp).

WORKSHOP

Viviane De Muynck

Organised by Ménagerie de verre (Paris) and Needcompany

NEEDCOMPANY

Brussels, December 2007

Dear,

An artist does not need philosophy. He doesn't need politics and need not be social. It is only with this in mind that something meaningful may arise for the philosophical, political and social world in which art exists. Without this world art does not exist. This contradiction is too often misunderstood.

There have been a great many art events over the past year. I have seen too many mediocre ideas in unimaginative forms. The Venice Biennale, Documenta in Kassel, they should be the havens of independent thinking, where fear does not exist. But there were too many machine-guns, social documents and people who dance with a Bible on their heads while quoting the Koran. As if art no longer had anything to do with the imagination. As if art were sitting in a corner, exhausted by the struggle and afraid of its own freedom.

Which is not the case, of course. Art is still the oxygen of our society. But it is a fact that in a society with a permanent shortage of oxygen, fear rules. And it is out of fear of this contemporary world that one tries to ward it off by portraying it. The contemporary world is transient and, as Magritte once said, a fad, something passing. Art is a quest for the true reality. The one that doesn't pass.

It is once again time to look at more than just the reality of the umpteenth unimportant moment in history. If a rose is only a rose, then rain is no more than wet.

We wish you peace, love and lots of passion. And remember, Needcompany is there for you, and only you.

JL

THE DEER HOUSE

Jan Lauwers

With: Viviane De Muynck, Grace Ellen Barkey, Anneke Bonnema, Hans Petter Dahl, Tijen Lawton, Misha Downey, Taka Shamoto, Maarten Seghers, Inge Van Bruystegem, Julien Faure, Benoît Gob

Produced by Needcompany and the Salzburger Festspiele and coproduced by the Schauspielhaus Zurich.

SAD FACE / HAPPY FACE A TRILOGY

PART 1: ISABELLA'S ROOM (THE PAST)

PART 2: THE LOBSTER SHOP (THE FUTURE)

PART 3: THE DEER HOUSE (THE PRESENT)

Jan Lauwers

With: Viviane De Muynck, Grace Ellen Barkey, Anneke Bonnema, Hans Petter Dahl, Tijen Lawton, Misha Downey, Taka Shamoto, Maarten Seghers, Inge Van Bruystegem, Julien Faure, Benoît Gob

THE PORCELAIN PROJECT

Grace Ellen Barkey

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

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

THE BALLAD OF RICKY AND RONNY – A POP OPERA

MaisonDahlBonnema

With: Hans Petter Dahl and Anna Sophia Bonnema

Produced by Needcompany/ MaisonDahlBonnema, with the assistance of Kaaithheater (Brussels) and ImPulsTanz (Vienna International Dance Festival).

I'M YOUR PRIVATE DANCER

Exhibition Strombeek Cultural Centre. Curator Luk Lambrecht.