

Hooikaal 35,
1000 Brussel
NEEDCOMPANY

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Brussels, September 09

Dear Friends,

I was recently standing in front of the statue of Leonardo da Vinci in Milan, musing on how important artists were in dragging Europe out of the darkness of the Middle Ages. And how quickly it happened. From the naive, almost clumsy frescos of Piero della Francesca, to the subtle art of the Renaissance in just a few decades; it is almost incomprehensible.

And then I received a text message from Belgium notifying me that we had a new Minister of Culture. In her first public appearance this new minister said that she did not know anything about art. Yet another politician who has no worries about heading a department

about which they know nothing. We have been used to it for years in Flanders. There's hardly any use getting angry about it. But one thing that is worthwhile is to note that the arts are doing very well in Flanders. Despite the almost complete lack of respect for artists shown by our successive Ministers of Culture, things are going well. And yet, just try to imagine a capable Minister of Culture who is passionate about art. Someone who has a high estimation of the importance of art to our society. A visionary who is an inspiration to everyone who has anything to do with art. Which means everybody, because whether we want it or not, art is to be found in every nook and cranny of our society. Art has always been there and will always be there, good or bad, megalomaniac or

modest, provocative or gentle, art makes life livable. Bach, da Vinci, Shakespeare, to name just three of the greatest. But even they were only able to exist due to the countless failures of all artists together. And that is perhaps the most important quality a Minister of Culture needs: to understand that all these failures are necessary in art.

Or as Hugo Claus once said: 'It is just as hard to write a bad book as a good book'.

It is said that we have to give the new Minister of Culture the benefit of the doubt. The problem is precisely that artists are happy to doubt, but politicians are not.

Kind regards,
JL

The next few months at
NEEDCOMPANY

There's a busy autumn in store and that's the way Needcompany likes it. After a much-appreciated spell at the Avignon Festival and a beneficial holiday, we are all raring to go. Here's a selection from the reviews:

'In a space invaded by white polystyrene fallow deer, a moving ritual unfolds that is reminiscent of a particularly tender love-song. As always in Needcompany performances, acting, song and dance alternate with a flourish and full of humour, as if to ward off

tragedy.'

Les Inrockuptibles, HLT

'It is the art of creating little islands of emotion on stage and at the same time setting up action that disrupts their progress. Once again, Jan Lauwers excels in this subtle interaction between sympathising and icy detachment.'

Mouvementavignon.wordpress.com, EB

This season, Jan Lauwers and Needcompany are artists in residence at the Burgtheater

in Vienna. The largest theatre in the German-language area (with a company of 140 actors), headed by Matthias Hartmann, has called in the Needcompany ensemble to develop a new artistic course. The Needcompany repertoire will be incorporated into the regular programme. As a debut, Jan Lauwers and the ensemble will be presenting **Needlapb 16**, which includes a foretaste of the feature-film-to-be, **Dead Deer Don't Dance**. In addition to the repertoire, new productions will also be created over the next few seasons.

Agenda

THE DEER HOUSE

Jan Lauwers

With: Grace Ellen Barkey, Anneke Bonnema, Hans Petter Dahl, Viviane De Muynck, Misha Downey, Julien Faure, Yumiko Funaya, Benoît Gob, Tijen Lawton / Eléonore Valère, Maarten Seghers, Inge Van Bruystegem

Joint production by Needcompany and Salzburger Festspiele. Coproducers: Schauspielhaus Zürich, PACT Zollverein (Essen). With the assistance of deSingel (Antwerp) and Kaaitheater (Brussels).

27, 28, 29 August 2009
Internationales Sommerfestival
Kampnagel, Hamburg
Tickets +49 40 270 949 49

1 September 2009
Stadsschouwburg Amsterdam
Tickets +31 20 624 23 11

29, 30, 31 October 2009
Vooruit, Ghent 2009
Tickets + 32 9 267 28 28

2, 3 December 2009
Teatre Lliure, Barcelona
Tickets +34 902 10 12 12

SAD FACE | HAPPY FACE

Three stories on Human Nature

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: Grace Ellen Barkey,

Anneke Bonnema, Hans Petter Dahl, Viviane De Muynck, Misha Downey, Julien Faure, Yumiko Funaya, Benoît Gob, Tijen Lawton / Eléonore Valère / Sung-Im Her, Maarten Seghers, Inge Van Bruystegem

20 December 2009
deSingel, Antwerp
Tickets +32 3 248 48 48

THE PORCELAIN PROJECT

Grace Ellen Barkey

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

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

6 September 2009
TANZtheater INTERNATIONAL
2009, Orangerie Herrenhausen,
Hannover
Tickets +49 511-1684 12 22

17, 18 November 2009
Dance Festival Jena "Theater in
Bewegung", Theaterhaus Jena
Tickets +49 3641 498060

NEEDLAPB 16

With the whole ensemble

8, 9 September 2009
Akademietheater, Vienna
Tickets +43 1 51444-4145

THE LOBSTER SHOP

Jan Lauwers

With: Hans Petter Dahl, Grace Ellen Barkey, Anneke Bonnema, Benoît Gob, Tijen Lawton / Yumiko Funaya, Inge Van Bruystegem, Julien Faure, Maarten Seghers

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), deSingel (Antwerp). With the support of the European Union's Culture 2000 programme.

11 September 2009
TANZtheater INTERNATIONAL
2009, Schauspielhaus,
Hannover
Tickets +49 511-1684 12 22

16, 17, 18 October 2009
Akademietheater, Vienna
Tickets +43 1 51444-4145

ISABELLA'S ROOM

Jan Lauwers

With: Viviane De Muynck, Hans Petter Dahl, Anneke Bonnema, Benoît Gob, Ludde Hagberg / Misha Downey, Tijen Lawton / Sung-Im Her, Julien Faure, Louise Peterhoff / Yumiko Funaya, Maarten Seghers, 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 the welt in basel theaterfestival. In association with met Kaaitheater, Brussels.

*and forth between side issues
and the main point.'*

La Marseillaise, CB

November sees the publication of the first Dutch-language publication of the collected work of Jan Lauwers. It is called **KEBANG!** and is published by Van Halewyck. The official launch will be at Passa Porta, Brussels' international house of literature, in December.

Grace Ellen Barkey's **The Porcelain Project** will be on at dance festivals in Hannover and

20, 21 September 2009
Zagreb Theatre Festival
Tickets +385 1 4872 554

23, 24 September 2009
Burgtheater, Vienna
Tickets +43 1 51444-4145

1, 2 October 2009
Scène Nationale de Sète et du Bassin de Thau
Tickets +33 4 67 74 66 97

24 October 2009
49th International Theatre Festival, Sarajevo

2, 3 November 2009
Stanislavsky Festival, Moscow
Tickets +7 495 935-89-69,
+7 495 698-17-59

11, 12, 13, 14 November 2009
Festival de Otoño, Madrid
Tickets www.entradas.com

THE TRAGEDY OF THE APPLAUSE - ROUBAIX

Happening/group exhibition compiled by:

OHNO COOPERATION

With installations, performances and music by:

Rombout Willems, Nicolas Field, Fritz Welch, Egill Saebjörnsson, Liquid Architecture, Jan Lauwers (OHNO COOPERATION), Maarten Seghers (OHNO COOPERATION), COLLECTION FRAC NORD-PAS DE CALAIS, ...

Produced by Needcompany/OHNO COOPERATION/La Condition Publique (Roubaix). In association with NEXT festival.

26, 27, 28 November 2009
La Condition Publique, Roubaix
Tickets +33 3 28 33 48 33

Jena. In addition, Lemm&Barkey and Needcompany are in the midst of creating **This door is too small... (for a bear)** (working title), an absurd-radical psychedelic dance piece that will open at the Kaaitheater in February 2010.

Lemm&Barkey will also show the **Porcelain Project / Installation** in BRXLBRAVO.

MaisonDahlBonnema's **The Ballad of Ricky and Ronny – a pop opera** is on the programme at the 4+4 Days in Motion Festival in Prague. Dahl

THE BALLAD OF RICKY AND RONNY – A POP OPERA

MaisonDahlBonnema

With: Hans Petter Dahl and Anna Sophia Bonnema

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

9, 10 October 2009
4+4 Days in Motion, Prague
Tickets +420 224 809 125

THE PORCELAIN PROJECT / INSTALLATION

Lemm&Barkey

With: Grace Ellen Barkey, Lot Lemm

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).

3, 4 October 2009
BRXLBRAVO, Prado-building
- Zennestraat nr. 40, Brussels
With thanks to the
VanhaerentsArtCollection
Information www.brxmlbravo.be

KEBANG !

Book launch

1 3 December 2009
Passa Porta, Brussels
Information www.passaporta.be

and Bonnema are currently writing and composing a second opera called **Ricky and Ronny and Hundred Stars – A Sado-Country Opera**, which will open in Maastricht in February 2010.

The following Jan Lauwers productions are currently on tour:

The Deer House is on in Hamburg, Amsterdam, Ghent and Barcelona. **The Lobster Shop** in Hannover and Vienna. **Isabella's room** is being performed in Zagreb, Vienna, Sète, Sarajevo, Moscow and Madrid.

We welcome two new performers to Needcompany: Sung-Im Her and Eléonore Valère.

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With the support of the Flemish authorities.
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At the end of November, OHNO COOPERATION is presenting **'The Tragedy of the Applause – Roubaix'**. During this happening-cum-exhibition, OHNO COOPERATION and the artists it has invited will ask why pop music has never questioned itself. On 26, 27 and 28 November, the artists will give a performance of their own, and the traces of it – sounds and images – can be seen in the form of an exhibition until four weeks after the performances.

What the artists taking part have in common is that they

'observe' pop music. The questions they ask are those that real pop musicians never ask: 'What is the meaning of a microphone? What is the meaning of feedback? Why do pop musicians all use the same lighting? Why do we all know the first three words of a pop song, but never what comes next?'

OHNO COOPERATION is inviting the artists to perform new songs, compositions and improvisations, playing the music themselves.

In December, the calendar year

will be brought to a fine close with the Belgian premiere of the **Sad Face | Happy Face** trilogy at deSingel. This trilogy, whose subtitle is *'Three stories on Human Nature'*, comprises *Isabella's room*, *The Lobster Shop* and *The Deer House* in that order.

*'The unclassifiable trilogy
And the action on stage has never been so lively on the subject of death. In Sad Face | Happy Face, Jan Lauwers plays a game of 'cry one minute and laugh the next' with the audience, also taking them back*