

Hooikaai 35,
1000 Brussel

NEEDCOMPANY

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Brussels, May 2011

Dear Friend,

'Art that pretends to be anything other than itself is bad art. Beauty is freedom in appearance.' Schiller wrote this two hundred years ago, though at the time he was extremely ill and surrounded by revolutionaries. But no one is troubled by the fact that many people in the governments of European states would now like to abolish art. Because this is an impossibility. One might just as well want to abolish being in love or being ill.

So we are carrying on and it's going well.

All's well with Needcompany. Excellent in fact. We travel from country to country and are warmly welcomed everywhere. We have never before had so many offers, received so many prizes, and pleased so many people. The art we create is generally considered of a high standard and sometimes even life-changing. And we earn plenty

of money from it. That's what it's all about in this world.

The front page of De Standaard, a Flemish newspaper, was recently devoted entirely to art and money. On the return gained from the subsidies invested in the Flemish arts sector. Art gets on the front page when money comes into it.

The writers on this newspaper thought the arts sector wasn't doing too badly. So, even Flemish journalists have finally come to realise this.

(For those abroad: note the word 'Flemish' in the above. In Belgium there is no such thing as a Belgian newspaper or Belgian politicians, nor Belgian parties nor Belgian art. On the other hand, Flanders and Wallonia only exist because Belgium exists. If you grasp this contradiction you will grasp the stupidity rampant in this country).

So our little worldwide company is doing well. Until we received that letter from Benjamin Verdonck. Another Flemish

artistic creator. And someone close to my heart. A naïve jester in a kingdom that's too small. He wants to create one big green collective work of art in 2012. I quite agree. A little teasing: saving the planet by turning ultra-nationalist. No more travel. Showing only the arts made here in our region. No more trips by air. No globalised sense of peace but acts of tribal violence. Everyone for themselves, in their own back garden. Away with Eurotrash and intercontinental cooperation. No more sets that have to be transported by polluting lorries. No energy-devouring lighting designs. Making theatre in a bare space with just a single light bulb and a performer. It's alright with me. In fact I'm one of the best at it. And at the same time we would be rid of those irritating djembés. Art is ecology, art is politics, art is anything but art. After all, Schiller is too ill to turn over in his grave.

In the same way as religion sold well for a time, and every show that had anything to do

with the Koran or the Bible sold like organic hot cakes, now it's 'ecology'. No electricity. No set. What happens onstage isn't important. It is ecologically sound, so it's good, and what's more it's cheap!

All into the darkness together. And if you commit an error, against ecological law, you are punished. Such as howling like a dog three times. Every evening for a month. Penance. We'll always be Catholic and Flemish.

Everything's going very well for Needcompany and we are still green behind the ears, which we close off with the used earplugs we have collected on intercontinental air trips so as not to hear our own crying.

All's well with Needcompany, but it should be better.

Beauty is a freedom that we have to learn to see.

All the best,
JL

The next few months at
NEEDCOMPANY

In early March Jan Lauwers & Needcompany gave the premiere of their new work **The art of entertainment**, the long-awaited coproduction with the prestigious Burgtheater in Vienna. This production will be rerun several times by the company at its Akademietheater venue in April and June. Michael König and Sylvie Rohrer, actors from the Burgtheater itself, will also appear in the performances at the Internationales Sommerfestival Kampnagel in Hamburg in August.

After the German version, Needcompany will also be adding an international version with Dirk Roofthoof in the leading part. This version will be first unleashed on the public in Barcelona in late May, and will also be performed for the Belgian premiere at the Kaaitheater.

'An evening with Needcompany is like visiting an incredible family where everyone looks marvellous, has so much talent and, to cap it all, is likeable too... ini-

tially you are a little jealous, but in the end you are grateful, thinking 'it's great that they exist!'

FALTER 10/11

This door is too small (for a bear) by Grace Ellen Barkey & Needcompany is continuing to create a furor. Spanish-speaking audiences in Santiago de Chile, Seville and Granada were delighted with this sensual and radically poetical production, and the audience in Ghent was

Agenda

THE ART OF ENTERTAINMENT

– GERMAN VERSION

Jan Lauwers

With: Grace Ellen Barkey, Misha Downey, Julien Faure, Yumiko Funaya, Benoît Gob, Michael König, Viviane De Muynck, Sylvie Rohrer and Eléonore Valère.

A Needcompany/Burgtheater production.

23, 24, 25 April 2011
11, 12 June 2011
Akademietheater, Vienna
Tickets + 43 51 444 4145

18, 19, 20 August 2011
Internationales Sommerfestival
Kampnagel, Hamburg
+49 40 270 949 49

THE ART OF ENTERTAINMENT

– INTERNATIONAL VERSION

Jan Lauwers

With: Grace Ellen Barkey, Misha Downey, Julien Faure, Yumiko Funaya, Benoît Gob, Viviane De Muynck, Dirk Roofthoof and Eléonore Valère.

A Needcompany/Burgtheater production.

21, 22 May 2011
Teatre Lliure, Barcelona
Tickets + 34 932 289 747

15, 16, 17, 18 September 2011
Kaaithheater, Brussels
Tickets +32 2 201 59 59

THIS DOOR IS TOO SMALL (FOR A BEAR)

Grace Ellen Barkey

Concept: Lemm&Barkey

Created with /performed by: Misha Downey, Julien Faure, Yumiko Funaya, Benoît Gob, Sung-Im Her and Maarten Seghers.

A Needcompany production.
Coproducers: ImPulsTanz (Vienna), PACT Zollverein (Essen) and Künstlerhaus mousonturm (Frankfurt).
In association with Kaaithheater (Brussels).

28 May 2011
Dni Sztuki Współczesnej (Days of Modern Art Festival), Hala Wydziału Architektury PB, Białystok

Tickets +48 85 742 23 70

14, 15, 17, 18, 19 June 2011
Kasino, Vienna
Tickets +43 51 444 4145

27 September 2011
Theater aan het Spui, The Hague
Tickets +32 70 346 52 72

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, Maarten Seghers, Eléonore Valère and Inge Van Bruystegem.

Produced by Needcompany and Salzburger Festspiele.
Coproducers: Schauspielhaus Zürich and PACT Zollverein (Essen).
With assistance from deSingel (Antwerp) and Kaaithheater (Brussels).

17, 18 May 2011
Le Carré des Jalles, Saint-Médard-en-Jalles
Tickets +33 5 57 93 18 80

5, 6 August 2011
Tampere Theatre Festival, Tampere
Tickets + 358 3 223 1066

25 September 2011
International Theatre Festival
Divadelná Nitra
Info www.nitrafest.sk

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, Sung-Im Her, Maarten Seghers, Eléonore Valère, Inge Van Bruystegem.

11 may 2011: Isabella's room
12 may 2011: The Lobster Shop
13 may 2011: The Deer House
La Comédie de Clermont-Ferrand
Tickets +33 4 73 290 814

ISABELLA'S ROOM

Jan Lauwers

With: Viviane De Muynck, Hans Petter Dahl, Anneke Bonnema, Benoît Gob, Misha Downey, Julien Faure, Yumiko Funaya, Sung-Im Her, Maarten Seghers, Jan Lauwers, Elke Janssens and 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 Kaaithheater, Brussels.

25, 26 June 2011
Amphithéâtre d'O / Printemps des comédiens, Montpellier
Tickets +33 4 67 63 66 66

6, 7 July 2011
Festival au Carré, Théâtre Le Manège, Mons
Tickets +32 65 39 59 39

THE HOUSE OF OUR FATHERS - PERFORMANCES

Jan Lauwers

With: Grace Ellen Barkey, Anneke Bonnema, Hans Petter Dahl, Julien Faure, Yumiko Funaya, Benoît Gob, Sung-Im Her, Maarten Seghers, Eléonore Valère, Inge Van Bruystegem, Jan Lauwers, Elke Janssens and Lemm&Barkey.

A Needcompany production, coproduced by 16. Internationale Schillertage Mannheim in association with National Theatre Mannheim and Kunsthalle Mannheim.

3, 4, 5, 10 June 2011
16. Internationale Schillertage, Kunsthalle Mannheim
Tickets +49 621 1680 150

THE HOUSE OF OUR FATHERS – INSTALLATION

Jan Lauwers

3 – 12 June 2011
16. Internationale Schillertage, Kunsthalle Mannheim
Tickets +49 621 1680 150

also highly enthusiastic. At the end of May it will be on in Białystok, in June for five nights in Vienna (in collaboration between ImPulsTanz and the Burgtheater) and at the end of September in The Hague.

Isabella's room, The Lobster Shop and The Deer House are still touring and in the next few months will be at several venues in France, as well as at Tampere in Finland and Mons in Belgium.

MaisonDahlBonnema will be in residence at ImPulsTanz in Vienna. Hans Petter Dahl and Anna Sophia Bonnema will be preparing their new production there.

In June Jan Lauwers will be launching a new piece of work during the 16. Internationale Schillertage in Mannheim. From 3 to 12 June his installation **The House of Our Fathers** will be shown at the Kunsthalle, accompanied by live performances by the Needcompany ensemble on 3,

4, 5 and 10 June. *The House of Our Fathers* developed out of the **Deconstructions**, installations that have previously been exhibited at Bozar in Brussels and haus der kunst in Munich.

'The biggest difference between theatre work and visual work is the use of the observer's time. In theatre, the creator determines the time an image is observed. In a work of visual art, the observer himself determines this time. In my theatre work

Jan Lauwers

I use the notion of the 'borderline image'. This is an image which, because I extend the normal duration of the observation, has time to penetrate into the observer's brain. This image then makes history for the observer. The image becomes a memory. At this moment the distinction between a borderline image (in the theatre) and a visual work ceases to exist. If art does not penetrate into the observer's memory, it does not exist.'

OHNO COOPERATION (Maarten Seghers and Jan Lauwers) is curating the **AIR Antwerp npo residence project** from May to September 2011. Such artists as Michael Fliri, Fritz Welch, Rachel Lowther, Pontogor, Roberta Gigante and Idan Hayosh are definitely expected at the old lock-keeper's house, and others may join them. In the last weekend of August, OHNO COOPERATION will also be acting as curator for Open AIR, which includes new work of

their own, contributions from the residents taking part, and a unique concert face to face with the heroes of Peeesseye and others.

At Needcompany we welcome Sarah Eyckerman as our financial manager. She will be taking over from Thijs Deceuster who, after 8 years of agreeable work together, is seeking new challenges.

AIR ANTWERPEN VZW RESIDENCE PROJECT

OHNO COOPERATION

An OHNO COOPERATION & Needcompany production.

May to September 2011

With: Michael Fliri, Fritz Welch, Rachel Lowther, Nicolas Field, Jaime Fennelly, Pontogor, Roberta Gigante, Idan Hayosh, Maarten Seghers, Jan Lauwers et al.

27 August 2011
Concert by OHNO COOPERATION, Peeesseye and guest musicians.

NEEDCOMPANY

With the support of the Flemish authorities.

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