

BRUSSELS, AUGUST 2012

Franz West is dead. What remains is a reinforcing bar with a chewed up ball of paper. In a time that knows no time, when the man goes his ideas go too. Future generations will no longer be aware of West. This brilliant man was very much aware of this. When, shortly before his death, he came to see one of Grace's performances in Vienna, he said to her that she received applause and was recognised and appreciated while he was languishing away. Grace told him he was acting like an old curmudgeon. He didn't find it funny. West's work brought him as much recognition as is possible, and yet there was still that bitterness. Why is that bitterness there? He had long reconciled himself to his illness. So is it because the art market is the only place where artists have to spend time against their will in order to survive?

Mike Kelley is dead. He committed suicide at the peak of his recognition. It was for lack of love, they say. The tiresome, transient art market does not admit love. Nor history either. Great artists should know that. Sometimes great artists too are just fools.

The 25th Needcompany season is at an end. Over those twenty-five years the world has become a lot duller. And smaller. Everyone talks about the same things. Everyone is afraid of the same things. Everyone sees the same things. Art is like politics is like economics is like religion is like... whatever you like. It no longer matters whether one thinks left or right or is a believer or an atheist. In the Netherlands, the people who hate Islam are the same ones who take pleasure in closing down one art venue after another. In Turkey it's the Muslims who do that. Close all the civic theatres in one go because they are too Western. So the world is getting smaller.

Hiwa K, the Iraqi artist, walks around playing Once Upon a Time in the West on his harmonica while throwing himself into the revolution. In the video, which can be seen at the Palais de Tokyo, the best art venue in the world, the serious street artist is flanked by people with their faces smashed in, lemon juice in their eyes, changing their world. An artist doesn't change the world, but he does have to make sure he witnesses it. Then emotion and love come naturally. And sometimes it turns into art. Whether we like it or not.

JL

AGENDA

MARKETPLACE 76

Jan Lauwers

With: Grace Ellen Barkey, Anneke Bonnema, Hans Petter Dahl, Julien Faure, Yumiko Funaya, Benoît Gob, Sung-Im Her, Romy Louise Lauwers, Emmanuel Schwartz, Maarten Seghers, Catherine Travalletti, Jan Lauwers, Elke Janssens

Production: Needcompany | Coproduction: Ruhrtriennale (Bochum), Burgtheater (Vienna) and Holland Festival (Amsterdam)

World premiere

7, 8, 13, 14, 15 September 2012

Ruhrtriennale, Jahrhunderthalle, Bochum
+49 700 20 02 34 56

4, 5, 6, 7, 8 October 2012

Kasino (Burgtheater), Vienna
+43 51 444 4145

Belgian premiere

12 October 2012

Concertgebouw, Bruges
+32 70 22 33 02

24, 25, 26, 27 October 2012

Kaaitheater, Brussels
+32 2 201 59 59

23, 24 November 2012

Teatro Central, Seville
+34 955 037 200

THE ART OF ENTERTAINMENT

NEEDCOMPANY PLAYS THE DEATH
OF DIRK ROOFTHOOF

Jan Lauwers

With: Grace Ellen Barkey, Misha Downey, Julien Faure, Yumiko Funaya, Benoît Gob, Viviane De Muynck, Dirk Roofthoof, Inge Van Bruystegem (replaces Eléonore Valère)

Production: Needcompany / Burgtheater (Vienna)

22 September 2012

De Warande, Turnhout
+32 14 41 69 91

French premiere

16, 17, 18, 19 October 2012

La Rose des Vents, Villeneuve d'Ascq
+33 3 20 61 96 96

9 November 2012

CC De Werf, Aalst
+32 53 73 28 12

8 January 2013

MaZ, Bruges
+32 50 44 30 60

9 January 2013

Dubbelspel, Stadsschouwburg, Leuven
+32 16 320 300

CALIGULA

Jan Lauwers

With: Anneke Bonnema, Hans Petter Dahl, Nicolas Field, Maria Happel, André Meyer, Cornelius Obonya, Falk Rockstroh, Herman Scheidleder

Production: Burgtheater (Vienna) | In collaboration with Needcompany

18, 20, 21 September 2012

Kasino (Burgtheater), Vienna
+43 51 444 4145

ANALYSIS - THE WHOLE SONG

MaisonDahlBonnema

With: Anna Sophia Bonnema and Hans Petter Dahl

Production: MaisonDahlBonnema & Needcompany & M-A-P | Coproduction: BIT Teatergarasjen (Bergen) | In association with kunstencentrum BUDA (Kortrijk), 3D Square / HOWEST (Kortrijk), Syntra Hasselt, Kaaitheater (Brussels) | Met residenties in ImPulsTanz (Vienna), PACT Zollverein (Essen)

14, 15 December 2012

De Brakke Grond, Amsterdam
+31 20 626 68 66

UNLOCKED

Group exhibition with work by
Lemm&Lemm

14 September - 13 October 2012

Lokettenzaal, Flemish Parliament

I WANT (NO) REALITY

A film by Ana Brzezińska

Production: Yeti Films | Coproduction: Needcompany

19 August 2012

TRANSATLANTYK - Poznan International Film and Music Festival
Multikino 51, Poznan, Poland

THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AT NEEDCOMPANY

We are starting off the new season with the world premiere of **Marketplace 76**, the latest production by Jan Lauwers and Needcompany, at the **Ruhrtriennale**. It is a kaleidoscopic epic tale comprising four seasons and offers a meticulous report on a number of villagers who have been overtaken and forced forward by time, and who in spite of everything are able to survive, though not always heroically. **Marketplace 76** reconciles such dark themes as mourning and sorrow, incest and abduction, paedophilia and suicide, with excessive love, friendship, happiness and survival.

For its **tumbletalk** series, the Ruhrtriennale will be bringing together the German theatre academic Hans-Thies Lehmann and Jan Lauwers for a conversation on **Marketplace 76**.

The composers Rombout Willems, Maarten Seghers and Hans Petter Dahl have written music for Jan Lauwers' lyrics. The CD **Marketplace 76** is issued in association with Studio Luc Derycke's MER.

The CD **Sad Face | Happy Face**, with the songs from **Isabella's room**, **The Lobster Shop** and **The Deer House** will also be reissued and will also be available as an online edition at the Needcompany webshop.

In early October there will be five performances of **Marketplace 76** at the Kasino / Burgtheater in Vienna. The Belgian premiere series begins at the Concertgebouw in Bruges on 12 October and then the production moves to the Kaaitheater in Brussels. In November it travels to the Teatro Central

in Seville. From March 2013 it will be performed at several more European venues.

The Art of Entertainment will be on in Turnhout and Aalst at the beginning of the season and in October has its French premiere at La Rose des Vents in Villeneuve d'Ascq. This is followed by Bruges and Leuven in January.

This performance, which alternates between derision, show, and its criticism, may be disconcerting for fans of Jan Lauwers. The kitschy side of it, without the comfort of the songs, may be off-putting. But there is a prophetic darkness in this madcap "Art of Entertainment", which is profoundly moving.

— La Libre Belgique / Guy Duplat

Caligula, the production Jan Lauwers made with Burgtheater actors and the Needcompany performers Anneke Bonnema and Hans Petter Dahl, will be on the bill at the Kasino in Vienna throughout the autumn.

Jan Lauwers' stage setting moves elegantly and effectively over a minefield of excessive acting.

— Der Standard / Ronald Pohl

In December MaisonDahlBonnema will be performing the final part of their opera trilogy — **Analysis** — **The Whole Song** — at De Brakke Grond in Amsterdam. This production combines live singing with a 90-minute animation film projected behind the performers. Anna Sophia Bonnema and Hans Petter Dahl engage in dialogue with the film through their alter egos Ricky and Ronny.

"This piece contains reflections on a filmic reality that we find ourselves faced with. They are possible self-portraits in a parallel world. That doesn't make it an agreeable world: it is coloured by what Lacan called 'le réel': a situation in which all the familiar contexts by which we understand things have disappeared. War situations are one example."

— Hans Petter Dahl in De Morgen

In May 2012 twenty theatre experts contributed to the German art magazine **du magazine**. They proclaimed Viviane De Muynck's play **La Poursuite du Vent** (2006), directed by Jan Lauwers, one of the best productions of the last decade.

At the start of the summer Needcompany presented **25 Moves** at Dansand! The Ostend coastline was the setting for dance material drawn from Needcompany's first 25 years. The music was performed by OHNO COOPERATION

and guest musicians Nicolas Field and Joeri Cnapelinx.

The leap Needcompany dares to take with its studio material calls out loudly for freedom. Daring to give yourself the room to respond to a completely different setting, without having everything under control in advance. In this sense, 25 Moves celebrates the quest Needcompany has been on for the last 25 years: experimenting with an approach to life that tries to distil beauty out of pain, lightness out of loss, strength out of overwhelming odds. Daring to explore and question one's own physical and artistic limits, daring to come up against them, knowing that this fragility can give rise to a poetic power.

— Blogdansand / Marnix Rummens

During the summer, **Isabella's room** was on for three weeks at the Théâtre Le Monfort in Paris as part of the **Festival Paris Quartier d'été**. Needcompany performed for full houses night after night and was honoured by a visit from

the French Minister of Culture, Aurélie Filippetti, who was full of praise for the play.

I want (no) reality, the film about Needcompany by the Polish documentary-maker Ana Brzezińska, was selected for TRANSATLANTYK, the Poznan International Film and Music Festival.

From 14 September to 13 October, **Lemm&Lemm** are showing porcelain sculptures in the 'Lokettenzaal' at the Flemish Parliament as part of the **UNLOCKED** group exhibition.

And here's another teaser: the American cult group **The Residents** are at this very moment writing music for Grace Ellen Barkey's next creation, which will be opening in spring 2013.