

Odin Teatret - Nordisk Teaterlaboratorium
Holstebro – Denmark



TRANSIT II
Women-Theatre-Politics

5-9 November 1997

An International Theatre Festival and Meeting

Invited Artists with Performances

JULIA VARLEY and IBEN NAGEL RASMUSSEN, Odin Teatret - Denmark
Representing a group which exchanges theatre with other cultural manifestations during their travels around the world and a performance that takes up the theme of drugs in the sixties.

IDA OUHE, Ojiwa Theatre - Côte D'Ivoire
Her performance is a woman's cry of indignation against the atrocities of war.

JILL GREENHALGH, The Magdalena Project - Wales
Her performance is centred on the politics for the protection of children, with the realisation that the quality of our future depends on childhood experiences.

BRIGITTE KAQUET, Cirque Divers - Belgium
As director of a woman's voice festival inviting artists from Africa, South America and the Caribbean and as responsible for the theatre activities of an alternative cultural centre in Belgium, her political interest has become central in her latest work.

PATRICIA ARIZA, Teatro La Candelaria, with GOTAS DE RAP - Colombia
Patricia Ariza, a member of one of the eldest theatre groups in Latin America, has worked directing productions with youths who live in the streets, prostitutes, drug addicts and with children and adults who live in the violent region of Urabá, Colombia.

GILLA CREMER, Gilla Cremer Company - Germany
Her research on Ilse Koch (the woman accused of making lampshades with the skin of concentration camp Jewish prisoners) for the performance has meant her meeting old and new generations in Germany trying to confront the past experience of Nazism.

JADRANKA ANDJELIC, DIJANA MILOSEVIC, Dah Theatre - Yugoslavia
Struggling to maintain the importance of culture and theatre, in a country at war which faces the disrupting consequences of the dissolution of the previous political system and the following corruption.

SANDRA PASINI, PETRA LINDHOLM, ANTONELLA DIANA, Teatro Sfera di Om - Denmark.
The experience with cancer and the closeness to death of two actresses is at the base of the performance, which will also be presented in hospitals.

POL PELLETTIER
Her concept of popular theatre for a diverse and unusual public is part of her strongly feminist view which she presents through an autobiographical performance.

ERMANNIA MONTANARI and RAVENNA TEATRO - Italy
A group which performs both in local dialect and with immigrant Africans. The immigrants who have discovered acting will now return to Senegal to open a theatre.

Invited Artists with Lectures

DONATELLA MASSIMILLA, TicVin Teatro - Italy

With videos, photographs and emotional presentations, Donatella represents the experience of theatre in prisons and the first European congresses on this theme with actors both “inside” and “outside”.

LENE THIESEN, Kit - Denmark

For years Lene has organised festivals and performances in Copenhagen, amongst which *Images of Africa*. She has a unique experience concerning the obligatory choices, the frustrations and contradictions which arise having to combine fund raising, public demand and personal commitment.

SUSAN SONTAG - USA

The experience of directing *Waiting for Godot* in Sarajevo during the war in Yugoslavia has turned upside down her concept of reality.

TANITH NOBLE, Théâtre du Chaudron - France

The theatres of the Cartoucherie in Paris have been actively involved in the struggle of the illegal immigrants' rights to remain in France.

KORDULA LOBECK, Unter Wasser Fliegen - Germany

Organiser of the first meeting of theatres active in marginal social situations.

BRIGITTE CIRLA, Voix Poliphoniques - France

Active politically singing and working with young people with communication difficulties and with unemployed.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERFORMANCES

CHILD

THE MAGDALENA PROJECT, Wales

Performer: Jill Greenhalgh

Sound: Stewart Lucas

Installation and lighting: Mike Brookes

In English

Child is a solo performance that confronts the complex issues surrounding the rights of the child. Part of the performance is an installation provoked by images of children. The task of the performer is to remember. Too many millions of our small and vulnerable people are being hurt by adults: this is not sentimentality, but an observation on the nature of our society.

DE TANTO VOLVER

LIEVE DELANOY, Peru

Actor: Lieve Delanoy

Director: Beto Benitez

In Spanish, Quechua, Flamenco and German

“... **de tanto volver**” is a ritual drama that tells the story of Agapito, the president of the peasant community of Andahuaylas, victim of the violence in Peru. At the same time the performance presents events from the second World War and post-war Europe as the Belgian actress, who has lived in Peru since 1978, refers to the 500,000 gypsies who died in the German concentration camps.

MORRISON HOTEL

GILLA CREMER, Germany

Actor: Gilla Cremer

Director: Johannes Kaetzler

Stage design: Peter Brower

Text: Gilla Cremer

In German

Morrison Hotel is dedicated to two men: Gilla Cremer's elder brother Tom, the first rebel in her family, and Jim Morrison, the lead singer of the band "The Doors" - idols she looked up to in the seventies, years in which the narrator herself tried to find her own path through therapy, dance and theatre workshops, drugs and free love.

ITSI BITS!

ODIN TEATRET, Denmark

Actors: Iben Nagel Rasmussen, Kai Bredholt, Jan Ferslev

Director: Eugenio Barba

Text: Iben Nagel Rasmussen

Musical arrangements: Jan Ferslev and Kai Bredholt

In Danish

Two young people experience the beginning of the sixties together: political activities, travel and drugs. One of them, Eik Skalø, the first beat-poet and singer performing in Danish, committed suicide in India in 1968. The other, Iben Nagel Rasmussen, actor with the Odin Teatret since 1966, sees her life today confronted by the visions and events from that time through the characters from her past performances.

ENTENDS-TU LE RIRE DU CHEVAL DANS LA MONTAGNE?

CIRQUE DIVERS, Belgium

Reader: Brigitte Kaquet

Musician: Michel Debrulle

In French

The reading of a text, which, starting from a project on Zarathoustra, incorporates the memories of Antigone and Zapata, the books of Eduardo Galeano, the words of sub-commandant Marcos and the friendship with a group of Touaregs. The text is written from the conviction that we can no longer be silent about what is happening around us.

LUX

TEATRO DELLE ALBE - RAVENNA TEATRO, Italy

Actors: Ermanna Montanari, Luigi Dadina

Director: Ermanna Montanari

Text: Nevio Spadoni

Dramaturgical assistance: Marco Martinelli

Musical arrangements: Vanni Montanari

Sound and lighting: Giancarlo Cottignoli

In Romagnolo dialect, Italian and English

In **Lux** Ermanna Montanari presents the story of Bêlda, a witch and healer who lived in the countryside of north Italy at the end of the last century. Bêlda puts a spell on the local priest who had accused her mother of being a whore and had her corpse taken away from the consecrated cemetery.

BLUE - IS THE SMOKE OF WAR

GRENLAND FRITEATER, Norway

Actor: Geddy Aniksdal

Director: Tor Arne Ursin

Text: Georg Johannesen

Music: Guttor Guttormen

Light design: Jean-Vincent Kerebel

Costumes: Gerd Christiansen

Technician: Leila Sunniva Berg

In English

The inspiration for this performance has been the writings of Georg Johannesen, a contemporary Norwegian poet. The performance is structured like a symphony in four movements: 1. Adagio - Autumn in China 1200 years ago; 2.

Allegro ma non tanto - It is cold in Europe forty years ago; 3. Scherzo - Time to go; 4. Allegro - in the Garden of Epicurus.

OPERA RAP

GOTAS DE RAP - GRUPO RAPSODA, Colombia

Performers: Javier Arbelaez, Carlos Andres Pacheco, Carlos Contenido, Diego Manzano, Enrique Mendoza, Nicolay Monroy, Yuri Alexander Muñoz, Melissa Contenido

Directors: Patricia Ariza, Carlos Satizabal

Music: Gotas de Rap, Nicolás Uribe

Lighting: Jaime Niño

Video: Catalina García

In Spanish

The Rap Opera is a music-theatre project made through the collaboration of professional theatre artists and the members of *Gotas de Rap*, a young group from one of the oldest, poorest and most violent areas of Bogota: the *Las Cruces* neighbourhood.

It tells the story of the murder of a popular young rapper. His friends decide to exhume his body and hold their own night-long wake. The allegorical character of Death appears and is, paradoxically, the most near to life.

THE KOMMANDEUSE

GILLA CREMER, Germany

Actor: Gilla Cremer

Director: Johannes Kaetzler

Stage design: Peter Brower

Music: Jörg Schäffer

Dramaturg: Christel Weiler

In English

In 1951, the Kommandeuse Ilse Koch is sentenced to life imprisonment for incitement to murder and grievous bodily harm. She filled the headlines in post-war Germany as the bitch of Buchenwald yet still claimed after 22 years in prison: "I can't remember anything. I know nothing, I never took any interest in the running of the camp or in politics. My sole concern was always to be a good wife and mother".

LA COMPLAINTE D'EWADI

OJIWA THEATRE, Ivory Coast

Actor: Ida Ouhé

Director: Assandé Fargas Attokora

Text: E.Liazéré Kouaho

In French

La Complainte d'Ewadi is a woman's cry of indignation towards the atrocities of war. It is a prayer for a world without war, a hymn for peace. Tata Ewadi, having lost her husband and children because of war, cries out from her hut.

THE LEGEND ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD

DAH TEATAR, Yugoslavia

Actors: Sanja Krsmanovic Tasic, Valentina Milivojevic, Maja Mitic

Directors: Dijana Milosevic, Jadranka Andjelic

Stage and costume design: Antonella Diana

Music: Nenad Jelic

In English and Serbian

In **The Legend about the End of the World** three women are determined to create life upon the ruins of what could be a house, a church of any religion, a library or their inner space. They look into their past, tradition, legends and myths from different cultures in search of a way to continue life.

OCEAN

LA COMPAGNIE POL PELLETIER, Canada

Actor, Director and Text: Pol Pelletier

Stage design: Claude Goyette

Costume: Mérédith Caron
Lighting: Sylvie Morissette, Caroline Ross
Choreography: Irène Mavromatis, Line McGee, Pol Pelletier
Director's advisor: Jordan Deitcher
In French

Océan emerges when Pol Pelletier leaves the *Théâtre expérimental des femmes* and starts a research on the actor's energy. In this performance Pol speaks of her travels to India, which transformed her both as woman and as artist, about her return to Montreal and her mother's death.

QARRTSILUNI

TEATRO SFERA DI OM, Denmark
Actors: Sandra Pasini, Petra Lindblom
Musician: Nikolaj de Fine Licht
Director: Jadranka Andjelic
Stage design: Antonella Diana
In Danish, Italian, Swedish and English

The two actresses who have experienced deadly diseases plan to take this performance to hospitals and public institutions as well as theatres. When one is sick and the risk of dying is present, time becomes concrete. We do not think about the future; it is the present time which becomes important and we have to think of living, with songs, music, storytelling, theatre and dance.

NESSUNO PUÒ COPRIRE L'OMBRA

TEATRO DELLE ALBE - GUEDIAWAYE THEATRE, Italy-Senegal
Performers: Mandiaye N'Diaye, El Hadji Niang, Mor Awa Niang
Director: Marco Martinelli
Text: Saidou Moussa Ba, Marco Martinelli
Stage design and costumes: Ermanna Montanari
Lighting: Giancarlo Cottignoli
In English, Senegalese griot and Italian

The inspiration for the production **NO ONE CAN COVER THE SHADOWS** comes from the Senegalese griot traditions of storytelling. These stories contain a moral lesson within a humorous narrative; they combine human beings and animals, light and shadow. The performance unites the expressive use of body, voice, drums and narrative.

MEETINGS AND PRACTICAL WORK

From 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. three groups will be working practically. Tanith Noble will concentrate on the principles of making a group with people who has not worked together before; she will work with the same people every morning. Gotas de Rap and Rapsoda will give a workshop on breakdance and rap singing. Pol Pelletier, Jill Greenhalgh and Geddy Aniksdal will give an introduction to some principles they use in their physical training. At 10 a.m. each morning all the participants and the invited artists meet with Brigitte Cirla to learn a song together. Brigitte Cirla is an experienced voice teacher and performer from France.

The presentations and discussions will be prepared by different small groups of invited artists. They will decide the form of each presentation and discussion in relation to the theme. The women have been asked to conduct the sessions on the background of their experience and interests. We expect all the participants and invited artists - women and men - to take part in the debates, put questions and bring their opinions.

Past and present history in performance - the theme will be introduced by Geddy Aniksdal, Gilla Cremer, Lieve Delanoy, Iben Nagel Rasmussen and Pol Pelletier. The title refers to the relationship between the performances they present at *Transit* with both "History" and "personal histories".

Inside and Outside - a video presentation by Donatella Massimilla who started her theatre work in prisons in 1989 and organised the first European Conference of Theatre and Prisons in 1994. Donatella Massimilla has also started Ticvin Theatre Company that aims for the social and professional reintegration of offenders.

From the local to the global village - the theme will be introduced by Patricia Ariza, Brigitte Kaquet, Donatella Massimilla, Ermanna Montanari, Ida Ouhé, Sandra Pasini, Lene Thiesen. The title refers to the experiences of organising theatre which crosses national borders; of doing performances in which the mixing of languages and

transcultural themes are relevant; and of touring in a world which is getting smaller every day, while searching for artistic roots and identity.

Listening to children - the theme will be introduced by Geddy Aniksdal, Jill Greenhalgh, Kordula Lobeck, Tanith Noble, Pol Pelletier. The title refers to the political issues which have been important for feminist movements with a particular stress on the rights of the child.

Art and exclusion - a video presentation by Patricia Ariza who has been very active in Colombia doing theatre with young people from the streets, drug addicts and prostitutes. In particular Patricia will speak about her experience in Urabá, one of the most violent regions in Colombia.

Theatre in times of war - the theme will be introduced by Jadranka Andjelic, Patricia Ariza, Lieve Delanoy, Brigitte Kaquet, Dijana Milosevic, Ida Ouhé. The title refers to the apparent uselessness of theatre when survival is the main issue of the people living in a country, to the difficulties encountered in creating and touring performances in a country at war, and to the new sense and meaning theatre acquires in such an extreme situation.

Without papers - a presentation directed by Tanith Noble. Tanith will present the work done with the group in the morning during *Transit Festival* and explain the principles behind it. At the same time she will explain how this work has been useful in Paris both with unemployed actors and working with the immigrants in France without legal papers, who were supported by the theatres of the Cartoucherie.

First, second, third, fourth and fifth world - the conclusions will be introduced by Julia Varley. The time for discussion will be a space to hear all that which has not been said and especially to hear about dreams and projects for the future.

Theatre-Women-Kitchens! - a banquet, celebration and feast prepared by Brigitte Cirla, who for years has been waiting for this chance.