

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL

27th October-2nd November

Hvidovre medborgerhus



english version

THE FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES

The Exment Dramatic Society, Denmark

"Partner Race"

Exment is a group of people whose daily work is within the visual arts, dance, music and theatre. In its performances the group makes a conscious effort to confront these idioms. Their performance "Partner Race" has been developed through bodily improvisations. From a minimum of idea the different scenes are built up "on the floor" in cooperation with the American comedian Jack Millet. The performance is a collage of abandoned gags, absurd caricatures, and breakneck artistries.

We meet, among other things, a clumsy parody of a classical ballet, and we see two wood-cutters, who, undismayed, set about cutting down a several-hundred-year-old giant sequoia.

The Dance Group Sodemeiter Op!, Holland

"Piet Hutten"

The Sodemeiter Op! Group ("Get the hell out of here!") has existed since the beginning of 1985, then they had a great success with their play "Motivations II". Their new performance "Piet Hutten" is created in co-operation with the choreographer Hans Tuerlings, and it takes as its starting point the Saltarello, a Calabrian folk dance characterized by menacing passion. The theme of the play is "perfect love" - does it exist, and how do you fight your way to it?

The expression is often ambiguous and comprises hate and love at the same time. Where is the line between embrace and strangulation? What is the difference between violent love and gentle aggressiveness?

The dancers don't have a formal training, but the performance makes use of their athletic skills and their sense of timing and avoids all attempts at aestheticising the dancing. If anything the decor, the lighting and the dresses underline the menacing atmosphere of "ultra passion".

The Falstaff Theatre, Sweden

"A Heaven for the Disappointed"

The Falstaff Theatre is six years old. It is part of "The Angered Cultural and Dramatic Society", which is also engaged in choir-singing, local radio, film and cultural politics in Angered, a suburb of Stockholm. It has approx. 200 members, half of whom are more or less connected with "Falstaff". The Brecht-Cabaret, which Falstaff has called "A Heaven for the Disappointed", is a mixture of theatre, song and dance. 26 Brecht songs throw light on man's eternal fight for existence. Mankind is symbolised by three couples and by "power" and "hope". The three couples are "the young seekers", "The stars", who will do anything to elbow their way ahead, and "the disillusioned", who have already tried it all. These three couples are worn out between "power" and "hope" in a whirling dance between happiness and despair. Again and again man tries to rebel, but the rebellion becomes more and more "private", i.e. individual, and leads nowhere.

The idea of the play might be interpreted thus: It is time to stop and realize what it means to be human. If we don't do that, we shall - as in the final scene of the cabaret - go like lambs to the slaughter.

The Youth Theatre Company, Australia

"Sun Pictures - a beach alphabet"

"Sun Pictures" is a visual performance, consisting of a series of pictures and scenes about "being an Australian" - about "how the Australian people have learnt their alphabet by the surf of the sea".

We watch life on the beach from early morning until the moon rises at night. Different scenes, beginning with the old man and ending with the small child, are tied together by pictures shown on a screen with clues to the understanding of the play.

Gary Hodge, the author and producer of the play, has found his inspiration in Japanese theatre and elsewhere. Together with The Youth Theatre Company, he has created a very beautiful performance with its own rhythm and energy, and it is a must to view it.

The theatre group Baltjik has previously participated with this play with great success at international festivals.

The theatre group Paukwa, Tanzania

"Oil"

The play is built on fantasies about what would happen in Tanzania - a poor country - if there was suddenly discovered oil under-ground.

The group has gathered experiences from many other countries in the third world that have now been destroyed. The hope of gaining prosperity through oil quickly vanished. The result was a fight between, on one side, corruption, political and multinational interests and on the other side a poor country's soul and cultural heritage, which was worn down to unrecognizability.

The group has worked with experimental theatre at the university of Dar Es Salaam for a number of years, and tries - through its work - to rediscover and hold on to its cultural heritage. At the same time it tries to develop the Tanzanian theatre traditions further.

Teatro Mediazuela, Spain

"Totem"

Based on work with para-theatre forms such as happenings, participation theatre and theatre animation in the early 1980 s, the Teatro Mediazuela has moved towards the essence of theatre: Comedy and tragedy.

"Totem" was written for the group by its leader Luis Mariano Fau, and the performance was first staged in 1984. It is a celebration of the master of tragedy, the Greek Sofokles: "Man has always loved, hated and destroyed his gods. But immediately created new gods".

The performance tells us about the creation of a ceremony: "The great spectacle of life". God/The Director has the visions, the ideas that are followed by the people. The ceremony grows strong, just to be destroyed and replaced by a new ceremony.

The visually strong scenography is based on the holy books which contain the knowledge and the power. The costumes are simple - fishing nets and body paint - and emphasise the human fascination with destruction.

Ildfolket, Denmark

"AI 2000"

Ildfolket has toured in several European countries. In previous performances, the group has shown that it is capable of working with relevant and central problems in a very different and exciting way. The themes of the group's work are taken from topical, political questions such as peace-work, oppression and the technological development. The theatre is used to making fun of established prejudices, to intensifying happiness and suffering and to playing with utopia and solutions.

The group was founded in 1977 at the Technical University of Denmark, and is today an activist-commune, and many artistic activities grow within its frames.

The performance "AI 2000" was created collectively by the 8 members. It takes place in an air-raid shelter in the year 2010 - everything is collapsing. The surface is ruled by technology. But on the 25th floor there is still life; a little group of people work on a human utopia, which is to replace us humans, for whom everything went so wrong. This little group acts as the frame for the performance, like a morbid fandango in love, petrification, exhilaration and death.

The theatregroup Morild, Denmark

"Annihilation"

The work of the group is based on the ideas of Grotowsky, Freire and , not least, Augusto Boal's ideas and views about the theatre as a direct form of communication between actors and audience: "The theatre of the oppressed".

The performance "Annihilation" is based on the life-story and poetic works of the German poet Peter-Paul Zahl. He was imprisoned for 10 years until 1982, convicted of terrorism, but continued his work as a poet.

Based on a text of Tim Erritzøe the group has worked towards the final form of the performance. A performance about the freedom of thought, longings feelings and imagination, where the power of poetry can break the grey concrete world of the prison. The play is about people who express thought and ideas, who work against the ruling system - people who are arrested because of their visions.

Poetry is the balance between thought and action.

Welcome to the International Theatre Festival

Amateur means "one who loves", and the groups of this festival all work seriously with the theatre without being professional performers. To be an amateur gives you freedom - freedom to experiment, to find new ways, a freedom to expand the concept of theatre.

With the International Theatre Festival we intend to show how the amateur theatre lives and develops in different civilised societies, and, by doing that, give new perspective to our own stage. When we invited to the festival, 40 foreign groups applied for participation.

In our selection we attached great importance to the following points: That the group is working at finding new ways for the amateur theatre - that the performance has a visual form that is comprehensible to an international audience - that there is representation from all over the world.

We think that the 12 groups in this festival fully live up to these conditions, and that the festival will thus be a forum for a qualitative discussion of the possibilities and the Importance of the modern Theatre.

W E L C O M E !

Danish Amateur Theatre Association, Festival Committee

The festival is arranged by Danish Amateur Theatre Association in cooperation with Hvidovre Cultural Council and IATA/AITA International Amateur Theatre Association.

The realization of a project like this is not possible without financial help, and we would like to thank the Københavns Amt and Hvidovre Kulturråd for this help. The realization of the visiting performance "Paukwa" from Tanzania is thanks to the financial help from SIDA, Folkekirkens Nødhjælp, Augustinus Fonden and Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke. Furthermore we would like to thank KIT Københavns Internationale Teaterfestival, the designer Rolf Andersen, Sankt Kjelds Teater, Glostrup Amatørscene, Hvidovre Amatørscene, DATS Frederiksborg Amtskreds, Amatørteaterns Riksförbund, Sweden, Det Økumeniske Fællesråds U-landsudvalg, Kjeld Bjørnager, Studio Teatern i Malmö, Avedøre Kaserne and Hvidovre Kommune.

At last a warm "thank you" to the many volunteers, without whom the realization of this whole project would never have happened