

PRESS RELEASE (23.09.2008)

"Floundering on a calm sea"

Theatre festival euro-scene Leipzig brings floundering on stage and introduces choreographer Josef Nadj in a work show

The euro-scene Leipzig will take place from **04 to 09 November 2008** for the **18th time**. Under the motto **"Floundering on a calm sea"**, the festival is dedicated to the opposite of a smooth surface and to the disasters concealed beneath – whether in the psychological or the social domain. Planned are **12 guest plays from 8 countries in 22 performances and 9 theatre venues**. The festival is under the patronage of Burkhard Jung, Lord Mayor of the city of Leipzig.

"Calm water can be both idyllic and, at the same time, eerie and frightening. Our existence is determined by overplayed uncertainties, tensely safeguarding the pretence of beauty and the increasingly hectic search for purpose in life. The festival this year aims to sensitise the audience to its floundering and provide courage to admit weakness. The black ice of existence embodies both the glistening façade and the latent risk of breaking," says **festival director Ann-Elisabeth Wolff**. The spectrum of productions includes dance and spoken theatre as well as intermediate areas of performance art and musical stage forms.

For the first time, the festival is presenting an artist with a **work show: Josef Nadj, one of Europe's leading choreographers**, comes from the former Yugoslavia. He has been in charge of the Centre Chorégraphique National in Orléans for a number of years and will be opening the euro-scene Leipzig with the German premiere of his latest piece, "Entracte" ("Interval"), in the Peterskirche (St Peter's Church). In addition, his wonderfully bizarre productions of "Woyzeck" and "Journal d'un inconnu" ("Diary of an Unknown"), films and an exhibition will be on show.

Another festival highlight will be the new dance play by **Alain Platel**, who has been repeated guest of the euro-scene Leipzig. With his company **Les Ballets C. de la B., Ghent**, he will show **"pitié!" ("Have mercy!") based on Bach's "Matthäuspassion" ("St Matthew Passion")**, in a **modern adaptation** by Fabrizio Cassol. Next to **German premieres** from Budapest, Athens and the Bulgarian Haskovo, there will be a reunion with the Orphtheater Berlin and a sweeping hip-hop dance play by the company E-Motion. This year's **carte blanche** for a guest play went to Tilmann Broszat, artistic director of the festival SPIELART, Munich, who invited the Spaniard Cuqui Jerez.

An extensive **fringe programme**, comprising films, discussions and a workshop, complements the guest plays. For the first time the euro-scene Leipzig sets up its **own advance booking office**, which will be in the Café-Restaurant Telegraph, just like the festival café. Advance booking will start on Saturday, 27 September 2008.

The **euro-scene Leipzig 2008 will be financed** from funds of the city of Leipzig and the Free State of Saxony. **Main partner** for the 5th time already is the **BMW Plant Leipzig**. Next to it the festival receives support by partners such as the hotel Holiday Inn Garden Court, Leipzig, national representative offices, e.g. the French Embassy, Berlin, and CULTURESFRANCE, Paris. Cultural partner is the MDR figaro, the media partners are the ZDFtheaterkanal, the Leipzig city magazine kreuzer and the online portal nachtkritik.de.

The **euro-scene Leipzig** was founded in 1991 and brings experimental theatre and innovative dance from throughout Europe to Leipzig each November. It is among the most important contemporary festivals of its kind in Europe.

Ann-Elisabeth Wolff // Beate Dietrich
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NOTE: This text as well as photo material to all guest plays and compagnies, the festival logo and photos of Ann-Elisabeth Wolff and Tilmann Broszat are available under www.euro-scene.de/presse.