

steirischen herbst 23/09 – 16/10/2011

Performance / Theatre / Dance

Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker / Björn Schmelzer (B)

Cesena

herbst-opening

Première of the stage adaptation

Fri 23/09 & Sat 24/09, 7.30 pm, Helmut-List-Halle

Dancers sing, singers dance. Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker takes the idea of this collaboration seriously. Björn Schmelzer's unique vocal ensemble Graindelavoix not only provides the music for the dancing, but is also, from the outset, part of this co-operation. Nineteen dancers and singers explore the limits of their skills in a dialogue with music that, while hailing from a world distant in time, nevertheless paradoxically corresponds to our contemporary understanding of music in terms of its complexity and abstraction: *ars subtilior* from the late 14th century.

Gunilla Heilborn (S)

Potato Country

Austrian première

Sat 24/09, Sun 25/09 & Mon 26/09, 7.30 pm, Dom im Berg

Prosaic and dreamlike – this production by choreographer, director and film-maker Gunilla Heilborn, thus far is hardly known outside of Sweden, is hard to grasp and yet sticks in the mind like a melody. Banal and beautiful, ironic and succinct, with floating humour and gentle melancholy, Heilborn blends dance and theatre, text and performance into a genre pot-pourri in a loose musical framework. Who seeks can find almost anything here – except for potatoes: "We will start with a presentation. We are a group. We don't need much. We need nothing. Thank you."

Theater im Bahnhof (A)

Time to get ready for love

Song performance

Première

Sat 24/09 & Sun 25/09, 9.30 pm, Orpheum

What songs define our lives? What was the song of our first love, our first kiss? The first time we were left? The first existential despair? The second love? Four forty-something men write memories on record covers. They look for words, stammering perhaps, and when they quote titles or lyrics, their English sounds Styrian. But there is no music on this evening staged jointly by Graz Theater im Bahnhof and Robin Arthur, a member of the legendary British group Forced Entertainment. Just words, words, words. And we hear the melody in our own memories.

steirischer
HERBST

Eszter Salamon (D/H)

Tales Of The Bodiless

Musical Fiction Without Science

Austrian première

Thu 29/09, Fri 30/09 & Sat 01/10, 7.30 pm, MUMUTH

How can you get out of your body? Can you leave it for a while? Can you take a vacation from it? How long can you stay out of yourself, without losing it all together? Eszter Salamon, who billed at steirischer herbst 2008 for the first time with her duo "Dance #1 / Driftworks", widens her already broad idea of what choreography is, embarking on a journey through regions of palpable sensuousness: dynamic compositions of voices, sound, light and space. Bodiless voices around us sink, dissolve, urgent and aggressive, joyful, ecstatic. Hearing overpowers seeing, theatre attempts to disappear into immateriality.

Miguel Gutierrez (USA)

Heavens what have I done

Première in the German-speaking region

Thu 29/09 & Fri 30/09, 9.30 pm, Dom im Berg

A trashy clownfaced man with a Marie Antoinette wig and greasy make-up over stubble grabs the microphone and then the audience for a rambling, now caustic, now maudlin artist's monologue. The American choreographer Gutierrez flirts and plays with the audience, before finally giving the short evening a new twist – a black-humour anticipation of one's own demise, a physical and emotional tour de force full of narcissism and self-doubt – melodramatic and prosaic, full of humour and shrewdness. Until everything comes crashing down.

Ann Liv Young (USA)

Sherry's Room

Première

30/09 - 02/10, 3 pm - 12 midnight, Festival district: Hotel, room 113

Sherry – a southerner never at a loss for words – embarks on new paths in the field of mental health: over the past five years she has developed a unique therapy that above all emphasises the performative role of the therapist. She becomes a canvas on which the patient projects their own behaviour patterns. Sherry enjoys wide acclaim for her ability to create performative conditions for a successful dialogue, as well as for her work on character development, relationships, death and trauma. An appointment, plus a little bit of pluck, is necessary for the half-hour, individual session.

Rodrigo García (E/ARG)

Gólgota Picnic

Première in the German-speaking region

Fri 30/09, Sat 01/10 & Sun 02/10, 7.30 pm, Orpheum

García's drastically physical theatre language is a raging reckoning with Western civilisation, with us. Immoderate and yet similar to the Bible, whose stories inspire the vast avalanche of the evening, in its force and wild imagery: angels rise and fall, everywhere there is fire, heavens that open, miracles, demons, dead people and unimaginable tortures. And sitting naked at the grand piano in the middle of this theatrical mission is Marino Formenti playing Haydn's "The Last Seven Words of Christ". Playing and playing, until the last note has faded.

steirischer
HERBST

What World?

A text and theatre project

Literature and authors play a special role in the history of steirischer herbst. In years past, the festival has frequently asked what role texts and what role authors can play in contemporary theatre productions – beyond the conventional functions of drama and dramatists. "What World?" invites Gerhild Steinbuch, Johannes Schrettle und Jörg Albrecht, three young authors with close links to Graz to reflect on their own models of co-operation in very different working constellations.

Gerhild Steinbuch (A) / Julie Pfeiderer (D)

Most beautiful is what is already gone

Audio walk & performance

Première

Fri 07/10, 4.30 pm, Sat 08/10, 2 & 4.30 pm, Sun 09/10, 11 am, 2 & 4.30 pm, Venue to be advised at time of ticket purchase

Where am I really at home: in the body to which I do not want to belong or in the city that is always a different one? A man walks around Graz constructing his Graz, doing away with what doesn't belong, reformulating his world. If your own life eludes control, then at least, be proud out of despair. A Graz of gigantic grandeur. A metropolis. Megalomania for a want of alternatives. A total work of art.

Johannes Schrettle / zweite liga für kunst und kultur (A/CO)

how we should do it

Première

Fri 07/10 & Sun 09/10, 7.30 pm & Sat 08/10, 9.30 pm, Theater am Lend

We should do it differently. We should be honest. We should respect others and not feel superior. We should tell stories which everyone can identify with. Read and reread our commandments. We should integrate as far as necessary. We should be able to part in peace. We should stand up and carry out a common movement. We should leave space so that others have time to understand.

Jörg Albrecht / copy & waste (D)

Terence Hill's blue eyes

Preview

Fri 07/10 & Sun 09/10, 9.30 pm & Sat 08/10, 7.30 pm, Orpheum

Bud Spencer and Terence Hill are back. They are shooting their new film in the cheap western scenery of a theme park for the unemployed. The story's the same: fighting, drinking and eating beans! Twenty years after enjoying watching videos as children, copy & waste and their author Jörg Albrecht are now bringing back the anti-heroes of their childhood to cleverly beat the big bad guys and nasty bureaucrats. They counter the standard of socially acceptable under-supply and over-production with the blueprint for a totally different world.

steirischer
HERBST

CREW (B)**Terra Nova**

Première in the German-speaking region

Thu 13/10, Fri 14/10 & Sat 15/10, 5.30 & 9.30 pm & Sat 15/10, 2.30 pm, MUMUTH

Who are we? What is the self? How do we perceive this self? Can we trust our body as an interface between reality and the self? How do we construct our consciousness? Where does the manipulation begin? The Belgian CREW company operate with their technological and yet poetic theatre on the boundary between art and science. "Terra Nova" is a blend of theatre performance, installation, visual challenge and virtual adventure. Confronted with the story of Robert Scott's legendary, tragic Antarctic expedition, that seems here to be just as much the history of recent brain research, we travel both to the South Pole and to our own consciousness. Using head-mounted displays, we vanish into the stage set, which morphs from Potemkin village into an all-embracing experience.

Lotte van den Berg / OMSK (NL)**Les spectateurs**

Austrian Première

Thu 13/10, Fri 14/10 & Sat 15/10, 7.30 pm, Helmut-List-Halle

What does it mean to make contact with foreign surroundings? How does it feel to be a guest in a country that you do not know? Is it possible to become a part of it, or must you forever stay a mere observer? The Dutch director Lotte van den Berg has become one of the most important protagonists of her generation, with theatre that is radically entrenched in its respective social setting. She spent four months with OMSK in Kinshasa, the capital of Congo. Together with visual artists, musicians and actors from the Netherlands and Africa, Lotte van den Berg develops an evening about moving from Europe to the Congo and back.

Jan Ritsema (F/NL)**Shakespeare's As You Like It, A Body Part**

Première

Thu 13/10, Fri 14/10 & Sat 15/10, 7.30 pm, Dom im Berg

With Perrine Bailleux, Christine De Smedt, Marcus Doverud, Atlanta Eke, Luís Miguel Félix, Maria Hassabi, Krööt Juurak, Emma Kim Hagdahl, Xavier Le Roy, Neto Machado, Berno Odo Polzer, Jan Ritsema, Mårten Spångberg & Tea Tupajic

As a theatre-maker, Jan Ritsema has devoted himself almost obsessively to the task of undermining the familiar territories and conventions of theatre. Although the title "Shakespeare's As You Like It, A Body Part" refers to one of the most famous self-reflective dramas of theatre history, in other respects the play goes its own, rather unpredictable way. The cast list itself is remarkable. Fourteen very individual artists from twelve countries have joined forces for this project with the aim to resist all obvious solutions of interpretation and directing.

steirischer
HERBST

Heine Røsdal Avdal (B/N) & Yukiko Shinozaki (B/J) / deepblue

Field Works – Hotel

Adaptation for Graz

13/10 - 15/10, 3 pm - 12 midnight, Festival district: Hotel, room 113

A hotel room as a place of searching for poetry in everyday life. In their very intimate and playful performances, the Japanese artist Yukiko Shinozaki and Norwegian artist Heine Avdal create dream-like, absurd in-between worlds by means of subtle shifts in reality. Only one visitor per performance is sucked into the mysterious past of this very ordinary hotel room: how many people have stayed here? What happened before we came in?

Michikazu Matsune (A/J)

Tourist Office

Première

11/10 - 14/10, 2.30 - 9.30 pm, Sat 15/10, 11.30 am - 9.30 pm, Festival district: Shop

The Japanese tourist and artist Michikazu Matsune is opening his unique "Tourist Office" for one week in the middle of the festival district: an information centre that offers an array of activities and individual tours in real and imaginary Graz, into the ordinary and yet fantastic, to the obvious and hidden sites of our inner maps. It is our pleasure to help you discover Graz, the world in all its truth. You are warmly invited to start your tour at the "Tourist Office" – with experiences that you won't forget.

Information and tickets:

p +43 316 81 60 70, info@steirischerherbst.at, www.steirischerherbst.at

presse contact

steirischer herbst press office

Heide Oberegger and Alexandra Schröttner

Sackstraße 17 / 8010 Graz / Austria

p +43 316 823 007 61

presse@steirischerherbst.at

steirischer
HERBST