

Freies Theater  
Tempus Fugit

# Tour Dossier

" Tell me... "  
("Raconte moi  
- erzähl mir")

a German - French remembrance project  
from Tempus fugit

Freies Theater Tempus fugit e.V.  
Ötlingerstrasse 13  
79539 Loerrach  
Germany

+49 (0)7621 1675 476  
info@fugit.de  
www.fugit.de

Address from Klaus Wowereit, Patron

(German parliamentary representative for culture in accordance with the German - French treaty on cooperation)

"Tell me..." is an initiative of the independent theatre company Tempus fugit in which the German-French cultural exchange features especially strongly. Stories of a common German - French experience are being explored. Characters who survived the fascist barbarism of the concentration camps are shown in their struggle to build new lives. It is an experience that both Germans and French shared and that will be brought to the stage by a team of French and German performers.

It is about our own history, and especially about our shared memories, and how we respect the memories of the generation that survived the indescribable and found the courage to carry on - the generation that formed the special friendship that exists today between France and Germany. The way we remember is understandably vastly different on both sides of the Rhine but the key is that we remember, that we share our memories, and that we pass our experience on to the next generations so that they in turn become the keepers of these thoughts and use them as the foundation of a peaceful future.

This is exactly what is being done in this project. There will be performances in France and in Germany, accompanied by open discussions and eye witness accounts in schools. This isn't just about the past though. If anything it is about the future. We as Germans and as French are building a future together in a unified Europe. "Tell me..." is also a challenge to each of us to tell our own story, to position ourselves, and to take our own experiences and interpretation forward as part of our common European heritage.

I am sure that each and every person who has the chance to see this production will have something to say - something that makes us think. That is the real goal.

I wish every success!

Klaus Wowereit

## The Project...

The German - French theatre project "Tell Me..." is a cooperation between Tempus fugit from Loerrach and the Theater Lilas en Scène from France, under the direction of Carolina Pecheny-Durozier. The aim is to stimulate a dialogue over national boundaries and across generations about a contemporary and appropriate way to remember the victims of the national socialist regime in Germany. Following the successful premier in the Theatre du Soleil, Paris, a German tour followed in October and November 2008.

## The Impulse...

The events that shook the world with unimaginable pain and suffering and the mass murder of millions lie a long time behind us. Today, over 60 years after Auschwitz, the number of memorials and services bear witness to the culture of remembrance that has grown up. The years of peace, however, allow the memories of the horrors to fade for those of us not personally touched by the tragedy. The constantly dwindling number of witnesses, of living memories, brings with it the danger that the culture of remembrance will become ritualised, stale. Will the horrors of the past be reduced to numbers, dates and titles? An open discussion in society about how we should remember is needed while there is still time.

## The Goal...

In "Tell me..." eight artists from Germany and France are searching in theatre and music for a relevant form of remembrance that meets the needs of both the survivors and those born after the events. The Nobel laureate Imre Kertesz and his works serve to set the guidelines. The aim is to stimulate a dialogue over national boundaries and across generations about a contemporary form of remembrance that can also maintain its function as a warning in the future. Theatre's unique proximity to people offers a unique opportunity to revitalise the culture of remembrance with new impulses.

## The Piece..."Tell me..."

"Everything slowly becomes clear, in the course of time, step by step....without time the burden of knowledge would cascade instantly upon us. Maybe that would be too much for us." (Imre Kertesz "Fatelessness")

The piece tells the story of everyday people who randomly and briefly cross paths. Nobody knows that they all share the same fate: deportation to Auschwitz. There they live through a range of experiences together that dramatically alter their lives. Over time, step by step, they come to realise the seriousness of the catastrophe that has overtaken them. It is exactly this slowly dawning realisation that enables them to survive the horrors of Auschwitz. But what happens when the storm has passed? How to live knowing what you know? Is there an alternative to suicide or remaining a victim in which the trauma can be transformed into a positive force?

Drawing on Imre Kertesz' work, the stories move without paralysing. The company presents strong images with little text, a form that, like Kertesz, shows harsh reality whilst remaining free of interpretation, moral or sympathy. By avoiding comment or sentimentality the audience is left alone to interpret and internalise that which they see, to get close to the subject matter and through this experience they contemporise the act of remembrance.

Your performance space as a venue for "Tell me..."....

The project involves performances all over Germany and France. We are looking for venues and partners who are interested in joining with us in initiating a dialogue in their area. "Tell me..." offers a unique opportunity to bring the subject of remembrance into your program - especially in view of the 75th anniversary of the National Socialists coming to power in Germany and the 70th anniversary of the anti-Semitic pogroms.

Discussions about contemporary forms of remembrance...

To enable a wider reaching discussion about remembrance it is necessary, alongside the performances, to engage local institutions and individuals. We offer to get in contact with local schools and social institutions with the aim of interesting young people in widening their generally narrow field of knowledge about the Hitler dictatorship. Upper school classes will be encouraged to undertake research projects in the weeks leading up to the performance. Their results should feed into the audience participation and the open discussions.

There should also be eye witnesses taking part in the discussions, sharing their first hand experiences. We already have a number of interested people who will be taking part.

Furthermore we would encourage cooperative projects with the local libraries. We would like to see exhibitions and literature displays accompanying the theme as well as the results of the school research being presented in the libraries.

Project time frame and DVD...

The tour will be taking place between 01 October 2008 and the 15 November 2008. We can provide a DVD of the French premiere of "Tell me...".

Technical details...

Stage size: 8m x 8m, 5m overhead clearance

Set up time: 3h

The company...

Stefanie Klimkait, actress

Born in 1983 in Cologne, ended her acting training at the University Mozarteum in Salzburg in 2007. Amongst others she has been seen in : "Die Augen" (Dir. K Massen), "Und Raus bist du..." (Dir. U. Troller), "Der Streit" (Dir. A. Schroeder), "Arme Hebel" (Dir. V. Spirit). On screen she has appeared in the films "Kurzschluss" by S. Zeitlinger and "Das Geheimnis des Koenigsees" by M. Rosenmueller.

Francois Accard, actor

Born in 1961 Francois Accard studied Indian dance under Kalpana. Since 1988 he has been acting with the Theatre de Frene under the direction of Guy Freixe. There he has appeared in "Le Triumphant de l'Amour", the French-Canadian coproduction "Puisque le monde bouge", "Danser a Lughnasa" and "Après la pluie". He is a founding member of des Jardins des Planches and has been seen in "Huis clos" under the direction of Nicolas Moy.

Matthias Meier, actor

Born in 1978 in Loerrach he completed his acting training at the Scuola Teatro Dimitri (Switzerland) and with Tempus fugit. He has worked with numerous directors, including Karin Massen, Vaclav Spirit, Carolina Pecheny-Durozier and Pilar Buira Ferre. Amongst his credits are the lead in "Huckleberry Finn", "Wie dem Herrn Mockinpott das Leiden ausgetrieben wird", "Der Kleine Schwarze Fisch", "Die Augen" and "Früchte des Zorns". He is currently employed with tempus Fugit as actor and educator.

Karin Massen, actress

Born in 1955 in Spaichingen she completed her academic studies alongside her acting and directing training. She has been active in independent theatre for over 30 years. She performs in independent productions regularly and was a member of the Passe Partout (Dir. Peter Baer, Freiburg/Berlin/Munich) for six years. She was part of the Dreilandwerktheater (Dir. Lee Beagly, Liverpool) in "Die Heimkehrer" and "Hotel Savoy" (with Miriam Goldschmidt), as well as in productions at the Burghof Loerrach (Dir. Vaclav Spirit) and the Theater am Kesselhaus (Dir. Marion Schmidt-Kumke). She founded Tempus fugit in 1996 and has directed the company since. She has produced more than 50 pieces in the past 15 years, including "Hotel New Hampshire", "Früchte des Zorns", "Der Sandmann" and "König Ubu". She is nationally recognised for her work in regional theatre.

Christine Kotschi, composer, musician, multi-instrumentalist

Born in 1958 she completed her musical and acting training in Germany and later went to Paris to continue training with, amongst others, Jacques Lecoq, Monika Pagneux, Philippe Gaulier and Mas Soegeng. As a musician she regularly performs with the "Musikorchester" under Adnan Ataman at the conservatory in Istanbul. She has worked with Gabriel Garran TILF, Lisa Wurmser, Farid Paya, Mahmoud Shalahi, A. Diaz, Folrian and P.B. Sancho as well as at the Institute of the Arab World. Furthermore, she has performed her own compositions at several festivals (e.g. Festival International Francophonies in Limousin, Tarmac de la Vilette, Cité de la Musique).

Erik Nussbicker, stage design

Born in 1963 in Grenoble he studied visual arts at the Institut d'Arts Visuels in Orléans, where he has been teaching arts since.

His work has been exhibited at the National Gallery of Jeu de Paume, the MNAM Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, the biennial arts festival in Lyon as well as the Fondation Déste in Athens.

Carolina Pecheny-Durozier, director

Born in 1965 in Buenos-Aires she completed her acting training at the Argentinean School of Mime and the National Centre for Performing Arts in Buenos-Aires. She came to Paris in 1993 and worked at the Théâtre du Soleil until 2003.

The mime and actress has been inspired by all forms of theatre and has continued her education in Oriental Arts.

Amongst others she has worked with Ariane Mnouchkine, Serge Lypszich, Guy Freixe and Paul Grenier, and has staged plays in Argentina, France and Germany.

Contact

We would be very happy to hear from you should you be interested in cooperating on this project. We are always very happy to answer further enquiries, and also to receive general feedback, comments and impressions.

Please feel free to get in touch.

**Theater Tempus fugit e.V.**

**Thorsten Blank**

**(Project Manager)**

**Ötlinger Str. 13**

**79539 Lörrach**

**Germany**

**tel: 0049-7621-1675476**

**mobile: 0049-176-21831120**

**mail: [tb@fugit.de](mailto:tb@fugit.de)**