

Freies Theater
Tempus Fugit

Tour Dossier

Mary and Elizabeth (Maria und Elisabeth)

Directed by Karin Massen

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Production Notes

Tempus fugit

Tempus fugit consists of a team of motivated arts professionals with their own production base in Loerrach. Founded in 1995, it has grown from a school theatre society and currently encompasses a collection of theatre groups and a professional company with over 150 performers across the whole age spectrum, trained actors, musicians and theatre in education specialists. A core team of twenty people, led by the company founder Karin Massen, is active on a daily basis for Tempus fugit to produce on average ten new productions annually with over one hundred performances out of the repertoire each year.

Based upon the idea of being a "springboard for young artists" the professional company is predominantly made up of actors who have completed the year long Tempus fugit theatre and theatre in education programme and have moved on to drama school. Motivated by the desire to experience and present both the possibilities and the limits of theatre, the company develops its own ideas and impulses, challenges the zeitgeist, and explores new modes of presentation. Over the years a wide repertoire has been developed of original works, dramatisations of novels, as well as stage classics, that have toured both nationally and internationally.

Your performance space as a venue for "Mary and Elizabeth"

Produced with two young actresses and two musicians, based upon the classical material around Mary Stewart (Mary, Queen of Scots), "Mary and Elizabeth" was premiered on 17th May 2010 in the Burghof Loerrach. We would be interested in including your venue in a prospective up and coming tour.

Narrative

Starting from Stefan Zweig's biography of Mary Stewart, Schiller's tragedy, and the double biography "Krone und Schafott" (Crown and Scaffold) by Sylvia Jurewitz-Freischmidt, the story of these two women is explored. The traditional polarisation of culprit and victim, good and evil, right and wrong are dissolved by a constant changes of perspective.

The company, made of two young actresses and two musicians, developed the foundation and the key theme of the production: the interdependency of, and interplay of closeness and distance between, Mary and Elizabeth. The fortunes of both individuals are inseparable, maybe even joined in one person.

The narrative of accession and succession is given a fresh, modern approach and this gives us the chance to reinvent Schiller's Mary Stewart. The production searches for answers to questions outside of the traditional historical narrative. What do Mary and Elizabeth have to say to us today? The production places the actresses in two neighbouring but separate spaces, acting and reacting, for and to one another, but never able to interact - a historical reference to the fact that the Mary and Elizabeth never actually met.

Length: 75 Minutes, 1 Act

Ensemble: Director Karin Massen

Technical details: Minimum stage size 10m x 7m
See technical rider