

GIRL FROM THE FOG MACHINE FACTORY

by Thom Luz

Production

Thom Luz and Bernetta Theaterproduktionen

Coproduction

Gessnerallee Zürich, Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne, Kaserne Basel, International Summer Festival Kampnagel (Hamburg), Theater Chur, Südpol Luzern

Premiere

May 17th, 2018 Gessnerallee Zürich



Production

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GIRL FROM THE FOG MACHINE FACTORY

by Thom Luz

It's a simple, contemporary tale with a strange, magical ending. Business is slow in the small fog machine factory on the outskirts of town. No customers pass by the place, and in the current economic climate nobody wants to buy machines that actually produce nothing.

The owner of the factory and his employees – his son and an unpaid intern – are sitting in their showroom, feeling desperate about the future. But the answer to whether the company can be saved or not is in the literal clouds. To boost sales, the factory staff start experimenting with spectacular new fog solutions: fog waterfalls, fluorescent seas of fog, musical smoke, planetary rings, fog replicas of famous sculptures by Rodin and Giacometti and Böcklin's «Island of the Dead» with a rowboat, all made of fog, which is all too volatile, but still... The whole machine park and the full experience of 225 years of the company's history will be shown to the few passers-by as well as images of ephemeral opulence and practical superfluity. Whether the future of the company can be saved by such beautiful, momentary shows remains literally «in the clouds». One will see – or not.

The new creation by Swiss theatre author Thom Luz deals with the most elusive and ephemeral aspects of our human experience: how can you hold on to something that is in a constant state of flux? What place does poetry hold in a world that is increasingly monetized?

With Mathias Weibel, Mara Miribung, Samuel Streiff, Sigurður Arent Jónsson, Fhunyue Gao

Director, Stage Design Thom Luz

Musical Director Mathias Weibel

Costumes Tina Bleuler

Sound Design Martin Hofstetter

Light Design Thom Luz, Tina Bleuler

Technical Director Li Sanli

Light Jens Seiler

Assistant Director Benjamin Truong

PR/Diffusion Ramun Bernetta

Production Gabi Bernetta

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PRESS NOTES

(...) Thom Luz is a master in subtle distinction – that is why his fog shows come across like a musical aerogram. They send off their beautiful messages with an air of nothingness, through the nothingness, on top of nothingness, and remain, at any rate, intangible. Thom Luz doesn't simply strive to impress, he aims to impress with subtlety, and therein lies his levitating redefinition of comedy. Luz's characters are experts of the eccentric, they defy against all regulations, are dissidents against reason and all of its values that are defined by commodities and numbers.

Their idol is the fog machine itself, the images, the atmosphere and magic it creates, and the music that permeates everything and comes through without any obstruction.

Till Briegleb, Theatertreffen Berlin 2017

Girl from the Fog Machine Factory by Thom Luz

TOUR DATES

Luzern	CH	21./22.03.2019	Südpol
München	DE	12./13.04.2019	Kammerspiele
Orléans	FR	27./28.04.2019	Centre Dramatique National
Berlin	DE	06./05.05.2019	Berliner Theatertreffen
Bern	CH	18./19.05.2019	AUA WIR LEBEN Theaterfestival
Montpellier	FR	18./19.06.2019	Le Printemps des Comédiens
Athen	GR	23./24.06.2019	Athens Festival
Antwerpen	BE	12./13.12.2019	Desingel

Current Tour Dates under <https://bernetta.net/thomluz/fogmachine>

PAST DATES

Zürich	CH	17.05.2018	Gessnerallee – Premiere
Zürich	CH	18./19.05. & 26./27.05.2018	Gessnerallee
Basel	CH	30./31.05. & 01.06.2018	Kaserne
Venezia	IT	04.08.2018	Teatro Biennale Venezia
Hamburg	DE	17./18./19.08.2018	Int. Summer Festival Kampnagel
Zürich	CH	04./05./06.10.2018	Gessnerallee
Lausanne	CH	16. - 19.01.2019	Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne
Chur	CH	06./07.02.2019	Theater Chur

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

Thom Luz – Director, Stage Design, Light Design

Born in 1982 in Zurich, theatre-maker, director and musician. He has worked among other theatres at Gessnerallee Zurich, Kaserne Basel, Theater Basel, Deutsches Theater Berlin and schauspielhannover. In between musical and spoken theatre Thom Luz examines with stumbling assurance, consummate skill and great precision how what is unsaid and cannot be voiced might become evident on stage, even if this is only by accident. Luz slows events down and makes things appear as if by magic, using reality to discover dreams.

In 2014, the magazine Theatre heute selected him as Young Director of the Year. 2015 and 2017 he was invited to the Berliner Theatreffren. His productions have been shown among other theatres at Recklinghauser Festspielen, Mühlheimer Theatertage, den Autorentheatertagen des DT, premières Festival Strassbourg, Heidelberger Stückemarkt, lokal festival Reykjavik, Festival Acoral Marseille, Israel Festival Jerusalem, NET Festival Moscow u.v.m.

Mathias Weibel – Musical Director/Musician

Born in 1963, violinist, pianist and arranger. Together with the Brazilian singer Luiz Alves da Silva he founded the ensemble TURICUM, which specializes in performing Latin American music from the 18th and 19th centuries. He is a member of the Kammerorchester Basel and also works as a teacher. In the theatre he has worked together with Christoph Marthaler, Stefan Pucher, Meg Stuart and Jonas Knecht. For several years he has been responsible for the music in Thom Luz' productions. He received a prize from the city of Zurich in recognition of his achievements for his musical work on «When I die» in 2014.

Martin Hofstetter – Sounddesign

Geboren 1981 in Zürich, wohnhaft ebendort. 2005 schloss er seine Ausbildung zum Tontechniker mit eidg. Fachausweis am ZEPRA (heute TTS) ab und arbeitet seither auf der Schnittstelle zwischen Musikentwicklung und Klangtechnik für verschiedene nationale und internationale Bands, sowohl im Studio als auch auf Tour. Daneben ist er als Sounddesigner, Musiker und Spezialist für seltene Klanglösungen in diversen Theaterproduktionen tätig. Martin Hofstetter war bei fast allen freien Produktionen von Thom Luz als Tontechniker und Sounddesigner involviert, gab ausserdem sein Debüt als Schauspieler in dessen «Unusual Weather Phenomena Project»

Mara Miribung - Cellistin

Geboren in Bolzano (I). Violoncello Studium an der Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London. Nach einer klassischen Ausbildung entwickelt sie sich in musikalischer Hinsicht zu einer notorischen Fremdgeherin: sie schnuppert immer wieder gerne in die Welt des Jazz und der Improvisation, lebt aus Liebe zur Tango Musik eine Zeit lang in Buenos Aires und arbeitet gerne im Crossart-Bereich (Schauspiel, Tanz). Spezialisierung für Alte Musik an der Schola Cantorum Basiliensis. Barockcello bei Christophe Coin und Historische Improvisation bei Rudolf Lutz. Sie ist in verschiedenen internationalen Ensembles tätig, u.a. kammerorchester basel, Balthasar Neumann Ensemble, Geneva Camerata, Camerata Variabile, Cappella Gabetta. Seit 2011 lebt sie als freischaffende Künstlerin in Basel.

Samuel Streiff - Performance

Samuel Streiff is an actor. In 1998 he graduated in Master of Arts in Theatre at the Hochschule der Künste Zurich (ZhdK). 1999 he won the newcomer award by the Armin Ziegler Foundation Zurich. His work as a freelance actor includes works with Thom Luz, Stephan Roppel, Tim Zulauf. He was member of the ensemble at Deutsches Theater Göttingen and Theater St. Gallen. Since 2007 various audiobooks for the Swiss library for the blind and visually impaired (SBS) and voice over for the swiss national tv news. Since 2013 he takes part in the TV series The Undertaker.

Fhunyue Gao – Performance

Fhunyue Gao works like a chameleon in the field of the Arts Vivants in order to create a body of work that serves the themes of the piece as a whole. This can range from performance, dance, music, writing, lighting, scenography, costumes, installations, cooking, organising events. Her focus is on a working ethic that merges different art forms to create sensorial and visually strong works.

Often plunged between the institutionalised and the underground scene she loves to collaborate with others and works like Dreams of Sleep and Wakes of Sound, When a dragon swallows the sun, Boxing Duo, META, Planimetrie, FLOUR, Snare, KRR, played in different theatres and festivals in Switzerland.

As a autodidact musician/thereminist she plays in the band J.A.W.I.S. that she founded with Annalena Fröhlich in 2016, on solo projects, creates music for theatre/performance pieces, and is part of the Bongo Joe Records shop family. As a performer and dancer she worked for different companies and artists such as, among others: deRothfils, Unplush, The Scottish dance Theatre, Damien Jalet, Cie Ko Murobushi & Edge, Emma Murray, Company Joshua Monten, Company Idem, Damotus, Bern Ballett, The Hamburg Ballet as a student.

Sigurður Arent Jonsson – Performance

Sigurður Arent Jónsson is an Icelandic performer and maker currently based in Gothenburg, Sweden. Jonsson graduated with a BA in Contemporary Performance Practice from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2010. Since then he has collaborated with many people, making art, facilitating workshops, teaching classes, organizing events, writing, and volunteering for the arts community of his home country. Jonsson's work is often situated in choreography and since 2013 he has been active with the Marble Crowd collective, an informal movement ensemble making stage performances on the human condition. Their most recent production is called Moving Mountains and will be performed next at Reykjavik Dance Festival in November.

PHOTOS



Photos for Download

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