

## 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

**Production** Thom Luz and Bernetta Theaterproduktionen

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

**Premiere** 17. Mai 2018 Gessnerallee Zürich

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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

## **REVIEWS**

*«Girl from the Fog Machine Factory» is a wonderful and very unusual theater evening, highly romantic and delightfully comical, rather free of meaning and at the same time absolutely profound.»*

Dominique Spirgi, TagesWoche, 01.06.2018

*«The fog stands for everything ephemeral, inconceivable, the spirit, art, the passage of time.»*

Mathias Balzer, Basellandschaftliche Zeitung, 28.05.2018

*«This fog-opera is supple and tender, especially the musical part. Matthias Weibel keeps control of the strings, various instruments and tape recordings. Ephemeral sounds of Celesta (Weibel) form the base, Mara Miribung's cello happily ascending terzi and quarts. Is it the original Schubert or paraphrasing? The French „mélodies“ are even sweeter, and as the five actors gather as a choir, softly intoning a Madrigal or an old Hit, a floating magic develops.»*

Tobias Gerosa, NZZ, 18.05.2018

*«What it is about in this magical play, is the fog per se? Or is it the casual beauty, the holding onto a realm?»*

Andreas Klaeui, Nachtkritik.de, 17.05.2018

*«Girl from the Fog Machine Factory“ distinguishes itself once again with its exquisite trail of music: a highly intelligent musical remark, a play composed like a whole musical piece. Mathias Weibel has been a companion of Thom Luz since his beginnings. His work covers a range from sentimental crooning to Schubert songs, from madrigals to the blues. It is not self-evident, how beautifully the five actors manage to pitch this precisely.»*

Andreas Klaeui, Nachtkritik.de, 17.05.2018

## TOUR DATES

München	DE	12./13.04.2019	Kammerspiele
Orléans	FR	27./28.04.2019	Centre Dramatique National
Berlin	DE	06./07.05.2019	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

<b>Zürich</b>	<b>CH</b>	<b>17.05.2018</b>	<b>Gessnerallee – Premiere</b>
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
Luzern	CH	21./22.03.2019	Südpol

## **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 – Sound Design**

Martin Hofstetter was born in Zurich in 1981, where he lives today. In 2005 he finished his studies at ZEPRA (today called TTS) with a Federal Degree in sound design. Since then he has been working with different national and international bands, doing interface functions between the development of music and sound techniques, in studios as well as on tours. He also works as a sound designer, musician and specialist in dealing with special sound solutions for different theater productions. Martin Hofstetter worked for most of Thom Luz's free productions as a sound technician and sound designer and had his debut as an actor in Luz's «Unusual Weather Phenomena Project».

### **Mara Miribung - Cellist**

Mara Miribung was born in Bolzano, Italy and studied the cello at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. After her classical education she became notoriously "unfaithful" to her classical music heritage by getting into the world of jazz and improvisation. Out of love for tango music she moved to Buenos Aires for a while. She also loves to work in the world of acting and dancing. At the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis she then specialized in old music and studied baroque cello with Christophe Coin as well as historic improvisation with Rudolf Lutz. She works with different international ensembles, such as Kammerorchester Basel, the Balthasar Neumann ensemble, the Geneva Camerata, Camerata Variabile and Capella Gabetta. Since 2011 she has been living in Geneva, where she works as a freelance artist.

### **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.

### **Bernetta Theaterproduktionen – Production**

[www.bernetta.net](http://www.bernetta.net)

Founded in 1995 as Theaterproduktionen Gabi Bernetta in Zürich, the name was changed to Bernetta Theaterproduktionen in 2016, when Gabi Bernetta's nephew Ramun Bernetta joined the production company. The aim of this free-lance production company is to support artists in the areas of organization, concept, financing, publicity, communication and public relations.

PHOTOS



Photos for Download

[www.bernetta.net/thomluz/fogmachine](http://www.bernetta.net/thomluz/fogmachine)

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