

steirischer herbst 26/09 – 19/10/2014

I prefer not to ... share!

Performance / Theatre / Dance

Grace Ellen Barkey / Jan Lauwers / Needcompany (BL)

All Tomorrow's Parties I + II

Premiere

Fri 26/09, 19.30, Helmut-List-Halle, Graz

The legendary Needcompany, an artists' collective headed by Jan Lauwers and Grace Ellen Barkey, has reinvented itself many times in the course of its history, significantly changing and enriching the world of theatre with cross-genre performances over the past twenty-five years. In "All Tomorrow's Parties I + II" they push their game of crossing boundaries further, once again entering new terrain. They use drama, dance, music, text, stage art and, last but not least, ample video material in their production developed specially for steirischer herbst and geared to the city of Graz – in what is a pleasurable roaming, a happening celebrated for hours on end which blurs the boundaries between art and entertainment.

Maria Hassabi (US/CY)

Premiere

Premiere in the German-speaking region

Sat 27/09, 19.30 & Sun 28/09, 17.30, Dom im Berg, Graz

When the curtain rises for the premiere, five performers – immersed in bright, white light – will appear with the aim of rediscovering slowness. In recent years, the Cyprus-born and New-York based choreographer and performer Maria Hassabi has focused on the relationship between the body and its representation in images. "Premiere" almost assumes the form of a tableau vivant, constantly changing – thus holding very unusual moments of surprise in store. It is not just a meditation on change and a game of expectations, but also a confrontation of privacy and publicness, fragility and prestige, process and product.

Rashaad Newsome (US)

Shade Graz, 2014

Premiere

Sat 27/09, 21.30 & Sun 28/09, 19.30, Orpheum, Graz

Artist Rashaad Newsome's work is based on the method of recontextualising contemporary cultural elements into traditional frameworks. Using the equalising force of sampling, he creates compositions that frequently surprise in their associative potential and walk the tightrope between identity and abstraction, between visual art and pop culture. For steirischer herbst, Newsome has created a work of motion with an unusual choir that develops a special perspective of the city. "Shade Graz, 2014" condenses forms of human expression into a polyrhythmic

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choreography, it fragments body language, staging an intense piece which allows the audience to experience what it means in terms of the construction of gender and – also queer – identity.

Dennis Feser (DE)

Rauhnacht

Premiere

Sun 28/09, 02/10 – 05/10, 09/10 – 12/10 & 16/10 – 18/10, 18.00 – 22.00, Antoniuskirche, Graz

Further dates in Bad Radkersburg and Wildon

Dennis Feser's video work "Rauhnacht" centres on a fascination for Perchten and their manifestations and deeper meaning. Together with Nigerian performer Jelili Atiku he traces our perception of identity, authenticity and naturalness. Shot in Styria, Feser's installation performance video renegotiates borders: the Alpine masquerade is juxtaposed with West African traditions, the use of masks highlights current fears and alienations. The concept of homeland and constructions of folk identity are infiltrated and exposed to other's perspective.

Marino Formenti (AT/IT)

One to One

Premiere

Tue 30/09, Wed 01/10, Tue 07/10 & Wed 08/10, 12.00, 15.00, 17.00, 19.00 & 21.00

Graz (The exact venue address will be given at the time tickets are purchased)

Further dates in Bad Radkersburg, Wildon, Stainz and Bad Gleichenberg

Pianist and conductor Marino Formenti has been working for years on the rigorous study of his metier. Celebrated in reviews as the "Glenn Gould of contemporary music", who fills concert halls in New York, Paris, Vienna and London, he also creates spaces of encounter that suspend the hierarchy of the classical concert. In private spaces provided by generous hosts who are open to experiments the pianist seeks for direct contact and dialog with his vis-à-vis, developing out of it and entirely individual concert. This being the case, there will be a party for everyone at the end of steirischer herbst festival – Marino Formenti invites you to a morning recital of "One for the Road", a search for wild feelings, a joint celebration and concert in a wide range of constellations – and, as ever, open-ended.

Die Transmissionare (AT/DE/CO)

Nein, ich will! Eine Hochzeit für alle

[No, I do! A wedding for everyone]

Premiere

Wed 01/10, Thur 02/10 & Fri 03/10, 19.30, Heimatsaal im Volkskundemuseum, Graz

The wedding banquet is set and the guests wait in happy anticipation to attend an act of exclusion – two people swear no longer to share themselves with others in future. The alliance at the centre of a wedding lets the guests know: celebrate the fact that you are not one of us! A scenario consisting of a banquet table, chancel and wedding bed becomes a stage for speech, rituals, music and dance. The classical dramaturgy of a wedding is rewritten as an orgy of transgression. Walls rise and fall, brides are kidnapped, speeches held, wedding videos shot, bride's bouquets and rice

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fly through the air. A wedding bed awaits in the garden of the Heimatsaal, where finally an evening of euphoria and crash landing, shame and grandeur will come to an end.

Nature Theater of Oklahoma (US)

Life and Times – Episodes 4.5 - 5 - 6

Premiere

Thur 02/10, Fri 03/10 & Sat 04/10, 19.30, MUMUTH, Graz

Over the last six years they have focused on an ambitious project: "Life and Times", a multi-part series of performances based on the life story of an ensemble member recounted during a sixteen-hour telephone call, staged in a variety of genres such as musical, thriller or organ concert. The company is now returning to Graz with the three current episodes. Weather animation film with every single image hand drawn or live-music, Nature Theater of Oklahoma takes stock. It's about love, odd jobs and whatever else goes on. The premiere in Graz – a performative family constellation that is as bizarre and chaotic as life itself.

machina eX (DE)

machina exkursion: Kingdom

[Ein site-specific mystery-radiodrama-game]

Premiere

03/10 – 05/10 & 09/10 – 12/10, 15.00, 15.30, 16.00, 16.30, 19.00, 19.30, 20.00 & 20.30

Registration: Joe's American Bar & Grill, Wildon

There is another Wildon. Decay is spreading behind the fresh painted fronts of this "Kingdom". It is a dubious dimension that lies concealed behind the scenes of normalcy and that holds many a puzzle in store that needs to be solved. This is the point of departure of the theatrical adventure game created by the artist's collective machina eX, in which the audience become players, examine mysterious rooms, have to complete tasks and make decisions. The artist's group brings the world of computer games back to reality. This trip around the town lasts for two hours, oscillating between reality, science fiction, mystery and radio drama. "machina excursion: Kingdom" adapts its interactive spaces to the local conditions of the market town, whisking visitors off to a strange new world.

Gunilla Heilborn (SE)

Gorkij Park 2

A place for recreation

Premiere in the German-speaking region

Fri 03/10, Sat 04/10 & Sun 05/10, 19.30, Orpheum, Graz

Hardly anyone today remembers the details of the Hollywood thriller "Gorky Park". Nevertheless, this film created images that, in their simplified form, are iconographic of the Cold War. For Gunilla Heilborn this is fertile ground upon which to stage "Gorkij Park 2". Four performers are at the centre of a pastiche on the genre that plays with the social realism that once featured in the literary works of Maxim Gorky. Does a common yearning for utopian dreams, the burning desire

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for a better world still exist today? Or is there a reason why the winter, the snow and the cold represent a deadly threat in "Gorkij Park 2"?

Benjamin Verdonck (BE)
notallwhowanderarelost

Premiere in the German-speaking region

Sat 04/10 & Sun 05/10, 19.30, Kulturzentrum Schloss Wildon / Festsaal

Shortversion: 01/10 and 02/10 in Graz (Blendend & Festival centre)

An artist, a stage, a performance – and a magic box as an artwork. In "notallwhowanderarelost", Benjamin Verdonck presents displaced little stories with the aid of geometric figures; questions written on cardboard suddenly appear behind opening doors, disappearing again behind falling curtains, answered by a delicate feat of skill. Strings, colours, forms and materials merge into a kaleidoscope of acoustic and visual poetry. This project originated from Verdonck's idea of a "mini-theatre", which he now stages in the form of an Arte Povera-style show box – a mechanical table-top theatre imbued with wondrous life in a performative act.

Christine Gaigg / 2nd nature (AT)

Maybe the way you made love twenty years ago is the answer?

Premiere

Sat 04/10 & Mo 06/10, 19.30 & Sun 05/10, 17.30, Dom im Berg, Graz

Austrian choreographer Christine Gaigg asks how we should deal with the paradoxes of the current status of sexuality in society. In the age of the sexual revolution, the call was for freedom. Today, on the other hand, hysterical debates and detailed regimentations define our relationship with love. In this staged essay, different moments – from the stimulating through to the unsettling, from the banal to the bizarre – are combined with unpredictable and sexually charged behaviour. The effect of erotic play, light, sound and text on the audience is immediate, near and direct: in real time and without the usual media filters.

Thomas Ebermann (DE) / Kristof Schreuf (DE) / Andreas Spechtl (AT) / Robert Stadlober (AT)
Der eindimensionale Mensch wird 50

[One-Dimensional Man Turns 50 – A concert theatre]

Premiere

Thur 09/10 & Fri 10/10, 21.30, Heimatsaal im Volkskundemuseum, Graz

An illustrious circle pay their respects to the philosopher Herbert Marcuse, icon of critical theory: author and playwright Thomas Ebermann and head of the discourse pop band Ja, Panik Andreas Spechtl, Robert Stadlober, musician, label operator, known in the German-speaking world above all as an actor, and the musician Kristof Schreuf, former front man of Kolossale Jugend. The basis is Marcuse's major system-critical treatise "One-Dimensional Man". "Der eindimensionale Mensch wird 50" is a multifaceted birthday celebration for a hopeless figure that has remained true to itself since Herbert Marcuse explored its happy consciousness and its enslaved satisfaction – the human being.

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Lundahl & Seidl (SE/GB)

An Elegy to the Medium of Film

Premiere

09/10 – 15/10, 14.30, 16.00, 18.30, 20.00 & 21.30, Schauspielhaus Graz / Ebene 3

The medium of film shapes our way of thinking, feeling and acting more strongly than we would suppose. "An Elegy to the Medium of Film" is based on the assumption that we have internalised film experiences to such an extent that even the smallest stimuli are enough to evoke them.

Lundahl & Seidl penetrate the depths of our consciousness, taking us into a darkened space where the interplay of film projections, audio material and choreographed touch stirs up both sediments and sentiments of our cinematic memory.

Young Jean Lee (US)

Straight White Men

European premiere

Fri 10/10 & Sat 11/10, 19.30 & Sun 12/10, 17.30, Orpheum, Graz

The director Young Jean Lee not only deals with a wide range of sociopolitical issues, but also casts them in very different theatrical forms. While her "Untitled Feminist Show" was set in the realm between queerness and neo-burlesque, in "Straight White Men" she now embarks on the opposite road with a linear narrative structure, a realistic stage set, and a traditional performance scenario.

Young Jean Lee combines essential questions of artistic design and formal strategies with an analysis of heterosexual white men whose world status is beginning to sway.

Barokthegreat (IT)

Victory Smoke

Premiere in the German-speaking region

Fri 10/10 & Sat 11/10, 21.30 & Sun 12/10, 19.30, MUMUTH, Graz

Barokthegreat are without doubt currently one of the most exciting companies on the young Italian dance and performance scene. In Graz Barokthegreat celebrate the excitement before the victory smoke, that magic moment before you cross the threshold to success. In terms of dramaturgy, they develop their piece on the basis of the idea of hunting. However who exactly is hunting – poachers, head-hunters, ivory or pheasant hunters – is not revealed. And the elation of the victors effaces the identity of their victims, the vanquished. It is this mythical image of capture around which the performers revolve as if in delirium.

Georg Nussbaumer (AT)

Ein weststeirischer Wasserfall

[A West Styrian Waterfall]

Premiere

Sat 11/10 & Sun 12/10

13.00 7 choirs on the road, Meeting point Schlossplatz Stainz

16.30 Concert with 7 choirs, Pfarrkirche Stainz

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Weird machines, videos and even live animals – the composer and installation artist Georg Nussbaumer spares no efforts to address all of our senses with his vibrant, space-embracing acoustic artworks. “Ein weststeirischer Wasserfall” as another complex work of sound and hearing. Six Styrian choirs – from Stainz, Wettmannstätten, Deutschlandsberg, Stainztal, St. Stefan ob Stainz and Bad Gams-Frauental – join the audience to embark on a coach trip from their respective home towns to Stainz. During the various stops at places where water flows – at the village fountain, streams and ponds – the choirs perform Nussbaumer’s composition with echoes of traditional folk and choir song celebrating water, that precious common property. At the end of the afternoon they will be received by Vocalforum Graz in Stainz’s parish church, later flooding the sacred building with a concerted wave of voices in the second part of the event.

Simon Allemeersch (BE)

Rabot 4-358

Premiere in the German-speaking region

Tue 14/10, 19.30, Heimatsaal im Volkskundemuseum, Graz

For more than two years, theatre-maker and director Simon Allemeersch relocated his workplace to an empty flat in the Rabot Towers in Ghent – a council housing complex slated for demolition. “Rabot 4-358” is now set out as a documentary performance. It reconstructs the history of the Rabot buildings along with the life of Simon Allemeersch in this workplace and was developed in collaboration with residents. “Rabot 4-358” tells a personal story of life, economy, poverty and individual visions at the intersection of architecture, urban planning, history and design.

Boris Charmatz (FR)

manger

Austrian premiere

Thur 16/10, Fri 17/10 & Sat 18/10, 19.30, Helmut-List-Halle, Graz

In his dance pieces, the French choreographer and dancer Boris Charmatz explores themes of an existential nature. In his latest piece “manger” he prefixes our ambivalent relationship to the subject of “food”, particularly with regard to the ideal body. Charmatz examines the intake of food. We can eat while lying down, walking, or standing. We even manage to stuff ourselves to death – remember the film classic “La Grande Bouffe”. Charmatz examines the intake of food in terms of its imagery, joining forces with fourteen dancers to examine how we manage to swallow and digest bitter reality day in and day out.

Ann Liv Young (US)

Elektra

Premiere

Thur 16/10 & Fri 17/10, 21.30 & Sat 18/10, 19.30, Dom im Berg, Graz

In her lascivious, effusive, relentless shows, US performance artist Ann Liv Young knows just how to step on her audience’s toes. Trash and profundity, naked flesh and gender awareness, castigation and salvation, chaos and order – her works deconstruct pop culture stereotypes, interpret fairy tales in an unconventional manner. In “Elektra” she examines the classical tragedy of

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Sophocles. Elektra's world is a forsaken one, she is a young woman with an extremely violent family. For Ann Liv Young, Elektra is crazed, authentic, honest, compassionate, steadfast – and tragic as her individual actions, driven by a sense of honour, run counter to the rules of society.

Apparatus 22 (RO)

Cartography II (Bad Gleichenberg)

Austrian premiere

Fri 17/10, 14.00 – 19.00, Sat 18/10, 10.00 – 13.00 & 15.00 – 19.00 & Sun 19/10, 10.00 – 14.00,

Musikpavillon Bad Gleichenberg

Clothes convey cultural values, reflect social belonging, they are a crucial vehicle of individuality, and they transport nothing less than a world view – they are our second skin. The Romanian artist group Apparatus 22 sets out to map our relationship to clothes in the truest sense of the word: over a prolonged period, Polaroid snaps will be taken of visitors, later to be sorted into emotional categories together with the artist group. With the photographs and the related stories Apparatus 22 will draft an oversized mind map, an installation that examines the representational power of clothes over body and identity.

Árpád Schilling / Krétakör (HU)

A Párt – Die Partei – The Party

Premiere in the German-speaking region

Fri 17/10 & Sat 18/10, 19.30, Gleichenberg-Halle, Bad Gleichenberg

Árpád Schilling is one of the most innovative Hungarian theatre-makers. His collective Krétakör is an experimental platform, an activist strike force, not at least, in order to be able to react to current social and political tensions in Hungary. "A Párt – Die Partei – The Party" centres on a little Hungarian village, an anti-European Minimundus in which critical art and dissenting opinions are suppressed and demagoguery, populism and xenophobia flourish. Schilling not only stages the failure of Hungarian politics as a tragedy of incompetence, but also the insidious erosion of democracy as an eerie satire. Theatre-makers such as Schilling receive hardly any support in Hungary and depend on foreign co-producers such as steirischer herbst.

andcompany&Co. (DE)

Orpheus in der Oberwelt: Eine Schlepperoper

[Orpheus in the Upper World: A Trafficker Opera]

Austrian premiere

Fri 17/10, 19.30 & Sat 18/10, 21.30, MUMUTH, Graz

Frontex and barbed wire: Europe is sealing itself off. The borders of andcompany&Co., on the other hand, are open – this international collective of artists from various disciplines is active all over the world, their themes are politically explosive. "Orpheus in der Oberwelt: Eine Schlepperoper" is about the border river in eastern Europe known in Greek as Evros and in Turkish as Meric. In recent times, countless dead bodies have been washed up on its banks. According to Greek mythology, the head of Orpheus once floated here too. andcompany&Co. not only blend mythology and music, but also documentary material and nameless fates into a new, old story: a myth collides

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with reality – the torn body of Orpheus encounters the anonymous dead on Europe's border rampart.

Jörg Albrecht (DE) / Gerhild Steinbuch (AT)

You're not the same, Batman!

Premiere

Fri 17/10, 22.30, Heimatsaal im Volkskundemuseum, Graz

Batman is a profoundly ambivalent character. Both as a comic hero and a film figure, he fights for good but is always too close to the dark side of power for comfort. The dialectical contradictions of our existence rage within him. "You're not the same, Batman!" goes back to the superhero's historical roots. When Gerhild Steinbuch and Jörg Albrecht – armed with microphones, synthesisers and bat detectors – undertake their text performance, they will tell his legend, his story, anew.

Further projects (selection)

Supersterz + .tmp architekten (AT)

Fortress of Backyards

Festival centre, Paulustorgasse 8, 8010 Graz

27/09 – 19/10

Tue – Thur 12.00 – 01.00, Fri & Sat 12.00 – 03.00, Sun 12.00 – 22.00

Every year, the steirischer herbst festival centre is a central space shared by everyone. A place for encounter, exchange and celebration. This year the festival centre is moving into the baroque Palais Wildenstein. The backyard is the main theme of the temporary architecture created by Graz based Supersterz + .tmp architekten. A covert of petit bourgeois nature, a last refuge for free spirits, and a place to flee from everyday life, it creates an arena for personal activities and rituals. Furthermore the festival centre will host a restaurant, a bar with DJ acts and live concerts and the herbst exhibition will also be taking place there. In addition, just opposite, is the Heimatsaal in the Volkskundemuseum and Antoniuskirche, central venues of the steirischer herbst festival 2014.

Forms of Distancing

Representative Politics and the Politics of Representation

herbst-exhibition

27/09 – 23/11, Festival centre, Paulustorgasse 8, 8010 Graz

Opening: Sat 27/09, 18.00

Curated by Stefano Collicelli Cagol (IT) & Luigi Fassi (IT)

Lawrence Abu Hamdan (GB/JO), Jesse Ash (GB), Maria Héléne Bertino & Alessandro Gagliardo (IT), Patricia L Boyd (GB), Robert Breer (US), Francis Cape (US), LaToya Ruby Frazier (US), Peter Friedl (DE/AT), Rana Hamadeh (NL/LB), Maryam Jafri (DK/US), Runo Lagomarsino (SE), Adrian Melis (ES/CU), Mai-Thu Perret (CH), Pratchaya Phinthong (TH), Carla Zaccagnini (AR/BR)

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The herbst exhibition "Forms of Distancing" focuses on the concept of distance. Artists will examine how politicians manipulate the public and what role the media play in creating a public forum for democratic opinion; what alternative possibilities of communal life might exist outside the constraints of society; the status of the legacy of modern European feminism. How misleading political strategies impact on the spheres of agriculture, industry and services. The overarching aim is to distance ourselves from everyday experience and to comprehend distance as a tool with which to create a new space for critical thinking.

Academy of Asociality

Today everything is about sharing. I don't like

Sat 11/10 & Sun 12/10, 11.00 – 19.00, Heimatsaal im Volkskundemuseum, Graz

Curated by Christiane Kühl (DE)

With Inke Arns (DE), Francis Cape (US), Kelly Copper & Pavol Liska (US), Sean Cubitt (GB), Christoph Engemann (DE), Leo Kühberger (AT), Alice Lagaay (DE), Nina Möntmann (DE), Elisabeth Scharang (AT), Laura Kalauz & Martin Schick (AR/CH), Alexander Tuchaček (AT/CH), Urban Subjects (Sabine Bitter, Jeff Derksen, Helmut Weber (AT/CA)), Harald Welzer (DE) et.al.

These days there is nothing that shapes our notion and practice of sharing as strongly as the Internet. In our virtual connection with the world, we are constantly encouraged to share what seems important to us and at the same time defines us. Sharing is the imperative of our age – from creative commons to social media to shareconomy. If you don't share much, your status drops. If you don't share at all, you are regarded with suspicion. The "Academy of Asociality" investigates and propagates strategies for de-sharing that reverse this process – in a conference with talks, discussions and expeditions. Based loosely on Bartleby's statement "I would prefer not to", it encourages withdrawal from sharing and participation for which you have not opted. Exiting a framework that possesses as little transparency as Facebook's terms and conditions.

Information and tickets:

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