

steirischer herbst 2007**Biographies****Staalplaat Soundsystem (NL/D/GB)**

Staalplaat – for more than twenty-five years this name has stood for one of the most exciting independent experimental music labels. Seven years ago, Staalplaat founder Geert-Jan Hobijn joined forces with Carsten Stabenow, founder of the German Media Art Festival "garage", and the artist Carlo Crovato, who works under the pseudonym plastic-electric, to launch Staalplaat Soundsystem. In this constellation, Staalplaat creates acoustic installations of gigantic dimensions: converted household appliances and various other utensils, washing machines, floor polishing machines, vacuum cleaners, kitchen blenders and fans are transformed into wondrous sound generators that perform together in large-scale machine orchestras.

www.staalplaat.org

International Festival (S)

International Festival was founded by architect Tor Lindstrand and choreographer and performer Märten Spångberg in 2004. International Festival operates between architecture, performance, video, theory and pure entertainment: A temporary kitchen was installed at Berlin's Haus der Kulturen der Welt; at the Tensta Konsthall outside Stockholm a parking space was converted into a public piazza, on other occasions a perfume was produced, videos were shot (After Pollock, 2005), and a publishing house and a special university, the International Festival University, were founded. International Festival is a project that works in very different cultural contexts and that constitutes an open platform with collaborators in more than nine countries that is open for a host of disciplines. "International Festival is all you could ever want it to be."

www.international-festival.org

plan b (D/GB)

plan b are the British artists Sophia New and Daniel Belasco Rogers. They work together as a duo as well as assisting on each other's solo works. plan b often develop performances specifically for a particular context or place. In their durational performances, they explore themes such as the dynamics of conversation, singing, confessing and cycling. They also make installations, web streamed performances, video pieces, locative media projects, radio pieces and lead workshops. In 2004 they were artists in residence in Podewil, Berlin. Daniel had a residency at the Akademie der Künste, Berlin in 2006. Since the founding of plan b, their work has been shown in Berlin, London, Cardiff, Bristol, Liverpool, Braunschweig, Prague, Gent, Helsinki, as well as other cities. In 2006 they presented "My Home is my Castle" as part of the CAMPSHOW Steiermark for steirischer herbst.

www.planbperformance.net

Hannah Hurtzig (D)

Since 1999, Hannah Hurtzig has headed the Mobile Akademie, or Mobile Academy, an art project with changing focal topics ranging between field research, course offerings, and actionism: "Die Zukunft der Arbeit" (Schauspielhaus Bochum 1999); "Der Flüchtling: Dienstleistungen an Unerwünschten" (Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz Berlin 2003); "Fakelore – Konstruktionen und Erfindungen urbaner Folklore" (Hebbel am Ufer, Berlin 2004); "Geister, Gespenster, Phantome und die Orte an denen sie leben" (TR Warszawa, Warsaw 2006), among others. With the Tulip House production office (with Anselm Franke) she develops models for representing memory, space and rhetoric that tour public locations in the form of installations: e.g. "Filiale für Erinnerung auf Zeit" (Hamburg 2000), "Information Retrieval – Dialogues on Archiving" (British Museum, London 2001); "Kiosk für nützliches Wissen" (since 2003). Since 2001 she has been building a constantly growing audio-visual archive on the subject of "Narratives of places, cities and territories". The installation and performance "Black market for useful knowledge and non-knowledge", a space for collective learning and production, is concerned with other, new formats of conveying knowledge. The black market has already been performed seven times and will be billing at

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the Wiener Festwochen in 2008. She conceived the Kampnagelfabrik in Hamburg, heading it for four years, the Festival Theater der Welt in Dresden, and was curator in the ErsatzStadt project, an initiative project of the Kulturstiftung des Bundes. She lives in Berlin, the Mobile Akademie is stationed at the HAU (Hebbel am Ufer).
www.tuliphouse.de
www.mobileacademy-berlin.com

Tim Etchells (GB) & Victoria (B)

Tim Etchells is an artist, author, director and performer, known above all for his work as author and art director of Forced Entertainment, who have become established as "Britain's most brilliant experimental theatre company" (The Guardian) since being founded in 1984. They have guested at theatres and festivals around the globe with their productions "Speak Bitterness" (1994), "Showtime" (1996), "Quizoola!" (1996), "Pleasure" (1997), "And on the Thousandth Night" (2000), "First Night" (2001), "Bloody Mess" (2004), and "The World in Pictures" (2006). Tim Etchells himself works in text, photography, video, performance, installation and digital media – often in collaboration with other artists. He has published three books: "The Dream Dictionary (for the Modern Dreamer)", "Endland Stories", and "Certain Fragments: On Contemporary Performance and Forced Entertainment". Tim Etchells lives in Sheffield.

Victoria is a theatre and performance production platform in Ghent (Belgium) with a special rapport with off-beat works of theatre. A prime concern of Victoria is to advise and support young artists. In addition to a residence programme and minor works, however, their programme also always includes major productions featuring such renowned artists as Josse De Pauw, Jérôme Bel, Alain Platel, Arne Sierens, Vera Mantero, and Wim Vandekeybus.
www.forcedentertainment.com
www.victoria.be

deufert + plischke (D)

frankfurter küche (FK) and the "artist twin" deufert + plischke have been around since 2001. Katrin Deufert works as a director, author and video artist. She is a founding member of Breakthrough, the Diskursive Poliklinik (DPK) Berlin. She did her doctorate in 2000 with her thesis "John Cage's theatre of presence". Thomas Plischke works as a director, choreographer and video artist. He received a Phillip Morris scholarship as "Most Outstanding Performer" in 1998 and the dance award of the city of Munich in 2000. deufert + plischke's works include: the plays "inexhaustible (RW)" (2003), "Sofia Sp – science is fiction" (2004), "As if (it was beautiful)" (2004), "Ich lebe selbst in (diese Stadt)" (2007), and the "Directories" trilogy (2003-6). The duo regularly teach composition, aesthetics and dramaturgy at Hamburg University and European art academies. In 2006 the two were visiting professors for Performance Studies (Hamburg University), in 2008 they will be visiting professors at the Institute for Applied Theatre Studies at Gießen University. deufert + plischke live in Hamburg.

www.artistwin.de

Baktruppen (N)

Established in 1986 in Norway, Baktruppen's performances are collective creations often full of humour and surprising quirks. For 20 years they have produced a diverse range of productions and have performed at most of the major contemporary theatre venues and festivals across Europe as well as presenting working in North America, East Asia and Africa. Their unique approach to the process of devising work, their desire to honestly engage with their audience and, not least, the humor and enjoyment in their work, have made them one Europe's most important and innovative theatre groups.

www.baktruppen.org

Nature Theater of Oklahoma (USA)

Nature Theater of Oklahoma is a New York based performance group under the direction of Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper. Since "Poetics: a ballet brut", the first dance piece created as an ensemble, Nature Theater of Oklahoma has been devoted to making the work they don't know how to make, putting themselves in impossible situations,

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and working from out of their own ignorance and unease. They strive to create an unsettling live situation that demands total presence from everyone in the room. They use the readymade material around us, found space, overheard speech, and observed gesture, and through extreme formal manipulation, and superhuman effort, they affect in their work a shift in the perception of everyday reality that extends beyond the site of performance and into the world in which we live.

www.oktheater.org

Mathilde Monnier (F)

Mathilde Monnier is currently regarded as one of the greatest choreographers in Europe. Fundamentally original, purposefully questioning the relationships between the person, the universe and others, Monnier's approach doesn't make a case for a radical rupture from the history of dance, but tries to find, in intimacy, the basis of movement both modern and in contact with the real. Neither abstract nor minimalist, Mathilde Monnier distrusts improvisation, but incites her dancers to seek and create by leaving them a greater margin of liberty and more possibilities for individual expression. It is from this origin that is nourished not only Mathilde Monnier's approach, but also her style – formal rigor in the choreography, coupled with an interest in movement originating both from virtuosity and kinesiology. In 1994, she was appointed as director of the Centre Chorégraphique National de Montpellier. It's the beginning of various collaborations with different artists: the composers Heiner Goebbels, Louis Sclavis, erikM, the writer Christine Angot, the philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy, and more recently, the french singer Katerine.

www.mathildemonnier.com

andcompany&Co. (D/NL/IL/KZ/USA)

andcompany&Co. is an international performance collective founded by Alexander Karschnia, Nicola Nord and Sascha Sulimma in 2003 to collaborate with other artist partners between theatre and theory, politics and practice. Their performances are a humorous game of facts and fictions that musically condense fragments of aesthetic and philosophical drafts of the twentieth century, remixing them to create their own political statement. Their approach works on the principle of remixing and re-animation, a principle that the &Co. abbreviation in the network's name already implies: the site-specific test labs and performance lectures that precede or accompany the plays are called &Co. LABs, e.g. for "Revolutionary Timing" with Noah Fischer at the AT&T building in New York in 2006.

www.andco.de

Theater im Bahnhof (A)

The Graz-based Theater im Bahnhof (TiB) is Austria's largest professional free theatre company. According to its own definition, TiB sees itself as a contemporary popular theatre and has from the outset focused on Austrian identity between tradition and pop. For TiB, the principle of popular theatre demands an all-out subjective approach. Self-developed plays have been the theatre's main identity from the beginning. It is constantly changing its methods of work so as to create living, varied theatre.

www.theater-im-bahnhof.com

Orthographe (I)

The Italian Orthographe group was founded by the multi-talented photo artist Alessandro Panzavolta in 2004. His photographic experiments with the pinhole camera and performers led to the first work "Orthographe de la physionomie en mouvement", that was shown at the 37th Biennale di Venezia (2005) curated by Romeo Castelucci. He is currently working on two new pieces. "Tentativi di Volo", another work designed for the pinhole camera, focuses on the attempt to fly in one's dreams. The other piece, "Memory", is a musical project created in co-operation with the musician Lorenzo Senni. It involves an acoustic treatment of the asymmetric repetitions of prime numbers. This piece is being developed for an empty hall in the twilight for the Colline Torinesi Festival.

www.inteatro.it/produzioni/prodortho.htm#1

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Gerhild Steinbuch (A) and Roger Vontobel (CH)

Gerhild Steinbuch, born in Mödling in 1983, studied stage-writing in Graz. She was a member of Jugendliteraturwerkstatt Graz from 1994 to 1998 and several times winner of the related competitions. She received the Retzhofer literature prize in 2003 and won the plays competition of the Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz, Berlin, with "kopftot". Productions so far: "Nach dem glücklichen Tag" (2004, Schauspielhaus Graz/steirischer herbst, director: M. Fontheim), "schlafengehn" (2006, Schauspiel Essen, director: R. Vontobel), and "kopftot" (2006, Staatstheater Mainz, director: J. Pfleiderer; 2007). Steinbuch received the literature scholarship of the city of Graz in 2004, the scholarship for newcomer authors of the Hermann Lenz Foundation in 2005, and was nominated for the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize. Also in 2005, she was awarded the Reinhard Priessnitz Prize of the Austrian Federal Chancellery and the literature award of the city of Graz. In 2006 she received the playwright grant of the art section of the Austrian Federal Chancellery and the literature award of the "manuskripte" magazine.

Roger Vontobel, born in Zürich in 1977, grew up in Zürich and Johannesburg. Studied theatre studies and comparative literature studies in Berlin and acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York and Pasadena. He worked as an actor in California, among others with the ARK Theatre Company L.A. and at the Knightsbridge Theatre Pasadena as well as in the independent films "Alone in my head" and "Distance". In 2001-2004/5 he finished studying theatre directing at the Institute of theatre, music theatre and film (ITMF) in Hamburg. In 2002 he was involved in founding the Theater-company TresenTM. He founded the free VONTOBELhamburg group the same year. Since the 2005/2006 season, he has been in-house director at Schauspielhaus Hamburg and permanent director at Schauspiel Essen. At the Münchner Kammerspiele Vontobel staged "Monsun" by Anja Hilling in 2005/2006 and "Die Familie Schroffenstein" by Heinrich von Kleist in the 2006/2007 season.

Lola Arias (RA)

Lola Arias was born 1976 in Buenos Aires. She is writer (poetry, narrative and theater), actress and theater director. Her texts explore the boundaries between reality and fiction, using biographies and real documentation in a surreal or poetic way. In her plays she works with actors, non-actors, dancers, singers, children, babies and animals. In 2007, she directed with Stefan Kaegi "Chácara paraíso: art police exhibition", an installation in a skyscraper of São Paulo showing biographies of policemen and their families. Lola Arias is co-founder of Compañía Postnuclear, a group of interdisciplinary artists with whom she is currently working for the trilogy "Sueño con revolver" ("Revolver Dream"), "Striptease" and "El amor es un francotirador" ("Love is a Sniper"). Lola Arias lives in Buenos Aires.

www.chacaraparaiso.org.

Poelstra / Steijn / Siewert (A/NL)

Frans Poelstra, choreographer and performer living in Vienna, and **Robert Steijn**, who lives in Amsterdam as a playwright and performance artist, are United Sorry. Under this label they have been producing performances and installations for theatre, galleries and festivals since 2003. United Sorry's projects are: "I am...in concert" (Codafestival Oslo 2003), "Frans Poelstra, his dramaturge and Bach" (ImpulsTanz Festival 2004, Vienna), "Hosting Matt Mullican" (choreographic platform Austria 2006, Linz), and "Dan, Martha, Trisha, Frans & Robert" ("wieder und wider: performance appropriated" festival at Tanzquartier Vienna, 2006).

Martin Siewert was born in Saarbrücken and lives and works in Vienna as an acoustic and electronic musician and composer. His work comprises music for theatre, film and dance projects and a wide range of other commissions for remix and sound installations. Projects/bands: Trapist, The Year Of, EFZEG, Invariant, My Kingdom for a Lullaby, Duo DIEB13 / Siewert, die Instabilität der Symmetrie, KOMFORT 2000, MELT, ssss. Siewert already worked with Poelstra and Steijn on "Hosting Matt Mullican" and "Dan, Martha, Trisha, Frans & Robert".

www.unitedsorry.com

siewert.klingt.org

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