

# ZÜRCHER THEATER SPEKTAKEL

16.8.—  
2.9.18



Organized and presented by



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## FINAL REPORT

### SUCCESSFUL DEBUT

The 39th Zürcher Theater Spektakel has ended on Sunday with well-attended shows yet during wet and cold weather. Even though the temperatures have dampened the festival joy during the last two weekends, we can already state today: The first festival under the newly constituted management team was a total success. The programme established by the new artistic director Matthias von Hartz did not only arouse keen interest with the media but also with the public. This becomes evident in 26 000 spectators who have attended a performance on the one hand, as well as in the performance attendance of 87 %. The high ratings given to the productions nominated for the ZKB Audience Prize equally suggest a great approval of the programme.

Fortunately, the newly launched programme focuses were received enthusiastically. The British company Forced Entertainment, guest of honour at the festival, presented a total of 38 performances over ten days in their own venue and proved to be a real crowd pleaser. Who had seen one of their 36 Shakespeare dramas was back for more. The neon installations by company director Tim Etchells, set up as an artistic intervention on the site, did not only put the Saffa Insel and the Landiwiese in a new light: Together with the shows of Reverend Billy in his pink inflatable chapel, they were also one of the most posted festival subjects on Instagram.



Neon installations by Tim Etchells on Saffa-Insel | Photo: ZTS/Kira Barlach

## **MUSICAL ACCENTS AND NEW AUDIENCES**

Genre overlapping productions such as «Peaches Christ Superstar», the concert by techno star Henrik Schwarz and the Alma Quartet or the mesmerising slow-motion rave by Gisèle Vienne on the Seebühne, but also the programme by House of Mixed Emotions at the Saal, set new musical accents and addressed new audiences.

Even less accessible projects presented in the thematic focus of post-colonialism, such as Abhishek Thapar's journey to his homeland in the divided Punjab, Lola Arias' revision of the Falklands War with Argentinian and English veterans or the music theatre project of the Hamburg band Kante with the South African artist collective Khoi Khonnexion on the genocide of the indigenous people during the colonial era in German Southwest Africa found a great and interested audience.

It is especially encouraging that the newly launched discursive offers accentuating and accompanying the programme found a surprising resonance: A group of ten to thirty people

sat down at the regulars' table each evening to discuss sociopolitical issues with specialists and practitioners in a relaxed atmosphere. The lectures series «Talking on Water», featuring the Senegalese economist Felwine Sarr and the Indian political scientist Nikita Dhawan, attracted each around 300 interested listeners. This on a hot Sunday after noon at five o'clock!

Further projects implemented the topic migration and post-colonialism in very different ways: The story container of Fluchtpunkt and the exhibition of plants with a migratory background by the ZHAW Wädenswil, or the special issue of the internet magazine «zollfreilager.net» of the ZHdK dedicated to this thematic focus.



Talking on Water: Economist Felwine Sarr (l.) and moderator Rohit Jain of the Institut Neue Schweiz INES (r.). | Photo: ZTS/Christian Altorfer

## ZKB PRIZES 2018

During the last festival weekend the traditional festive award ceremony of the ZKB Prizes took place: The ZKB Patronage Prize went to the Belgian duo Silke Huysmans & Hannes Dereere for their engaged, multilayered documentary theatre performance «Mining Stories».

The ZKB Acknowledgement Prize was awarded to the Moroccan duo Youness Atbane & Youness Aboulakoul, whose performance «The Architects» pleurably exposes how art and market collude. The Audience Prize, awarded for the third time, again demonstrated how much the festival audiences love circus productions: It went to the young Australian quintet Casus Circus, who took the spectators by storm with its loveable acrobatic act «Driftwood».

Find all the statement of the jury 2018 here.



Well-founded decisions: Kyoko Iwaki (r.), member of the jury, and moderator Beren Tuna (l.) at the award ceremony | Photo: ZTS/Christian Altorfer

## **A FESTIVAL FOR EVERYONE**

In order to make the festival accessible for as many people as possible, the project «A festival for everyone» was launched this year: Those who wanted could donate a suspended ticket or a suspended drink to enable people with little money to visit the festival. The response exceeded all expectations: Over 200 tickets and 280 drinks were donated and found thankful recipients who would not have been able to visit the festival without this solidarity campaign. A big thank you to all the donators!

## **GASTRONOMIC SERVICES LANDIWIESE**

The extreme weather conditions ranging between summery and autumnal temperatures and two rainy weekends have affected the turnover of the restaurants and bars: The turnover is lower than expected. The budgeted contribution of the gastronomic services is likely not to be reached this year.

## **FACTS & FIGURES**

**Programme:** The programme included 36 productions by companies and solo artists from 26 countries and all continents.

**Performances subject to charge:** 155

**Ticket sales:** A total of 26 000 spectators attended one of the performances subject to charge. This is the same amount as last year yet for a slightly smaller number of performances.

**Percentage of seats sold:** The budgeted margin of 75% was again clearly exceeded with 87% of seats sold. 88% of the performances exceeded the budgeted margin of 75%,

**Advance booking:** 60% of the tickets were sold before the beginning of the festival. The advance sale featured only a few blockbusters this year. The interest surprisingly spread over the entire programme. Three out of five tickets were purchased online.

**Box office:** The onsite ticket sale was again well used: Around 4600 tickets (2018: 4500) were sold at the box office on the Landiwiese.

**A festival for everyone:** 200 suspended tickets and 280 suspended drinks were donated and almost entirely allocated.

**Total number of festival visitors (including performances):** around 150 000

## **PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS**

The Theater Spektakel is an event organized by City of Zurich Kultur and is generously funded by its main Partners Zürcher Kantonalbank, Swiss Re and the Canton of Zurich as well as by the media partner Tages-Anzeiger. The directorate of the SDC, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Migros-Kulturprozent and the Patrons of the Festival engaged themselves as further partners with a substantial contribution.

In addition, the following institutions funded the festival (budget 5 million Swiss Francs): ZH-REFORMATION.CH, Ars Rhenia, AVINA STIFTUNG, Stiftung Denk an mich, Ambassade de France en Suisse, Gessnerallee Zürich, PREMIO Nachwuchspreis für Theater und Tanz as well as the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia.

Contributors of substantial in-kind sponsoring were KIBAG AG, Zürichsee Schifffahrtsgesellschaft and Verkehrsbetriebe Zürich. The festival direction would like to thank them and all other companies, which supported the festival with material and logistic contributions.

## **JUBILEE PROJECT OF THE FOUNDATION DENK AN MICH**

During the festival we were given the happy news that the Zürcher Theater Spektakel is one of the projects supported by the foundation Denk an mich on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. The Zürcher Theater Spektakel would like to thank for this accolade, which enables us to realise bigger upcoming inclusion projects in the years to come.

## **THAT WAS 39**

We thank all visitors for their interest, their openness, their curiosity and their applause. Until next year. Find impressions of the 39th Zürcher Theater Spektakel here.

## **LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 40**

Next year, the Theater Spektakel takes place for the 40th time from Thursday 15 August to Sunday 1 September 2019. A whole series of special jubilee projects and innovations are already being planned. Let yourself be surprised! The advance sale starts on Wednesday 11 July 2019.

Zurich, 2. September 2018