

## **"Implosion of the institution *Stadttheater*? History, Analysis, Perspectives"**

Master Class, Lectures and Panel Discussions

25.-27. Oktober 2018

Goethe-University Frankfurt, Campus Westend, Casino Raum 1.811

In view of the debates concerning the current crisis occurring in the German *Stadttheater*, the Master Class seeks to bring the underlying economic, artistic and political issues as well as the opportunities associated with this crisis into discussion. The term "implosion" refers to the fact that the number of "stagings on public stages" today is 50% higher than in the first season after the reunification, though the number of visitors per season has remained constant at about 20 million. Nonetheless, the number of tenured ensemble members has been reduced by 50% during this period: despite dwindling interest, more is produced with fewer artistic employees. The public theatre institutions, it could be summed, have become a prime example of neoliberal modes of production, or the new spirit of capitalism (Boltanski/Chiapello), which are readily criticized on stage and on the theaters' podiums. The circumstances of many artists working on these stages quickly approximates those which have always been the social reality of most "free-lance" performing artists. In addition, divisions or entire theatres are closed or consolidated into larger entities with dubious prospects of success.

In the search for causes of the crisis, it is necessary to address the ideology of a state, which gives as little support to the field of theatre as it does for the universities and colleges, the health service or the public-transport infrastructure. Further to be addressed is the soon to be bursting "Reeducation bubble" (Dirk Baecker), to which the theatres in this country still owe their relatively generous subsidies. It is imperative to consider the questions raised by "post-migrant" theatres such as the Maxim Gorki Theater, the Münchner Kammerspiele or the Kampnagel production-house; whether in times of globalization and in a society that has been altered by a variety of migrations, the stages could and should be opened to other agents: people with diverse social and cultural backgrounds, with variant knowledge and experiences as well as different methods of expressions. It must also be reflected upon the debate on the reallocation of the Volksbühne and the failure of its revised program. Is it justifiable to prioritize one single art form over many others - pop concerts, radio plays, dance, digital game culture, film, installation art and public art, happenings, performance art, site-specific art, community theatre, etc.? What is the situation of the German institutions in comparison with similarly highly subsidized institutions in other countries (e.g. in Norway, Finland, France or Belgium)?

The Master Class is the culmination of a seminar jointly offered by Tore Vagn Lid and Nikolaus Müller-Schöll, as well as the lecture series on "Dramaturgies of Theatre Architecture", having taken place during the 2018 summer semester.

## Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2018

6.00 - 7.30 p.m.

### **Crises of the institution *Stadttheater*? Starting points**

Nikolaus Müller-Schöll / Ulrike Haß / Matthias von Hartz

7.30 – 9.00 p.m.

### **Panel Discussion: Contemporary potentials and politics**

With Eva Lange & Carola Unser / Christoph Gurk / Jan Linders

### **Afterwards: Snacks and Drinks**

## Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2018

9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

### ***Herrschaftszeiten*. On the reproduction of hegemonic structures in the context of the institution**

Deborah Raulin: Hegemoniale Männlichkeit am Stadttheater: Starregisseur\*innen zwischen Virtuosität und Reproduktion des autoritären Regietheaters.  
Olivia Hotz: #metoo – Die Rolle der doppelten Machtstruktur regieführender Intendant\*innen am Stadttheater in der Auseinandersetzung mit strukturellem Machtmissbrauch.

### **Theatre without *the others*. The right to appear and to speak**

Antigone Akgün: Theater der Diversität – Utopie oder Realität?  
Insa Peters: Über den autoritären Geist des deutschen Theaters – Debatte und Dialog in *Theater heute* 1968.

### **On guards and moles. Concerning the handling of the institution**

Falk Rößler: Eine Frage der Zeit. Vom Aufbruch und Abbruch einer Euphorie.  
Anna Neudert: Deutscher Bühnenverein – Segen oder Reformverhinderer?  
Hilko Eilts: Zwischen Transformation und Tradition: Das deutsche Stadttheatersystem seit der Wende im Lichte des Theaterstatistiken des Deutschen Bühnenvereines.

1.00 – 2.30 p.m. Lunch Break

2.30 – 4.00 p.m.

### **Panel Discussion: *Was war da noch?* The past future of the Frankfurt participation model of the 1970s.**

With Renate Klett / Rainer Römer

4.00 – 5.00 p.m.

### **Implosion and Critic**

Bernhard Siebert: Zusammengezogene Welten. Technikaspekte der Implosion in Correspondence #1 von Lorian/Villanueva Mir und Die Parallelwelt von Kerlin/Müller/Voges.  
Melanie Hirner: Das *So* der Kritik. Möglichkeiten kritischer Positionierung im Modus der Partizipation.

5.00 – 5.30 p.m. Coffee Break

5.30 – 6.30 p.m.

### **Fail differently. Examples of Vienna and Taipei**

Ching-Wen Peng: A monument in the history, a theatre nowadays.  
Andreas Fleck: Scheitern als Chance? Zur Neuausrichtung der Wiener Festwochen.

## Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2018

10.00 – 11.30 a.m.

### **Beyond the municipal theatre – Jena, Lausanne, Antwerpen\*\***

With Jonas Zipf / Anne-Christine Liske / Erwin Jans

11.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

### **Other Countries – same problems? Examples of Belgium, France, Finland and Norway\*\***

With Tore Vagn Lid / Nikolaus Müller-Schöll / Katariina Numminen / Christophe Triau / Karel Vanhaesebrouck

### **The entrance to all lectures and panel discussions is free. Registration is requested at: [implosion.stadttheater@gmail.com](mailto:implosion.stadttheater@gmail.com)**

"Implosion of the institution *Stadttheater*? History, Analysis, Perspectives" is hosted by Goethe-University's Theater Studies in cooperation with the partner-institutes of the new international study program *Comparative Dramaturgy and Performance Research* in Brussels, Helsinki, Oslo and Paris as well as with the *Hessische Theaterakademie*. With the support of Goethe-University's *Förderfonds Lehrkooperationen*, DAAD and the *Hessische Theaterakademie*.

**Chaired by:** Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Müller-Schöll, Prof. Dr. Tore Vagn Lid, Sophie Osburg M.A., Inga Bendukat M.A.

\*\*discussion in English