

FUNDAMENTAL

MONODRAMA FESTIVAL 2014

PRESS RELEASE

The Fundamental Monodrama Festival returns from **13 to 22 June** 2014 for its fifth edition.

The monodrama genre – one sole artist performing on stage – never ceases to surprise and excite audiences, making them laugh, cry, feel and take a stand. Be sure to expect eclecticism and diversity!

Banannefabrik will remain the main festival venue in 2014, but this year's shows will also take festivalgoers to **MUDAM Luxembourg, Théâtre National du Luxembourg** and **Kulturhaus Niederaanven**.

As in previous years the limelight is on **theatre** and **dance**.

The festival is honoured to welcome back **Patrick Corillon**, a festival regular from Liège, with his new work(s) *Les Vies en soi* (BE/LU, in French); a project based on **four exhibitions** and **four performances** that fuses visual art, live art and literature, staged in cooperation with Mudam Luxembourg and Théâtre National du Luxembourg. This unique set-up will provide festival visitors with an opportunity to delve into the cross-media artist's weird and wonderful world for the entire duration of the festival. Corillon's works rely on metaphor to explore universal themes like the passing on of folklore (*La Rivière Bien Nommée*), the wide-reaching impact of family history (*Le benshi d'Angers*), the state of emotional shock triggered by a work of art (*L'ermite ornemental*) or the potential of stories to make people feel hopeful (*L'appartement à trous*).

The festival will close with a second production from Belgium: Asciano Celestini's *Discours à la Nation* (BE, in French) won the 2013 Prix de la Critique and the Avignon OFF Festival Prize and is a reflection on the relationship between the oppressor and the oppressed. In passionate rants and monologues bursting with cynicism the up and coming actor David Murgia is visibly and ferociously devoted to breathing life into the play's characters – politicians and CEOs whose language is stripped of the gloss of respectability, becoming at once grotesquely funny and frightening.

With Cédric Leproust, the festival schedule features a third artist from a **French-speaking** country - Switzerland. Leproust's piece is an experimental project, a solo mixing theatre and performance art that sees the protagonist travelling back and forth between the world of the living and that of the dead in an attempt to make audiences feel the battle we fight to stay alive and experience it more vividly.

Homo Automaticus, an adaptation of Valère Novarina's *Le Monologue d'Adramélech* by Leopold von Verschuer from **Germany** will undoubtedly be one of the festival's surprise moments. Von Verschuer slips into the skin of a foot soldier, a spokesperson for a world that is normally silenced or muzzled who will not stop lamenting his situation. It is a performance driven by excess and goes over and beyond the surrealists' technique of automatic writing. Sophie Rois is also new to the festival. Her piece is a staged reading of William Somerset Maugham's novel *Theatre* (in German), a tragicomedy revealing humanity's lowest urges. The ever present Martin Engler, who has been inextricably linked to the festival since its beginnings in 2010 returns this year with his tribute to the little known literary works of the cross-media artist Dieter Roth. In *Engler sieht Roth*, Roth's anarchic poems and furious prose turn into strange, surprising and Dionysian sound bites.

I remember (GR, in Greek/English), a performance/installation with a telling title by festival regular

Olga Pozeli will haunt audiences with bags of emotion and memories.

The festival would not be complete without **national monodrama productions**. Steve Karier interprets *Ce que le dictateur n'a pas dit* (LU, in French), a work by the Tunisian writer and director Meriam Bousselemi. The monologue is a Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg coproduction and sees Karier in the role of a desperately lonely former dictator who feels compelled to hold imaginary conversations, as if to overcome the silence he is bound to by the Revolution. The festival's dance schedule features *Kaku* (LU/FR) by Yuko Kominami and *quantum variations* (LU) by Anu Sistonen. Kominami's piece is a choreographic analysis of notions of coincidence, scars and memories while Sistonen's project blends dance and video and explores the connection between the body and its image.

In 2014, the Fundamental Monodrama Festival will once again travel to **Africa**, but through choreography rather than drama. *Je m'appelle Fanta Kaba* by Kettly Noël (Mali) is a personal story about the relationship between women and the fantasies they trigger; as a naked sangoma, Ibokwe Khoza's (SA) dance in Albert Silindokhule's *Influences of a closet chant* is one of religion, sexuality and uprooting; and *In a world full of butterflies, it takes balls to be a caterpillar... some thoughts on falling*, a provocative (?) take on the notion of falling, brings together two pieces by Robyn Orlin (SA).

32 year-old choreography prodigy Daniel Linehan (U.S.) joins the festival's **dance** line-up with *Not about everything*, a fast-paced, well-balanced and intelligent piece in which the artists shares thoughts and ponderings with his audience whilst turning around his own axis, creating an atmosphere that is both meditative and mesmerizing.

The festival will continue to rely on its long-standing and trusted partner Kulturhaus Niederaanven, which this year will be home to the second edition of **MiniMono**, the monodrama festival dedicated to children from the age of two. *Einzelshafe* (AU, pantomime) tells the adventures of a shepherdess (Cordula Nossek) and her rebellious flock of sheep. *Den Till* (LU, in Luxembourgish) is a lively reinterpretation of the famous tale of prankster Till Eulenspiegel by storyteller Betsy Dentzer and juggler Max Hinger.

A number of **satellite events** will round off this year's festival programme: *the koehlerminder manifest*, a multimedia installation by Karen Köhler and Florence Minder; *Le festival en images*, two photography exhibitions by Bohumil Kostohryz, and a workshop led by Martin Engler with a closing mini-monodrama performance with the (well-known but secret) workshop participants.

Detailed information on www.fundamental.lu