

Schauspielhaus Zürich

Medienmitteilung

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Season 2023/24

There are great things to see in the last season of co-directors Benjamin von Blomberg and Nicolas Stemann at the Schauspielhaus Zürich: The world premiere of Kim de l'Horizon's *Blutbuch* and Virginie Despentes' *Liebes Arschloch*, as well as the opera *Carmen*, newly interpreted by Wu Tsang. Nicolas Stemann himself will stage two jubilee classics, while the performers will appear once again in large ensemble pieces. All eight house directors, with whom the directorship of Stemann and von Blomberg began, will come together once again in this last season.

For the last time, for the first time, finally: the two artistic directors express melancholy, pride and anticipation at today's media orientation for the 2023/24 season, which will be their last. "In the last four years, we have initiated demanding processes at the Schauspielhaus and reached people in Zurich who have never set foot in a city theatre. We want change and openness to remain important after we leave." At the same time, they said, their last season in Zurich should be something special: "The material is sensual and fun, it gets under your skin, reflects the past, depicts the present and dares to look into the future." With the reunion of all house directors, who started together with the artistic directors in the 2019/20 season, a circle closes. All eight - Leonie Böhm, Suna Gürler, Trajal Harrell, Christopher Rüping, Wu Tsang, Yana Ross, Alexander Giesche and Nicolas Stemann - will come to the Schauspielhaus with a new production in their last year.

Premieres 2023/24

A student writes essays about infiltrating the home of a wealthy family, where he first challenges the role of the son, then the husband. A teacher is so fascinated by what he reads he becomes his child's mentor, then his accomplice and, finally, his victim. In *Der Junge aus der letzten Reihe*, director Christiane Jatahy uses the material by Spanish playwright Juan Mayorga to shed light on the boundaries between pedagogy and class, reality and fiction. The premiere is on 8 September 2023 in the Schiffbau Box.

Exactly 80 years to the day after the premiere in Zurich, Nicolas Stemann brings Bertolt Brecht's *Das Leben des Galilei* back to the Pfauen on 9 September 2023. Climate crisis, war, pandemic: even decades later, the discourse between science and power, between advocates of renewal and traditional forces is poisoned. What would Galilei do?

In Suna Gürler's world premiere *jetzt, jetzt, jetzt* (working title), 40 young people collectively negotiate the future on stage. Chaos? Creation? Beginning of the world? Maybe a bit of everything. It will certainly be thrilling. The premiere is on 28 September 2023 at the Pfauen.

Leonie Böhm and author Kim de l'Horizon met last year in Zurich. It quickly became clear that this is only the beginning of a story. After her radical adaptations of the classics, Böhm's *Blutstück* is her first-time approach of a contemporary text. And Kim de l'Horizon puts *Blutbuch* – arguably the most talked-about German-language literary debut of last year and winner of the 2022 Swiss and German Book Prizes – into an artistic process with an open outcome. De l'Horizon will be on stage themselves. *Blutstück* premieres on 20 October 2023 at the Pfauen.

A fork, stabbed directly into the stomach, the whole class saw it! But Gwen remains silent about the attack on her best friend. Instead, Yves apologises! Who is actually the victim here? *Amore United* by Lucien Haug is a play about (supposed) polarisation, about conflicts, love and (in)reconciliation. A classroom play from the jungen theater basel comes to the Pfauen-Kammer in October 2023.

Nicolas Stemann's "emancipated Snow White with cult potential" (NZZ) finally returns to the Pfauen after four years on 4 November 2023 - and has not become a bit more well-behaved in the meantime. While her father is, as always, absent, Snow White teaches the dwarves to run their male household themselves and simultaneously prevents the fairytale forest from being cut down. And the following also make an appearance to live happily ever after: a good Wolf, a shy Huntsman, and a cheeky Little Red Riding Hood.

In *Liebes Arschloch*, the writer Oscar, who is about fifty years old, surfs the wave of success - until it comes to a crash. Through no fault of his own, as he perceives it, he gets caught up in a #MeToo scandal through his relationship with the feminist blogger Zoé. In the ruins of his life, Oscar seeks solace with film diva Rebecca, who initially shares his outrage but then increasingly develops empathy for Zoé's perspective. A duel develops about old and new feminism, power, intoxication and prudery. Director Yana Ross invites us to the world premiere of Virginie Despentes' bestseller at the Pfauen on 25 November 2023.

In *The Ozard of Wiz*, seven people return to their childhood through a magical storm, to a time without shame. They hope to finally get everything they have been searching for all their lives: Brains, courage, a heart and a home. The family play directed by René Geerlings, which comes to the Schauspielhaus at the invitation of the Blickfelder Festival, is full of vogue, pop music and melancholy. The Zurich premiere will take place on 6 December 2023 at the Schiffbau Box.

Family reunion at the lake house. Scorching heat, paralysing boredom. Son Kostja tries his hand at playwriting, but his progressive play, which he performs for his relatives,

flops. Much to the amusement of his mother Arkadina, a famous actress, who in turn wonders what her future might look like in this progressive theatre. With *Die Möwe*, Christopher Rüping directs Chekhov for the first time. The premiere is on 20 December 2023 at the Pfauen.

Humans, ghosts and a power-hungry wizard in exile, stranded on a deserted island. Wu Tsang and Moved by the Motion weave Shakespeare's *Sturm (The Tempest)* with sci-fi, satire and the magical act of theatre itself. On 20 January 2024, they whisk us away from the Pfauen into a near future in which sea levels have reached apocalyptic levels and the few remaining humans must ask themselves what actually makes them human.

For giving birth to a child as an unmarried woman and concealing the name of the father, Hester Prynne is disowned. In colonised 17th century North America, she is forced to wear a scarlet "A" on her chest at all times as punishment. Dancer and choreographer Trajal Harrell takes an imaginative look back at the past in *Tambourines*: what would have happened if Hester and other women had had allies in such situations? The premiere is on 10 February 2024 at the Pfauen.

Eurodance sounds like partying, sex and a perfect world - and for some white male music producers, a lot of money. But in the reality of the black women who sing the characteristic soul passages without ever seeing a penny in royalties, there is not much left of the party atmosphere. In *Last Night a DJ Took My Life*, director Joana Tischkau illuminates the structures of successful hit machines of the 1990s against the backdrop of race, gender and cultural appropriation. Premiering 12 March 2024 at the Schiffbau Box.

Nicolas Stemanns bids farewell to his co-directorship with Max Frisch's *Biedermann und die Brandstifter*. Of all things, one might say. The play about the hypocrisy of the rich bourgeois gentlemen who stop at nothing for their status until the poor peddlers finally set fire to the city in their rage was first performed 65 years ago at the Pfauen. The premiere is on 21 March 2024.

Charred tree stumps instead of rainforest, plumes of smoke visible as far as outer space, destroyed livelihoods: the burning of the Amazon, driven by the greedy policies of then President Jair Bolsonaro, horrified the world public. To conclude their antiquity trilogy, Milo Rau and his team travelled to Brazil and, together with indigenous activists and actors, and resurrected *Antigone im Amazonas* on a piece of occupied land. The bloody showdown between traditional wisdom and global turbo-capitalism will take place at the Pfauen in the spring of 2024.

A thirty-year-old writer suffers from an inflamed libido, but not from writer's block. In the intoxication of a night, he fills his diary with homoerotic desires and seeks the company of queens and queers to celebrate together the farewell to the world of reason. Director

Alexander Giesche adapts *Moise und die Welt der Vernunft* for the first time for a big stage and uses the template for his very personal farewell to the world of reason. In his case, the escape is made with poetry, tenderness, and yes: party! The first celebrations will take place in spring 2024 at the Pfauen.

Carmen is a lover, a rebel, a worker, a hustler and the character of one of the most performed operas in the world. Wu Tsang and Moved by the Motion take the rich heritage and develop the tragedy further into a hybrid opera-theatre piece with orchestra that doesn't care about genres, but about love, loss and liberation. *Carmen* premieres on 4 May 2024 at the Schiffbau Halle.

25,000 verses! It is not known whether director Leonie Böhm really ploughed through the entire sixteen volumes of the medieval heroic epic *Parzival*, written in old German, for her season-spanning project with the Zurich ensemble or whether she just read a summary from ChatGPT. One thing is certain: the contents are painfully topical. They deal with ignorance, guilt, sexuality and redemption. Spoiler alert: in order to become king, Parzival must be able to break away from his self-centredness and learn how to show empathy.

Theatre Mediation for Young People

In the coming season, around 40 people between the ages of 14 and 24 will continue to meet weekly at the Schauspielhaus in four different *Jugendclubs* to get to know the world of theatre and to have their plays premiered in the spring of 2024. The *Theaterjahr*, in which five young, interested people can gain work experience in all areas of theatre as well as develop their own project, will also continue. In addition, there is our theatre education programme *Theater & Schule*, which aims to give children and young people access to formative theatre experiences at an early age.

The presale for the 2023/24 season starts on 19 June 2023.

Thank You

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The 2023/24 season preview booklet can be ordered or downloaded under the following link: <https://2324.schauspielhaus.ch/de/>

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