

No Exit – Reloaded Project Description

A modern and free adaptation based on motifs from the 1944 French play by Jean Paul Sartre written by BAFTA award winner and Offie nominee John Foster.

No Exit – Reloaded is a new look at one of the world's most famous noir plays. The british playwright John Foster will be working together with Manusarts to develop a contemporary retelling of this three person claustrophobic drama about being trapped in a room without a way out by people who all desire something they cannot have.

Content

In *No Exit*, three damned souls are brought to the same room in hell. They had all expected torture devices to punish them for eternity but instead find a plain and luxuriously furnished room, not admitting their reason for damnation at first. Linked by circumstance the relationships between the characters within the room subscribe the famous notion that “hell is other people,” being caused to see oneself from the view of another consciousness and facing one’s own vanity. The charcters finally confess their moral crimes and realize that they have not ended up in the same room by accident but will have eternity to make each other feel miserable, finding themselves trapped in a lost love triangle, each desiring the person they cannot have.

Retelling

Sartre’s play is timeless in terms of theme. Yet in order to resonate with the modern world in the way Sartre’s original from 1944 did, the dramatic material needs to be updated, especially the sexual politics. Elements which might have once shocked, such as one character’s “lesbianism” no longer has the importance it once did. In reloading the play, we dare to be radical. The play will be set in the near future, about five years hence, 2022 in the world of terrorism and changing political landscapes of the post-Brexit post-Trump era. Not to become a political play, but one reflective of the anarchic world we now live in, where all the old assumptions have been turned on their head.

Production

No Exit –Reloaded is produced by Manusarts GmbH in collaboration with Down the Rabbit Hole Theatre and will perform at House of International Theatre - HIT from September 29th – October 11th, 2017. The play launches the 2017/2018 theatre season and will be directed by Jeremy Thomas-Poulsen, starring Jana Pulkrabek, Dina Rosenmeier and Kevin Kiernan-Molloy.

John Foster is a BAFTA award winning and current Offie nominee british playwright and screenwriter, most known for his dark noir plays such as: *Five Go Killing*, *Shot at Dawn*, *Letters of a Murderer*, which was turned into a film by Patrick Swayze. He has worked for the BBC, Central and Granada. He teaches at the Media School of Bournemouth University, the University of the Arts in London, the London School of Film, Media & Performance at Regent’s University in London, as well as on British Council overseas script development programs. John Foster is the head of UK based Doppelgänger Productions, known for creating a vibrant theatre culture by presenting new writing to diverse audiences. For his highly praised work John Foster works with funds by UK Arts Council, National Heritage Lottery and Big Lottery, among others. John Foster functions on a European and international basis. He has been developing his working relationship with Jana Pulkrabek from Manusarts and is very keen to establish ongoing cultural ties with HIT, to embrace cultural exchange and collabora-

tions, which will not only enrich the dramatic work but also widen HIT's international relevance.

Jeremy Thomas-Poulsen is a Copenhagen based american director who has been named as trailblazer #1 for English speaking theatre in Copenhagen by CPH Post. Jeremy will direct six new shows at HIT for the 2017-18 season. He is the artistic director of Down the Rabbit Hole Theatre and Local Artistic Director of HIT and most known for his productions Venus in Fur, Sex and Betrayal and Drømmens Faner.

Jana Pulkrabek is the International Artistic Director of HIT, which she established together with Jeremy Thomas-Poulsen. She is a German-Czech theatre and film producer, director and actress. Jana studied acting at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute and The Actor's Studio, as well as directing and producing in London and Berlin. After six years abroad Jana returned to Germany where she worked for several production companies and ran a children's theatre. Jana has designed and produced numerous theatre projects for the cultural exchange office of the Hamburg Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Municipality of Copenhagen, Magistrate Prague and various international partners in London and France. She is currently developing "Move the North," a festival network for fostering closer international cultural connections, with the vision to create an international forum of creativity and mutual exchange - allowing for jointly created, new impulses. She now splits her time between Hamburg and Copenhagen.

Dina Rosenmeier is a Danish actress best known for her work in film and television, such as Down Dog and Reality Check. For theatre, she has been in such productions as Night Mother, The Stronger, Hedda Gabler and Lovers, Authors & Other Strangers. She is a member of the Danish Actors Union.

Kevin Kiernan-Molloy is an Australian actor who has recently moved to Copenhagen. He won the Green Room Award for Best Male Performer in 2015 for his role Lora Willing and the Creek Don't Rise. He has had leading roles at such theatres as La Mama and The Queensland Theatre.

Timeline

John Foster will present a first draft script of the material and join the team for the rehearsal period which is divided into two blocks. The first rehearsal block will start towards mid/end of August. The second block will resume two weeks prior to the premiere on September 29th, 2017. The idea is to give space for artistic cooperation between the authors, cast and team in order to partly workshop the content of the play and thus allow for jointly created impulses.

Summary

No Exit – Reloaded - a contemporary retelling of Jean Paul Sartre's legendary play.

Written by: BAFTA award winning british playwright John Foster

Directed by: Jeremy Thomas-Poulsen

Produced by: Manusarts GmbH / Jana Pulkrabek in collaboration with Down the Rabbit Hole

Cast: Jana Pulkrabek, Dina Rosenmeier, Kevin Kiernan-Molloy

Light design: Paul Damade; Stage Manager: Angelique Grior

Performances: 29.9.2017 – 11.10.2017 (11 Performances in total); Language: English

Venue: House of International Theatre, Huset-KBH 4th floor Stage, houseofinternationaltheatre.dk