



FIDENA 2016 – Figurentheater DER Nationen
4. to 12. May 2016 in Bochum, Essen, Hattingen und Herne

PRESS RELEASE

Yes; it's true, FIDENA's fantastic! It searches out the very best puppet and figure theatre in the world. As a result, from 4th to 12th May, the Ruhrgebiet can look forward to witnessing a selection of puppetry art that could scarcely be more variegated. This year our major focus will be on **ASIA**. The continent will be providing our audiences with a window through which to see European puppet theatre in a completely new light. The Festival will be covering a huge range of styles. These will range from the world's oldest traditions of puppetry in India to the most avant-garde material theatre in Western Europe, from gigantic stage shows to tiny object theatre.

30 companies and performers from Belgium, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, Russia, the Czech Republic and Vietnam will be our guests for **9 days long** in **Bochum, Essen, Herne** and also, **for the first time, in Hattingen**. FIDENA 2016 – will feature a total of **48 events**, including 18 shows for children and families, as well as daily performances in refugee accommodation centres in the region. FIDENA 2016 – will also feature **7 German premieres** and....for the very first time in the almost 60 year history of the Festival, FIDENA will be presenting its very own **world premiere** of a show called "Moondog" in coproduction with the Bochum Theatre. "Moondog", directed by FIDENA's artistic director, Annette Dabs, is more than just a musical homage to the composer Louis Thomas Hardin (alias Moondog) who would have been celebrating his 100th birthday this year.

Thanks to financial support from the State Cultural Foundation we have been able to focus this year's activities on **ASIA**. Six productions are coming to the Ruhrgebiet, that will not be seen again for some time in Europe. These will have no difficulty in overcoming all cultural and language barriers. Two of the most impressive productions will surely be the Saigon Water Puppet Theatre and the huge shadow theatre show "Lanka Dahanam" by Andhra Pradesh. "MatchAtria", a multimedia Japanese/German dance installation will be revealing a pulsating contemporary universe consisting of dance, video and sound landscapes.



As well as the productions from Asia, FIDENA will also be presenting some of the most interesting current shows from Europe. In Bochum, **Maarten Seghers**, the globally celebrated performer from the Belgian **Needcompany**, will be presenting the German premiere of his new play "O or The Challenge Of This Particular Show Was To Have Words Ending in O". The Essen artist **Jarnoth** will be showing his play "It's my Ego that's forcing me", a wild revue featuring transsexual puppets, masks and live music. "3 Acts", a play by the uncompromising figure theatre artist **Antje Töpfer** is a radical exploration of materials. "Plastic Heroes" by **Ariel Doron**, is a wild and witty antiwar puppet play from Israel that only uses toys.

There are five productions for young audiences in the programme. One of them, for the very young, is the German premiere of "The Lamb that fell from Heaven". This poetic participation play from the Czech Republic was inspired by a children's book entitled "The Cloud Sheep". Furthermore FIDENA will also be going on the road: "Raining Chickens" by the **Théâtre Libanais de Marionnettes & KHAYAL** (Lebanon) will be playing in refugee accommodation centres on every day of the festival.

Since 1958 the FIDENA (Figurentheater DER NATIONen) festival has been one of the most popular events organised by the German Forum for Figure Theatre and the Art of Puppetry. During this time it has presented over 1000 performances from around 50 countries. The international festival was selected by the *Stadtwerk Bochum* as one of its "Future Projects". It is also one of the high points in the cultural life of the city and the region.

The CEO and artistic director is the director **Annette Dabs**.

FIDENA
Figurentheater der Nationen
Bochum, Essen, Hattingen, Herne
4. to 12. May 2016

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