



**vienna  
theatre  
project**

# Backstage

Volume 2 Issue 1

November 2007

## La Vie Ennui

La Vie Ennui

Premiere 30 Nov.

1 to 15 Dec.

Every day but  
Sunday and  
Monday

Performances  
start at 19:45

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"Madams et Messieurs,  
Ladies and Gentleman (and  
I use that term loosely!),  
willkommen, bienvenue,  
WELCOME to Chez Leplee..."

**vienna theatre project** is  
delighted to welcome you  
to an evening of song and  
dance, hosted by those two  
"Grande Dames" of the  
Parisian D-list celebre de  
cirque, Dominique Jolie and  
Fatigue Fourbu. Join them  
as they drink you through  
an evening of tantrums,  
tears and tiara's, though  
not necessarily in that  
order.

*La Vie Ennui* ("The Boring  
Life") is set in 1950's Paris.  
Dominique and Fatigue,  
rather like post war Paris  
itself, have seen better  
days, and throughout this  
funny, touching  
(occasionally sad) charming  
piece will guide you  
through their many tales of  
lost loves & long forgotten  
dreams.

With the nightclub owner  
Monsieur Leplee out of the  
way for the evening, these  
two brassy broads finally  
take charge, and break  
away from the constraints  
of Edith Piaf, giving the  
audience a glimpse of what  
it's really like BEHIND the  
scenes - underneath the  
wigs, the make up and the  
chipped nail polish. What  
really happens when the

champagne stops flowing?  
You are about to find out...



"La Vie Ennui" is a first for  
director Kieran Brown, and  
Musical Director Kyrre  
Kvam (who looks  
suspiciously like the piano  
player and butt of many  
jokes JPP...). Both are  
experienced Musical  
performers, having  
appeared in London's West  
End and racked up  
numerous theatrical credits  
between them throughout  
Europe. This is their first  
time working together in  
this capacity, and they aim  
to whisk you away, forget  
your troubles for a couple  
of hours, and revel in  
someone else's! They invite  
you to scratch the surface

and look behind the  
sequence at exactly what  
makes it sparkle, and what  
causes it to fade.

To play such colourful  
characters, you need an  
even more colourful cast,  
and in Sabine Bina &  
Carmen Wiederstein, we  
have found just that.  
Between them, their  
experience in Musical  
Theatre is vast and more  
than qualifies them for the  
job. They sang beautifully  
at the auditions, and  
immediately established a  
relationship and comfort  
zone that was important in  
finding our two "Belle  
Coquettes". We are VERY  
excited to be working with  
them, and are confident  
that over the next two  
weeks of rehearsals, this  
partnership will continue to  
bloom into a vibrant, lively,  
completely over the top  
and ultimately touching  
relationship.

So, take a touch of  
*Cabaret*, add a dash of  
*Moulin Rouge*, a PINCH of  
*Chicago*, and turn up at the  
Ensemble Theatre from 30  
November, glass (or  
bottle) of Champagne in  
hand, to sample the  
delights of this "Musical  
Sorbet". You won't be  
disappointed. Oh yes, and  
Ladies, hang on to your  
men. AND your feather  
Boas..."

**BOOKING NOW!**

**ticket@viennatheatreproject.at**  
**Or Ensemble Theater 01 53 53 200**

# Black History Month



...celebrating 200 years of the abolition of slavery...

“... a fascinating piece of American Theatre...”

Thank you to all those who auditioned!



After the resounding success of V Day in March 2007 where around EUR 5000 was raised to help Women’s charities, it is with great pleasure that we announce another charity project this coming season. In cooperation with the US Embassy, **vienna theatre project** will spend a month using the celebration of African-American history, in commemoration of the bi-centenary of the abolition of slavery, to create a wider dialogue concerning the positive influence of African culture on modern society.

During the month of February in 2008, **vienna theatre project** will show case films, music culture and theatre celebrating African history. We are very

thrilled at the prospect of offering matinee performances of films by Spike Lee amongst others at the Film Museum, we hope to have a concert featuring some of the many great artists resident here in Vienna, and finally we will produce a great play called “The Meeting” at the Ensemble Theater.

The Meeting creates an imaginary situation in which Malcolm X and Martin Luther King meet together in a hotel room and discuss each other’s vision and the contrast between right versus might to gain civil rights, a fascinating piece of American theatre.

Donations will be gladly received and the proceeds will be

given to CARE Austria, with the specific target that it should be used to help broken families who have suffered the atrocities of genocide in Darfur.

To find out more about these events nearer the time please keep watching our website on [www.viennatheatreproject.at](http://www.viennatheatreproject.at) and look out for the flyers and posters which will become available nearer the time.

If you would like to sponsor this or any other Vienna theatre project production & event, there are many positive opportunities to involve your company in our upkeep. For opportunities please contact [office@viennatheatreproject.at](mailto:office@viennatheatreproject.at)

## Castings

**vienna theatre project** would like to thank all the wonderful actors and actresses who have attended the recent castings. It was with great pleasure that we found so much interest for our exciting projects

this season *La Vie Ennui*, *Black History Month* and *According to Hoyle*.

We are terribly sorry for the people who did not get a role, but we encourage you to try again in the future.

Should you still be interested in getting involved in any **vienna theatre project** production on stage or backstage, please feel free to contact the office by sending an e-mail to [office@viennatheatreproject.at](mailto:office@viennatheatreproject.at)

## Meet the team



Vienna theatre project can only survive through the contributions of the amazing people working throughout the year behind the scenes.

### THANK YOU!

When the curtains close, the audience has left and the bar has shut these are the people who continue to work tirelessly putting together a season... and continue to champion contemporary English speaking theatre in Vienna.

Sarah K Hayes, Joanna

Godwin-Seidl, Adrienna Ferguson, Natalie Cantini, Juliet Najjar, Sharron Aubrey, Nina Kusche, Pamela Schermann.

All those who support us for each performance, we extend thanks to them too:

Ine Grunverseen, Gernot Ottowitz, Celine McDonald...

**If you would like to advertise in this newsletter or in a programme please contact us!**

office@  
viennatheatreproject.at

## What's on? English in Vienna

Apart from **vienna theatre project** there is a wealth of English language activities...

### The International Theatre

Don't miss the traditional Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", 19 November to 29 December  
www.internationaltheater.at

### A Guide to Sexual Misery

At the English Cinema Haydn... Austria's # 1 comedy-therapy show!  
www.haydnkino.at

### English Theatre

Playing Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" from 5 November to 21 December  
www.englishtheatre.at

### English Lovers

Don't miss the hilarious English improv group throughout November.  
www.english-lovers.at

### Ether Magazine

Vienna's community magazine for English speakers  
www.ethermagazine.at

## Celebrating 5 years of theatre magic...

Five years ago Martin Buxbaum set up a unique theatre company, with the vision of bringing contemporary, urban theatre to Vienna.

The challenge was to entice Austrian and international audiences, not with old favourites like Oscar Wilde, or Thornton Wilder, but open up the broader spectrum of modern English speaking theatre that is both diverse and exciting.

**vienna theatre project** thrilled audiences with plays such as *Iz* by Oliver Emanuel or the sell out musical success *I Love You You're Perfect Now Change*.

In May 2006, waving a fond adieu to Martin, Joanna Godwin-Seidl and Sarah Hayes sat in a bar one evening and said "We can do it!" and thus started the next **vienna theatre project** journey and new adventures, re-launching the new look with a great

party in October 2006.

The company kicked off with a highly popular charity event *V-Day* which included performances of *The Vagina Monologues*, exhibitions and song. Another hot favourite *Closer* by Patrick Marber, drew more crowds in May 2007.

This season the story continues with the lively musical *La Vie Ennui* further featuring our next charity project *Black History Month*.

Dear reader!

Welcome back! We are delighted to be opening our season at the end of November with the second musical Vienna theatre project has undertaken... *La Vie Ennui* and we look forward to seeing you there!

As a company we are celebrating "5 years of theatre magic" this year as Martin Buxbaum founded the Verein in 2002. As ever, we extend our thanks to Martin for all his support and his initiative!

Thanks too to Alina Cibea who will no longer be the backstage coordinator. Her work was mainly unseen but hugely important and we want to thank her for everything!

See you soon!



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**Let us challenge your world...**

## Ask the Audience...

### Why I Support vienna theatre project

**Katie Binns: Editor, Ether Magazine**  
[www.ethermagazine.at](http://www.ethermagazine.at)

It hasn't been a long time since I first heard about the vienna theatre project. As editor of Ether Magazine, I was contacted by Sarah Hayes in October last year and invited to their launch party. From the beginning they have impressed me with their professionalism, enthusiasm, energy and creative flair. Nothing is done in half measures with the vienna theatre project. This buzzing vibe just hits you when you meet those involved or attend their productions and events. I saw *The Vagina*

*Monologues* back in February (and made a bit of an impression myself when I fainted in the middle of the performance - so impressed was I) and *Closer* in May. I am excited about *La Vie Ennui* in November. The choice of productions has



**Katie... in her own artistic recreation of her faint at the pink and white party!**

shown not only their ambition but their ability to pull off such a variety in a short space of time. Let's not forget that it was the vienna theatre project that brought *The Vagina Monologues* in its original language to Austria for the first time. Not only did they wow us with the actual performance but the party, the exhibition, the fund-raising and the organised talks that went with it showed me they are serious about their passion.

Not only do they 'challenge' our 'world' as their motto goes but they go that extra mile every time in everything they do... and that is why I support the vienna theatre project.