



vienna theatre project

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Premieres 16 April, 2008
at the Ensemble Theater

TICKETS: 01-5353200

et-info@ensembletheatre.at

Black History Month – February 2008 A roaring success!

DARFUR TUN WIR WAS
INTERNATIONALES BENEFIZ-FESTIVAL
Anlässlich von BLACK HISTORY MONTH zugunsten der Darfur Hilfe von CARE Österreich
FEBRUAR 2008

KONZERT
Eine Reise durch afro-amerikanische Musikgeschichte. Von Gospel über Jazz und Motown bis Funk und Hip Hop.
Black History Month Concert
Eddie Cole, Kim Cooper, Michi Fischer, Lynne Kieran, Johnny K. Palmer, Victoria Quattalbaum, Norman Stehr, Ronnie Vero, Daniel Williams, u. a.
Donnerstag, 7. Februar 2008, 20:00 Uhr
Birdland, 1030 Wien

FILM-MATINÉES
Zwei der herausragendsten Filme zum Schwerpunkt Black History.
To Kill A Mockingbird (1962, DV)
mit Gregory Peck, Robert Duvall und Brock Peters.
Robert Mulligans dreifach Oscar gekrönter Film.
Sonntag, 3. Februar 2008, 11:00 Uhr
Österreichisches Filmmuseum, 1010 Wien
Beloved (1998, DV)
mit Oprah Winfrey und Danny Glover.
Mehrfach preisgekrönter und Oscar nominierter Film von Jonathan Demme basierend auf dem gleichnamigen Roman von Toni Morrison.
Sonntag, 24. Februar 2008, 11:00 Uhr
Österreichisches Filmmuseum, 1010 Wien

THEATER
Österreich Premiere, auf Englisch
The Meeting
von Jeff Stetson.
Woüber hätten Malcolm X und Martin Luther King, Jr. gesprochen, wenn sie einander niemals alleine getroffen hätten?
Mit Allan Browne, Norman Stehr, Ronny Vero und David Wurawa
21., 22. und 23. Februar 2008
Jeweils um 19:45 Uhr
Ensemble Theater, 1010 Wien

TICKETS: WIEN-TICKET.AT
0158885

Der Reinerlös geht an die Darfur Hilfe von CARE Österreich

Unterstützt von: care, WIEN-TICKET.AT 0158885, ENSEMBLE THEATER, film museum, U.S. Embassy, UPS, GENERAL SPONSORING European Land Services, Amway, Marriott, Hilton, PEGASUS TV

Editing by

STEPS AHEAD

LANGUAGE FORUM

www.steps-ahead.at

More on these events inside!

Blind Dates

16 – 26 April, 2008,
19:45

Ensemble Theater
Petersplatz 1,
1010 Vienna

Starring: Jim Libby, Michael Smulik, Kathy Tanner, Anne Weiner, Dennis Kozeluh, Belush Korenyi, Jacob Banigan, Klaus Erharter and, last but not least, Bronwynn Mertz-Penzinger.

vienna theatre project proudly presents theatre at its most exciting, with **English Lovers**, Austria's favourite improvisation company.



BLIND DATES dazzles the audience with its thrilling theatrical insight into the fears, dangers, despairs and joys of knowing people.

The **English Lovers'** most acclaimed show to date; a black comedy that dares to reveal the naked truth about the ways people come together, live, perhaps love and finally drift apart.

BLIND DATES was conceived for two actors;

here however, the audience decides who the characters are and where their paths will cross... This is, without a doubt, a theatre experience second to none. No two nights are ever the same, as the story is co-created by you, our nightly audience, and unfolds before your eyes – a show tailor-made just for you.

Voted the country's improv. champions three times over, these gifted actors are at the top of their game.



Since their first comedy "A Load of Nonsense" in January 1999 at the Theater Drachengasse, the **Lovers** have moved increasingly towards completely improvised performances. Now in their tenth-anniversary season, the **Lovers** have become an influential element of Vienna's international theatre community.

Who are the English Lovers?



Extensive touring throughout Europe and America has given the **Lovers** not only a unique perspective on theatre and story-telling, but also a loyal fan base all over the world. Both critics and audiences agree: the **Lovers** rock!

Although their stunning performances have beguiled time and time again, there are still those here in the **Lovers'** home town of Vienna who have not yet experienced the magic that is an **English Lovers** show! Don't miss this opportunity to see some of the finest artists in their field.

www.english-lovers.com

"Blind Dates is an exciting, funny and engaging night out."

In February, with the support of the U.S. Embassy in Vienna, we organised the "Darfur – Tun Wir Was" charity festival, celebrating Black History and African-American Civil Rights successes and raising money for CARE Österreich and the civil war victims in Sudan.

What a month it was! We opened at the Film Museum with the very beautiful film

Black History Month Concert



"To Kill a Mockingbird", starring Gregory Peck. A memorable history lesson on social and cultural change.

We wish to express our extreme gratitude to all the magnificent performers who took part in the

brilliant concert at Birdland: Norman, Lynne, Kim, Eddie, Daniél, V-Ro, Johnny, Hannibal, Big John, Jon Palmer and the Star Mass Gospel Choir, Victoria and all the other wonderful artists who made this *the* Vienna event in February. "*One of the best concerts we have ever had here*" (Birdland) People were singing, dancing on tables, laughing. It was a very special evening, and we hope to be able to repeat it one day!

The Meeting

Ensemble Theater, "Very real theatre" (Wienerzeitung)

What happens when Malcolm X and Martin Luther King meet? You sell every seat in the theatre, and then some!

Directed by Joanna Godwin-Seidl, the actors Allen Browne (King) Norman Stehr (Malcolm) and Ronnie Wagner (Rashad)

gave memorable performances, their dedication emphasized by the transformation in these men as they worked on their roles.

The production received general acclaim and rave reviews from the press and members of the audience: "*I almost thought*

I was intruding on a private meeting – it was so real!"

Working on this important piece was a privilege for the whole crew. You missed it? We are doing it again – check out our website and back page of this newsletter!

Success throughout the whole event... money raised!

After the Thursday evening performance of "The Meeting", the audience was invited to take part in a talk-back session, which developed into quite a stimulating debate on equality and acceptance. On the evening of the final performance, the audience was given a special treat: the Star Mass Gospel Choir enthralled the spectators with their superb gospel songs. The charity festival was brought to a close with the highly celebrated motion picture "Beloved" – 3 hours of unmitigated drama. Everybody loved it!



We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, to Roland Fuchs, Kathy Perez and Harald Lembacher, the U.S. Embassy in Vienna and CARE Österreich (who will shortly receive the donation money raised). This proved to be a truly moving, inspiring and special month that we were proud to have been part of.

Photos on this page courtesy of Eva Drnek.

Cosima Dei, a playwright on play writing!

There is a world out there and a world inside of me. When the latter starts getting bigger, louder and suddenly the characters start talking to me, wake me up at night, have breakfast with me, follow me to the toilet, begging me to tell their story, I must

almost stop living MY OWN life and start living theirs. When they finally leave me alone, I know I've done my job: a play is born. In the beginning, each character is part of me, but once the play is written, they stand on their own. This is when I start working with the actors. They read the lines. If it

feels real, the dialogue flows. I don't want to TELL something to the audience. I want them to feel. Laugh. Cry. Feel. The connection between playwright and audience is almost sacred.

"There's something silent under every person and under every play. There is something unsaid under any given society as well."

Why I support vienna theatre project – Eddie Cole

Vienna is loaded with surprises, and I think **vienna theatre project** is one of the biggest. A group of people with passion and dedication to give life to art.



My first experience with the company was *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change...*

I was really impressed with the incredible talent of the cast. The director was Lisa Chase – such an excellent piece she directed!

Looking back on the history, I'm sorry I missed some other things, e.g. "Night Mother"! I hope it comes back...

The exciting thing about **vienna theatre project** is you'll be surprised at what types of pieces they'll take on. I turned red when I told people I was going to see *The Vagina Monologues!* A great show, I've never laughed and cried so much!

It takes a special team to put together such pieces and choose the right cast. The power and drive the team has is passed on. I remember not long ago, Joanna Godwin-Seidl asked me if I'd take part in the *Black History Month*, where proceeds would go to Darfur! I said "yes, of course!!" It was like a whirlwind of energy engulfed Joanna; the next thing I knew, there were interviews on the radio, in newspapers; flyers and adverts everywhere... The fact that a benefit event of this nature is still important, and necessary, wasn't lost on the people involved.

The cream of the crop of artists, singers and musicians were motivated to take part in the wonderful benefit concert at *Birdland!*

It wasn't over then... Nooooo, not in the least! There was *The Meeting* with such an intense subject matter! It was a peek into the minds of Malcolm X and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King... So realistic, it would bring chills, laughter, pain and tears to your eyes. I've never seen anything like this in Vienna! This company gives you the opportunity to see fresh and innovative productions, and also opens the door to experimentation. This is what develops theatre and the arts. Glad I discovered it in this great package!

"It takes a special team to put together such pieces!"

SPONSORSHIP

vienna theatre project is looking for sponsors. If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact us at office@viennatheatreproject.at and find out about the many sponsorship opportunities

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.viennatheatreproject.com

The Meeting – new dates! Salzburg 11 – 13 June

Hot off the press!!! The cast and crew of "The Meeting" by Jeff Stetson are going on tour. We hope to do a teachers' preview in April 2008 for Vienna and Lower Austria, for further performances in and around Vienna.

June 11 – 13 will see the company playing at the

"Kleines Theater" in Salzburg, with the kind support of the United States Embassy in Vienna, of the Ensemble Theater and that of Doris Schreiber.

About the play: What happens when Martin Luther King Jr. meets Malcolm X?

This play by Jeff Stetson is a real surprise and a high quality, intellectual drama.

A discussion of right vs. might, a lesson in African-American history and the Civil Rights Movement. Featuring truly stunning performances by actors Allen Browne (King) Norman Stehr (Malcolm) and Ronnie Wagner (Rashad).

Watch this space for details.

What's on in March & April?



Stunning acting in Baal at the Ensemble Theater
Photo: Herbert Neubauer

*** Blind Dates

16 – 26 April at the Ensemble Theater,

starts at 19:45; best in improvisational theatre, with an award-winning team.

*** Currently showing at the Ensemble Theater is Bertholt Brecht's *Baal*; this show celebrates 40 years of Ensemble Theater Vienna. Details and ticket reservations on www.ensembletheater.at. 01-5353200

*** *Importance of Being Earnest*

Now playing,

International Theatre!

*** English Theater

*** Ether Magazine

www.ethermagazine.at on-line news and reviews for lovers of English and Vienna

*** British Bookshop

Best in books while stocks still last

*** Mummoka, MQ

Great food, great place for event bookings.

About Our Organization...

vienna theatre project is looking for new team members. If you would like to work on our admin. team, please contact us at office@viennatheatreproject.at and find out about the many opportunities available

vienna theatre project was founded in 2002 to facilitate high-quality English-language stage [productions](#), performed at different venues in and around the city of Vienna. Drawing from a rich pool of talented, Vienna-based [professional actors](#), **vienna theatre project** offers a wide range of [contemporary plays](#) written in English, making the tremendous scope of superb English-language plays more accessible to Viennese audiences.

We aim to integrate art into the community, creating a dialogue between the artist on stage and the audience.

vienna theatre project explores the boundaries of theatrical style, producing work that is both innovative and challenging. We are particularly committed to supporting new plays that can illuminate our time.



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theatre
project**

www.viennatheatreproject.at

Let us challenge your world...