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vienna theatre project 2004/05 SEASON

September 13-25, 2004

THE NINA VARIATIONS

(European Premiere)

by Steven Dietz

directed by Agnes Kitzler

Theater Drachengasse Bar&Co

Fleischmarkt 22, 1010 Vienna

November 3-18, 2004

**William Shakespeare's
TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA**

a modern version

(world premiere)

by the shakespeare project

directed by Martin Buxbaum

Ensembletheater

Petersplatz 1, 1010 Vienna

March 4-16, 2005

iz

(continental European premiere)

by oliver emanuel

directed by Thomas Crawley

dietheater Konzerthaus

Lothringerstrasse 20, 1010 Vienna

April 25 - May 7, 2005

I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE

(musical comedy, Austrian premiere in English)

by Joe DiPietro/Jimmy Roberts

directed by Lisa Chase

Ensembletheater

Petersplatz 1, 1010 Vienna

August 2005 – open-air (Wednesdays thru Saturdays only)

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

by William Shakespeare

location in downtown Vienna still to be finalized

About the 2004/05 season

The *vienna theatre project's* 3rd season will open at Theater Drachengasse with American playwright Steven Dietz's *The Nina Variations*, a modern take on the famous last encounter between Nina and Treplev in Chekhov's *The Seagull*. This European Premiere production, the *vienna theatre project's* 10th overall, will be directed by young Austrian Agnes Kitzler and will run September 13-25 at the Drachengasse's smaller bar space.

The Nina Variations will be followed in November by the world premiere of a modern version of **William Shakespeare's** lesser known romantic comedy *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, which is currently being written by *the shakespeare project*, a group of about 20 young writers at the English Department of the University of Vienna. This production will be directed by *vtp* Artistic Director Martin Buxbaum and will run November 3-18 at the Ensembletheater.

In March, young English director Thomas Crawley will direct the Continental European Premiere of *iz*, by Oliver Emanuel, a highly successful production from last year's Edinburgh Festival. *iz*, the endearing story of three men commemorating their former lover/wife, will run March 4-16, 2005, at the dietheater Konzerthaus.

To round off the *vienna theatre project's* indoor season, American director Lisa Chase will direct the sensational musical comedy *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* by Joe DiPietro and Jimmy Roberts, Off-Broadway's longest-running musical, which is now in its 9th year, at the Ensembletheater. This production from April 25 to May 7, 2005, will also break new ground as the *vienna theatre project's* first musical.

Another ground-breaking new project will form the end of the *vienna theatre project's* 2004/05 season: the open-air production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as the first show in the *vienna theatre project's* new **SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK** series, which is designed to present a different Shakespeare play every August as part of an open-air picnic get-together for Shakespeare and English theatre lovers. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will run Wednesdays to Saturdays in August 2005 at a downtown Vienna location yet to be finalized.

About vtp

The *vienna theatre project* was founded in spring 2002 with the purpose of facilitating high-quality English-language theatre productions at different venues in and around Vienna. Drawing from a pool of mostly Vienna-based professional actors whose native language is usually English, *vtp* attempts to offer a wide range of contemporary plays originally written in English and to make the tremendous scope of English-language plays from all over the world more accessible to Vienna audiences. 2004/05 will be the *vienna theatre project's* third season and – in addition to three regular productions – it will feature two completely new projects: a musical, and an open-air production in summer.

To find out more about the *vienna theatre project*, please contact its artistic director Martin Buxbaum at office@viennatheatreproject.at or +43 1 920 25 83, or visit its website at www.viennatheatreproject.at.

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About the plays

THE NINA VARIATIONS by Steven Dietz

In this funny, fierce and heartbreaking homage to *The Seagull*, Steven Dietz puts Chekhov's star-crossed lovers in a room and doesn't let them out. In forty-three variations on their famous final scene, Nina (a young actress) and Treplev (a young writer) pit their vibrant wit and soaring passions against one another in a fast-paced tour de force of romantic entanglement.

"delightful ... an odd, haunting, moving theater piece of lingering beauty"

William Shakespeare's *THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA* by the shakespeare project

In this modern version of one of Shakespeare's early romantic comedies, Shakespeare has had to spend about 400 years in purgatory because of some obvious weaknesses in the plot of his *Two Gentlemen*. To be released, he has to improve his play and update it for a contemporary audience, but his muse has her own ideas about which improvements ought to be made. In the story proper, Valentine and Proteus, two young students from Verona, Texas, transfer to the all-male Milan College in Great Britain to broaden their horizons. There, they both fall in love with the Dean's beautiful daughter, Sylvia, but Proteus's high-school sweetheart Julia follows her boyfriend to Britain in disguise to recapture his love.

Iz by oliver emanuel

When the title character dies suddenly, the lives of the three men that loved her are altered completely: Iz is gone, but not forgotten. In fact, she is making her lack of presence felt to Bez, Baz, and Ben – two former lovers and her husband. In life, Iz was the link between the three, calling them her "Apostles," but in death she is pulling them apart as grief and memory play tricks and they discover how hard it is to say that you really knew somebody. By changing skilfully between monologue, conversation, and fury, the three men realise how much Iz has defined them.

"a mature look at bereavement that is full of emotional honesty"

I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE by Joe DiPietro/Jimmy Roberts

Accompanied by piano and violin, four actors/singers cover more than 60 roles in a collection of hilarious scenes and songs scaling the spectrum of male/female relationships in which the difficulties and joys of connecting with another person, no matter what age, are revealed. Subjects covered on the musical ride through the modern-day mating game include dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands and wives, singles, and in-laws.

"Hilarious! The most entertaining show on or off Broadway!"

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM by William Shakespeare

An enchanting comedy of love, magic and transformation, this immortal tale of mismatched lovers, mischief-making fairies and lovable buffoons describes the romantic cross-purposes of two pairs of lovers (Hermia & Lysander and Helena & Demetrius), who pursue each other in the Athenian forest, which is also home to a tribe of fairies. At the same time, Athenian craftsmen are rehearsing a play there that is loosely (and comically) based on the myth of *Pyramus and Thisbe* and which is to be performed at the wedding of the Duke of Athens. Thanks to the impish fairy Puck's interference and some love potion that he puts on a number of characters' eyes, complete chaos ensues, and it takes Oberon, the King of the Fairies, all of his magic and cunning to restore order to the fairies, the craftsmen, and the lovers.