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the
vienna theatre project

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The Guys by Anne Nelson



Co-sponsored by the
US Embassy

Location: Theater Drachengasse – Fleischmarkt 22, 1010 Vienna
Dates: September 8-20, 2003 (Tuesday thru Saturday)
Premiere: Monday, September 8, 2003
Teachers' Preview: Sunday, September 7, 2003
Open Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, September 6, 2003
Time: 8 p.m.
With: Cristina Gavin (Joan), Gregory Fuller (Nick)
Tickets: 16€ regular
10€ students & Theatre Tuesday
group discounts available for groups of 10 or more
Reservations: +43 1 513 14 44 theater@drachengasse.at
+43 1 920 2583 or www.viennatheatreproject.at
Directed by vtp artistic director Martin Buxbaum

Performances in English

About *The Guys*

The Guys opened at the Flea Theater in New York City, seven blocks from Ground Zero, on December 4, 2001, twelve weeks after the attack. The hit off-off-Broadway production played there for over a year. Since then it has been produced all over the United States in professional theaters, community theaters and schools, as well as in a hospital and a firehouse, often to benefit local fire departments and related causes. A film version starring Sigourney Weaver and Anthony LaPaglia was released in 2003, and radio productions have been broadcast in Canada and Ireland. Czech national radio will broadcast the first Czech-language version on September 11, 2003.

The Guys is a timeless drama about the surprising truths people can discover in ordinary lives, and the connections we make with others and ourselves in times of tragedy. Paralyzed by grief and unable to put his thoughts into words, Nick, a fire captain, seeks out the help of a writer to compose eulogies for the colleagues and friends he lost in the catastrophic events of September 11. As Joan, an editor by trade, draws Nick out about "the guys," powerful profiles emerge, revealing vivid personalities and the substance and meaning that lie beneath the surface of seemingly unremarkable people. As the individual talents and enthusiasms of the people within the small firehouse community are realized, we come to understand the

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uniqueness and value of what each person has to contribute. And Nick and Joan, two people who under normal circumstances never would have met, jump the well-defined tracks of their own lives, and so learn about themselves, about life, and about the healing power of human connection, through talking about the guys.

About *Anne Nelson*

Anne Nelson was born at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Stillwater, Oklahoma. She graduated from Yale University, where she was active in music and theater, and was a soloist in the Yale production of Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* (including its European premiere in the Vienna Konzerthaus in 1973). Following university, she went into the fields of journalism and human rights research. From 1995 to 2003 she served as the director of the International Program at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism in New York, where she also taught international reporting. Her articles and photographs on the wars in Central America appeared in numerous publications in the United States and Canada. She continues to write and broadcast on international affairs, and lives in New York City with her husband, author George Black, and their two children, David and Julia.

About vtp

The *vienna theatre project* was founded in 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 in the original and to make the tremendous scope of English-language plays from all over the world more accessible to Vienna audiences. After a successful first season with runs of *Oleanna* at Theater Drachengasse, '*Night, Mother*' at the Ensemble Theater and *My Children! My Africa!* and *Three Days of Rain* at the Theater Die Tribüne, *The Guys* will open the *vienna theatre project*'s second season.

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