



ENGLISH-ABO

**THEATER BASEL
SEASON 2009/2010**

— ENGLISH SEASON —

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again we are pleased to offer an English Abo
as part of our range of season tickets.

For this year's English Abo we have put together
a wide-ranging, attractive and exciting programme of four plays in English,
an opera and a ballet.

Three of the plays revolve around the great English poet and dramatist
William Shakespeare.

Whereas Steven Berkoff analyses the villains in Shakespeare's dramas,
the Theatre en Anglais of Paris presents *Romeo & Juliet*
with a cast of just three actors,
and the director Peter Brook breathes new life into Shakespeare's sonnets.
Furthermore, the well-known American actor, Bob Meyer
will be seen in the short play «Hughie» by Eugene O'Neill.

To round off the English-Abo we include Giacomo Puccini's opera
«*Madama Butterfly*», the opening premiere of the 2009/2010 season,
and «*Milk and Honey*» an evening of ballet
with choreographies by Richard Wherlock and by Ohad Naharin
to the music of George Gruntz..

We hope that this interesting mix of theatre, opera and ballet
will catch your fancy
and we look forward to seeing you at the Theater Basel.

— *Yours sincerely, Georges Delnon*
Director

— THEATER BASEL —

ENGLISH ABO

2009

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*Please note that all programmes and performances are subject to change.
Starting hours can be obtained from our monthly Leporello or the daily press.*

SHAKESPEARE'S VILLAINS

— by Steven Berkoff —

A masterclass in evil

Cast: Steven Berkoff

Production: Steven Berhoff's East Production

Sunday, October 25th, 2009 — Schauspielhaus

Once again Steven Berkoff holds the stage alone - this time with his exploration and analysis of Shakespeare's most villainous characters: Iago, the Macbeths, Shylock, Richard III ...

Characters who are inherently evil, others whose situation leads them to evil deeds, others at the mercy of an evil society. Incisive insights into the psyche give way to Shakespeare's own words which explode into the auditorium from one of the UK's most formidable and maverick talents.

Berkoff is known to many for the villains he has played in mainstream films – Octopussy, Beverly Hills Cop, Rambo and The Krays. He brings this experience to Shakespeare's characters in a way that challenges and exhilarates.

«Evil relished in all its variety» — THE TIMES
«A maverick with an awesome stage presence» — DAILY TELEGRAPH

HUGHIE

— by Eugene O'Neill —

A one man show

Cast: Bob Meyer

Production: Bob Meyer Production, Chicago

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2009 — Schauspielhaus

Hughie is a short play set in the lobby of a small hotel on a West Side street in midtown New York during the summer of 1928.

The play is essentially a monologue delivered by a small time hustler named Erie Smith to the hotel's new night clerk Charlie Hughes, lamenting how Smith's luck has gone bad since the death of Hughie, Hughes' predecessor.

Bob Meyer is an American Actor and Director. In 2009 he wrote and directed the movie «Drunkboat», starring John Malkovich and John Goodman

«If I were you, I'd check this show out. It's a work of art, of rapture. It's the difference between listening to some secondhand malarkey and the triumphant feeling of «I was there». — READER (Chicago)

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

Japanese tragedy in three acts by **Giacomo Puccini**

Libretto by **Giuseppe Giacosa** and **Luigi Illica**

In Italian with German subtitles

Conductor: **Enrico Delamboye**

Direction: **Jetske Mijnsen**

Set Design: **Paul Zoller**

Costumes: **Arien de Vries**

Choir: **Henryk Polus**

Dramatization: **Brigitte Heusinger**

Cast: **Svetlana Ignatovich, Maxim Aksenov, Eung Kwang Lee** and others,
Choir of the Theater Basel and the Sinfonieorchester Basel

Monday, January 4th, 2010, Grosse Bühne

Today, this naval lieutenant, whom Puccini's publisher Ricordi termed an «American laxative», would be called a sex tourist: Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton enters into a sham marriage with Cio-Cio San, a Japanese woman known as Butterfly. He is fascinated by the country «in which the houses are as loose as the contracts» and by the thought of living with an exotic throw-away bride, before returning home to take an American wife. When, as expected, Pinkerton leaves Butterfly a short while later and heads back to America, she devotes her entire existence to his return. She waits and waits, looking after the son born after his departure. Butterfly's yearning develops psychotic overtones. She refuses to accept that the relationship is over. Only when Pinkerton appears again accompanied by an American wife, who claims the right to care for Cio-Cio San's son, is she finally forced to accept reality. Butterfly's life no longer has any meaning. She commits hara-kiri.

Puccini's filigree of sensitive music shimmers like a cobweb and pulsates ecstatically around the drama of the abandoned woman, while at the same time firmly integrating the pentatonic motifs reminiscent of the Far East into the structures of the European musical tradition.

He portrays not only the harsh meeting between two cultures, but above all the misunderstanding between the sexes. His unflinching look at the female psyche finds a response in his merciless look at his own sex.

Jetske Mijnsen, the young Dutch director of this desperately sad «tragedy of woman at the hands of a man», last directed at the Komische Oper in Berlin. This is conductor Enrico Delamboye's first season as musical director at the Theater der Stadt Koblenz. After conducting Gounod's «Faust» in the 2008/2009 season, «Madama Butterfly» is his second work for Theater Basel.

ROMEO & JULIET

by **William Shakespeare**

Adapted and directed by **Daniel Soulier**

Cast: **Gala Besson, Antony Hickling, Stephen Shagov**

Sunday, January 24th, 2010 — Schauspielhaus

«Romeo & Juliet» by William Shakespeare is a short version. Three actors play the roles of Juliet, Romeo, the Nurse, the Friar and Capulet. Soulier reduced the play to its essence and cutting away the street fights reveals, in a delightful and fresh mise en scene, the true love story of the piece.

Stephen Shagov («Tranporter 3», 2008) was seen in the outstanding role of Gus in the production of «The Dumb Waiter» by Harold Pinter shown here at the Theater Basel in May 2009.

LOVE IS MY SIN

Sonnets by William Shakespeare

Adapted for theatre by Peter Brook

In collaboration with Marie Hélène Estienne

Musician: Franck Krawczyk
Light design: Philippe Vialatte

Cast: Bruce Myers, Natasha Parry

Saturday, March 20th, 2010 — Schauspielhaus

Peter Brook about Shakespeare Sonnets:

«... it was not easy to choose between 154 sonnets. I needed to find a dramatic continuity and was guided by the hidden tensions that arise in a relationship between two people. At first Shakespeare evokes a shared tranquillity, but little by little the pains of love appear: There is separation, then infidelity and treachery which lead to a disgust of the body and flesh. But in a final phrase, Shakespeare affirms the reality of a love that can transcend all barriers that is even more powerful than age or death. For love can conquer time. Natasha Parry and Bruce Myers bring their long experience of Shakespeare and their own humanity to serve these unique confessions.»

MILK & HONEY

Choreographies by Ohad Naharin and Richard Wherlock

MILK AND HONEY

— World Premiere —

Music: Georges Gruntz
Choreography: Richard Wherlock

With the singer and performer Erika Stucky

BLACK MILK / HUMUS

Music: Arvo Pärt
Choreography: Ohad Naharin

With the Ballett Basel

Partner of the Ballett Basel: Basellandschaftliche Kantonalbank

Friday, June 4th, 2010 — Grosse Bühne

Richard Wherlock has lived and worked in Basel for the past nine years, and the subject of his new piece «Milk and Honey» is the spirit of the city on the bend in the Rhine. Wherlock and George Gruntz, a Basel jazz musician and band leader – and another nomad on the leading stages of the world –, take us on a journey of associations through the past and the present, spotlighting in music and dance major events in the history of Basel and relating them to the present day. Their quasi ethnological approach takes the pulse of the time, marches to the beat of the drums at the Basler Fasnacht and asks what it is like living as a visitor and migrant among the inhabitants of Basel. Again and again they find themselves on the bank of the Rhine, the wide waterway that seems to have been sluggishly flowing through the city since time immemorial. Even today the river still shapes the face of the city

In Ohad Naharin, Theater Basel has engaged one of the great choreographers of our time. Whether choreographing for his own ensemble, the Batsheva Dance Company, or Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, the Nederlands Danse Theater, the Hubbard Street Dance Chicago or the Cullberg Ballet, he has won international esteem with his incomparable style. Born on a kibbutz in Israel in 1952, he completed his education at the Juilliard School in New York and danced with the Martha Graham Company. After gaining experience as a dancer in different companies, he returned to Israel in 1990 to become artistic director of the Batsheva Dance Company, which was founded in 1964. In 2003 he retired from all managerial functions to concentrate exclusively on his work as resident choreographer.

USEFUL INFORMATION

How to order your «English Abo»:

Please use the enclosed registration card for new registrations. Orders will be considered in the order of their entries. If we are not able to fulfil your seat preferences, we will contact you for some other suggestions.

How to renew subscriptions

Subscriptions renew automatically for another season, unless cancelled by July 10th, 2009 (date as postmark). This rule is supposed to prevent your subscribed seats from being resold. You will receive your new card upon payment of the invoiced amount. Subscription invoices are payable within 30 days. If you fail to comply with this term, we reserve the right to resell your seats.

Price for a subscription with six performances

Cat. A ... CHF 446.- / Cat. B ... CHF 424.- / Cat. C ... CHF 401.- / Cat. D ... CHF 370.-

***** Special offer for first-time subscribers 30% discount when taking out a subscription until October 9th, 2009 *****

Regular ticket sale

Aside from subscribed seats, regular tickets can be purchased one month prior to each production at the box office: +41/(0)61-295 11 33.

CONTACT

- Tickets and information: phone +41/(0)61-295 11 33, www.theater-basel.chh
- Opening hours of the ticket counter at the Theaterplatz:
 - Monday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. – 6.45 p.m.
 - Saturday: 10 a.m. – 6.45 p.m.
- The box office opens one hour before the production begins.
- Postal address: Theater Basel, Postfach, CH-4010 Basel

THEATER BASEL
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— THEATER BASEL —

ENGLISH ABO

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Please use this registration card to order your «English Abo». Seating charts can be viewed on our homepage www.theater-basel.ch/billette/saalplaene or at the Billettkasse at the Theaterplatz. Orders will be considered in the order of their entries. If we are not able to fulfil your seat preferences, we will contact you for some other suggestions

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I wish to order «English Abo(s)» for the season 2009/2010.

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