



Montblanc Young Directors Award 2009

The 2009 Montblanc Young Directors Award goes to Dries Verhoeven and his production You Are Here.

Information
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Press release





This year, the YOUNG DIRECTORS PROJECT takes place at the Salzburg Festival 2009 for the eighth time.

The project was again sponsored entirely by the international culture brand Montblanc. As in previous years, the sale of the Salzburg special edition „Hommage à Max Reinhardt“ generated additional sponsorship funds and made a fourth production possible.

Dr. Thomas Oberender, Head of Drama, and Martine Dennewald, Curator, invited four young directing teams and their companies from the Netherlands, Hungary/Austria, Germany and the USA to take part in the competition.

Viktor Bodó (*1978) from Budapest with ALICE, adapted from Lewis Carroll (a production of the Schauspielhaus Graz) – a virtuoso revue featuring musicians, dancers, acrobats and actors. All theatrical genres and dimensions serve Alice's story; the audience observes the performance's mechanics, which creates a world of wonders around the main protagonist which is as imaginary as it is credible.

Kenneth Collins (*1975) and the group Temporary Distortion from New York with WELCOME TO NOWHERE (BULLET HOLE ROAD) – a road movie for the stage which interweaves video images and acting in a suggestive way. In fragments and flashbacks, a carefully composed tale of images and text is developed that reflects myths central to America, making the psychology of traveling, escape and unquenchable longings palpable.

Jette Steckel (*1982) from Hamburg with DIE WELT IST GROSS UND RETTUNG LAUERT ÜBERALL (The World is Wide and Salvation Lurks Everywhere – world premiere adapted from Ilija Trojanow; a coproduction with the Thalia Theater Hamburg) – a complex narrative adaption of the world-spanning novel.

With overwhelming images and theater-specific means, it tells the tale of young Alex, who had lost all his will to live and now finds himself again on a bicycle trip around the world with his godfather Bai Dan. Dries Verhoeven (*1976) from Amsterdam with YOU ARE HERE (a production of the Huis en Festival aan de Werf together with the Over het IJ Festival) – a spectacular theater installation, in which each audience member is assigned his own hotel room. The performance explores the relationship between proximity and distance, the formation of groups and the isolation of the individual, focusing on the individual perception of each audience member.



The jury, consisting of Dr. Helga Rabl-Stadler (President of the Salzburg Festival), Thaddaeus Ropac (Ropac Gallery), Peter Simonischek (actor), Wolfgang Kralicek (culture critic) and Sunnyi Melles (actress), confer the MONTBLANC YOUNG DIRECTORS AWARD 2009 for the best direction upon DRIES VERHOEVEN

The MONTBLANC YOUNG DIRECTORS AWARD is endowed with € 10.000,-- as well as the Montblanc Max Reinhardt Pen, which was exclusively designed for this occasion.

The jury explains its decision as follows:

The YDP jury awards this year's Montblanc Young Directors Award to a production that literally turns accustomed habits of seeing theater on their head, and addresses the audience in a shockingly immediate manner. This work is convincing through its original concept and its breathtaking stage design. Thus, it touches the viewer, who is also a co-author and participant, in an unusual way. On the one hand, the visitor is left to his own devices and abandoned to his own thoughts and associations; on the other hand, he perceives himself as part of a community. The simultaneous intimate and public feeling is both irritating and fascinating.