

Zurich 31 August 2013

## **Press release**

# **Zürcher Kantonalbank Patronage Prize and Acknowledgement Prize 2013**

Today on the occasion of the Zürcher Theater Spektakel 2013, the Zürcher Kantonalbank Patronage Prize and the Zürcher Kantonalbank Acknowledgment Prize were awarded by Corine Mauch, Mayor of Zurich, and Dr. János Blum, presidium member of the Zürcher Kantonalbank. Following intensive discussions, the jury reached a unanimous decision: The Zürcher Kantonalbank Patronage Prize of 30 000 Swiss Francs goes to the Argentinian actor, dancer, performer, director and choreographer Luis Biasotto for his «Dadaistic» production «Africa», a revue defying all theatrical conventions and challenging the audience in an intelligent and comical way «to ponder on alleged certainties».

The Zürcher Kantonalbank Acknowledgment Prize of 5000 Swiss Francs goes to the Philippine performer and dancer Eisa Jocson for her solo «Macho Dancer», a work with «rigorous concept and excellent execution», in which she investigates the «boundaries between legitimized live performance and seduction as popular and public entertainment».

*(Find the detailed statements of the jury at the end of this press release.)*

The nominated productions

### **Nominees for the Zürcher Kantonalbank Patronage Prize 2013:**

- Marjolijn van Heemstra & Frascati Producties NETHERLANDS, INDIA: Mahabharata
- Agostina López ARGENTINA: La Laguna
- Miss Revolutionary Idol Berserker JAPAN: Ms Berserker ATTTTACKS!!....
- Luis Biasotto ARGENTINA: África
- Selma & Sofiane Ouissi TUNESIA: Laaroussa

### **For the Zürcher Kantonalbank Acknowledgement Prize 2013 all of the works presented in Short Pieces were nominated:**

- Surjit Nongmeikapam INDIA: OneVoice
- Sung-Im Her & Su-Mi Jang SOUTH KOREA: Philia
- Venuri Perera SRI LANKA: Thalattu
- Moe Satt MYANMAR: Face and Fingers
- Chuma Sopotela SOUTH AFRICA: Inkukhu ibeke iqanda
- Mamela Nyamza SOUTH AFRICA: Isingqala
- Ali Moini IRAN: My Paradoxical Knives
- Eisa Jocson PHILIPPINES: Macho Dancer
- Sonya Levin RUSSIA: The Day Before

## The jury

The members of the jury were: The South African performer Ntando Cele (33), the Argentinian playwright and director Cynthia Edul (34), the Samoan author, actress, director, and curator Louise Tu'u (35) as well as the writer and dramatist Lorenz Langenegger (33) and the performer and choreographer Martin Schick (35), both from Switzerland.

## Statements of the jury

### **Luis Biasotto, Argentina: «África» (Patronage Prize 2013)**

The title sets off the story. Nothing of what we see on stage escapes the image each of us has brought to the theatre. From the very first scene, we are challenged and confronted with ourselves and our expectations. We are in the theatre, we are spectators. But, as opposed to what happens on stage, seemingly out of nothing, out of the empty space, we carry our ideas and experiences within us. The performers break all rules and conventions. They put the speakers on stage and expose the light as a bunch of spotlights. They constantly undermine the narrative but leave enough room so everyone can put together his/her own story. The scenes, seemingly detached, are intelligently intertwined. We are on an expedition across a jungle of impressions. We travel to an imagined Africa, off the beaten tracks made of clichés and conflicts. The absurd makes us laugh, but we soon realize how serious the comic is meant to be. Is it a fairytale? If so, then a rather Dadaistic one. The actors do not want to reinvent theatre but rather unravel our perception of the stage, ourselves and maybe even of Africa. We completely lose sight of things by the time the stage is shrouded in dense fog and makes the dream of one of the performers – to disappear – come true. Luis Biasotto deliberately clouds our minds and asks us to ponder on alleged certainties. His images infiltrate our minds and confuse our thoughts. Luis Biasotto is awarded the ZKB Patronage Prize so he can continue to bewilder us.

### **Eisa Jocson, Philippines: «Macho Dancer» (Acknowledgement Prize 2013)**

One amongst the nine works stood out for their extraordinary achievement in performance and a true live experience from beginning to end. Shoulders rolling back and forth exaggerate the palpable effort and control. The sinew of the performer and the performance become apparent as the audience gaze and keep watching, eagerly anticipating and deciphering every move, unwittingly objectifying and implying themselves into the dance.

«Macho Dancer» is a continuation of Eisa Jocson's blurring and investigation of the lines of legitimised live performance, seduction as popular and public entertainment, placing her own body squarely into the performance arena. A rigorous concept with excellent execution, «Macho Dancer» is a work whose seemingly base foundations reveal more about the unease of the observer and provoke a deeper questioning of what is being revealed on and offstage.

*Should you have questions or need further information please contact us tomorrow, Sunday between 14:00 and 17:00 hrs. You can reach us on +41 44 488 18 80 or via [presse@theaterspektakel.ch](mailto:presse@theaterspektakel.ch). You can find pictures of the award-winning productions as well as of the award ceremony on [www.theaterspektakel.ch](http://www.theaterspektakel.ch) >presse*

We thank you for your interest.

With kind regards

Esther Schmid  
*Head of communication*