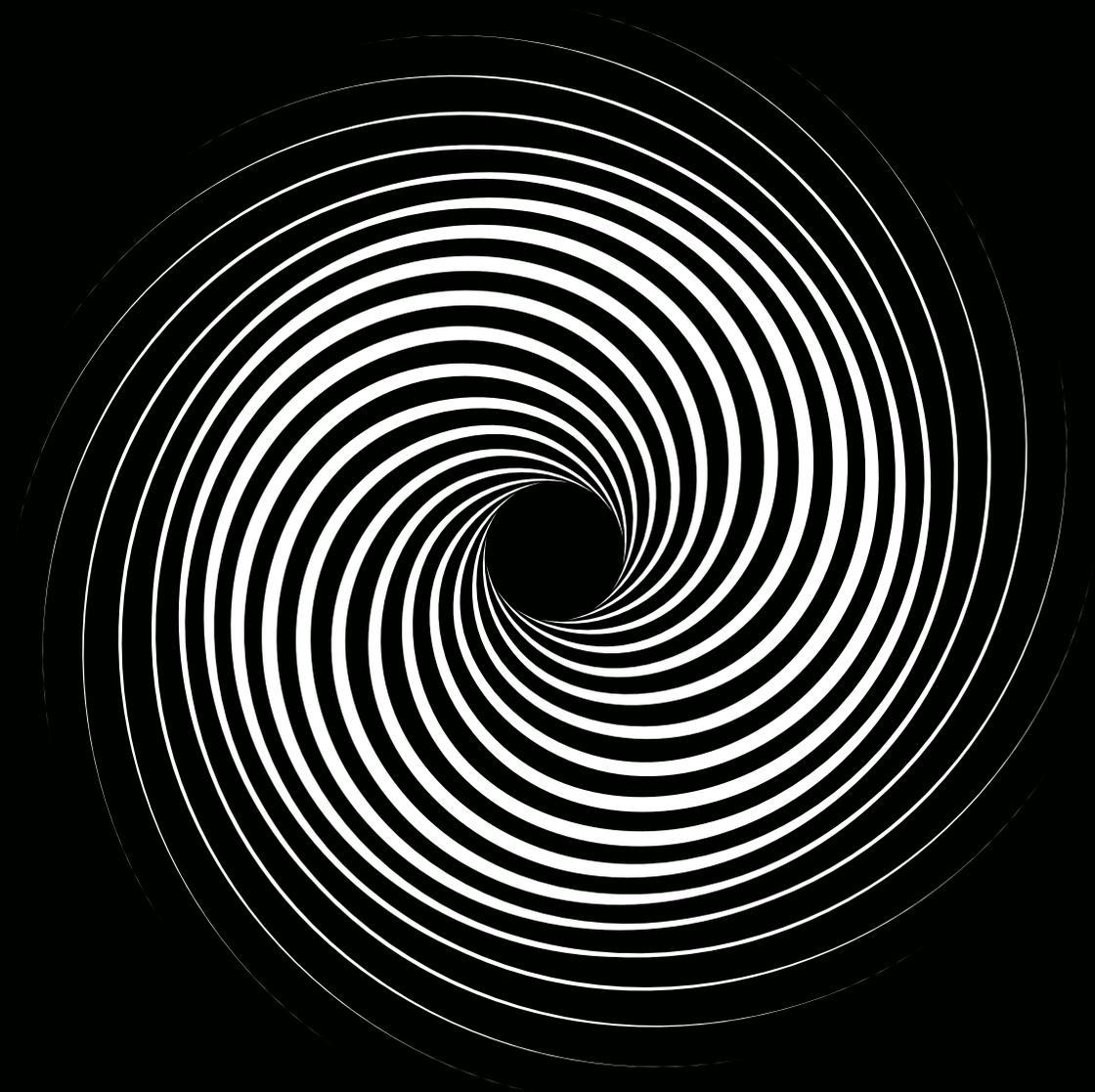


teatr powszechny

Theater that gets in the way

Imagine

by Krystian Lupa
premiere 23rd of April 2022



Imagine
a new play
by Krystian Lupa

On the 22nd of October 2021, we began rehearsals for "Imagine" directed by Krystian Lupa. The show is a co-production of Teatr Powszechny in Warsaw with Prospero Extended Theatre and Teatr Powszechny in Łódź. The world premiere is planned for the finale of the International Festival of Plays Pleasant and Unpleasant, on the 23rd of April 2022 in Łódź. The Warsaw premiere is planned for the 7th of May 2022.

"Imagine" is an artistic journey around the world of counterculture, the times of identity and cultural revolution at the turn of the 1960s and 1970s. Krystian Lupa used the lyrics of "Imagine" by John Lennon as a starting point and he asks a question about the liveliness of utopias in today's world, particularly the New Age idea, the vision of our world without wars, countries, ownership and hate.



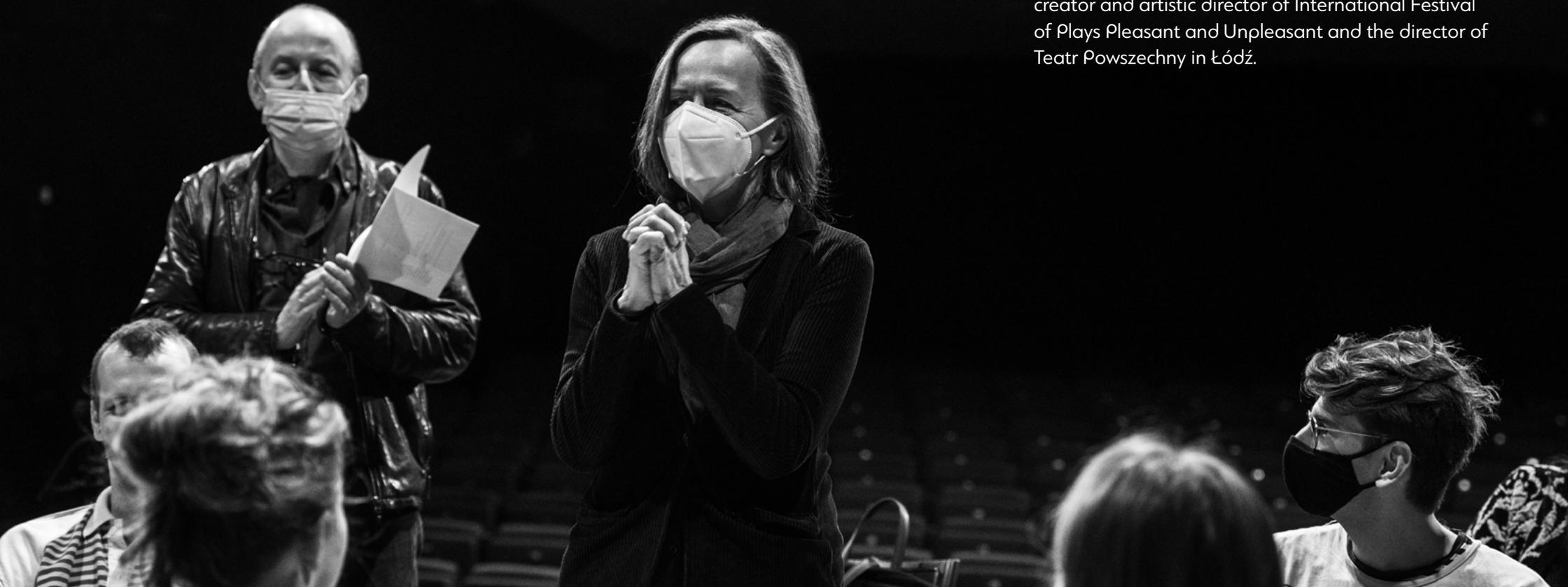
photo from the first rehearsal: Marianna Kulesza

“Imagine” is a third cooperation of Teatr Powszechny in Warsaw with Krystian Lupa. In 2017 we realized “Proces” based on Franz Kafka’s story. It was a co-production of four theatres in Warsaw (Nowy, Powszechny, Studio and TR Warszawa) organized thanks to the priceless support of the capital city of Warsaw. In 2019 we premiered a monumental show – “Capri – the island of fugitives” based on Malaparte’s novel. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, our broad tour plans with “Capri” (Spain, France, Italy, China, Japan, and more) had to be cancelled. That’s why we are thrilled for another show that in a way will be a continuation of the artistic research of our team. It is a great challenge for us and an opportunity to tighten our international cooperation due to “landing” our production in the “Prospero. Extended Theatre” project.

We are also filled with optimism thanks to our close relationship with Teatr Powszechny in Łódź and one of the biggest theatrical festivals in Poland, that was created and has been successfully led by Ewa Pilawska – says Paweł Łysak, the director of Teatr Powszechny in Warsaw.

In the show’s cast we have the actors of Teatr Powszechny in Warsaw (Grzegorz Artman, Karolina Adamczyk, Michał Czachor, Anna Ilczuk, Andrzej Kłak, Mateusz Łasowski, Karina Seweryn, Ewa Skibińska i Julian Świeżewski) and Michał Lacheta from the team of Teatr Powszechny in Łódź, with a guest actress, Marta Zięba from Teatr Studio and a guest actor, Piotr Skiba.

— I’m glad to be bringing a new show to life with Paweł Łysak and Paweł Sztarbowski, with whom we have the experience of an exemplary co-production from a few years ago. Back then they were running Teatr Polski in Bydgoszcz and we realized “Winter journey” directed by Maja Kleczewska. So far, thanks to the International Festival of Plays Pleasant and Unpleasant, the audience in Łódź had the opportunity to see most of Krystian Lupa’s plays – for me one of the most incredible modern theatrical creators, who often speaks of dreamers and creation (especially in theatre) “an island of dreamers”... It has been my dream for a long time to have a show directed by him for the Festival. I’m happy that, together with Teatr Powszechny, we can close the 28th edition of the Festival in April 2022 with the world premiere of “Imagine” – says Ewa Pilawska, the creator and artistic director of International Festival of Plays Pleasant and Unpleasant and the director of Teatr Powszechny in Łódź.



direction, script and scenography: Krystian Lupa

music: Bogumił Misala

costumes: Piotr Skiba

production manager: Michalina Żemła

video: Joanna Kakitek, Natan Berkowicz

director's assistant: Dawid Kot

stage manager: Iza Stolarska

costume designer's assistant: Aleksandra Harasimowicz

cast: Karolina Adamczyk, Grzegorz Artman, Michał Czachor, Anna Ilczuk, Andrzej Kłak, Michał Lacheta (Teatr Powszechny in Łódź), Mateusz Łasowski, Karina Seweryn, Piotr Skiba (guest), Ewa Skibińska, Julian Świeżewski, Marta Zięba (a guest from Teatr Studio in Warsaw).

An artistic journey into the world of counterculture, the times of identity and cultural revolution at the turn of the 1960s and 1970s. Krystian Lupa used the lyrics of "Imagine" by John Lennon as a starting point and he asks a question about the liveliness of utopias in today's world, in which spirituality has become commercialized or politicized and humanistic values, human rights, equality and personal freedom have been devaluated.

The director comes back to the psychological and spiritual New Age phenomenon and the life and creation of John Lennon, who as a "new Christ" of the hippie era suggested imagining a world without wars, countries and borders, without hate and ownership, but also without religion.

Do New Age visions sound purely naive in our times? Is faith in an endless evolution of humanity and metaphysics a fantasy or an eternal need of mankind? Why did the pacifistic idea fail so quickly in the 70s? Does the need for a spiritual transformation enhance in times of a crisis?



The show is realized within the “Prospero Extended Theatre” international project, thanks to the support of the “Creative Europe” program of the European Union. Prospero is a grand, common project of Arte television and 9 European theatres:

- Théâtre de Liège in Belgium (the leader of the project)
- ERT – Emilia Romagna Teatro Fondazione in Modena
- São Luiz Teatro Municipal in Lisbon
- Göteborgs Stadsteater in Sweden
- Hrvatsko narodno kazalište in Zagreb in Croatia
- Teatros del Canal in Madrid
- Schaubühne Berlin in Germany
- Teatr Powszechny in Warsaw
- Odéon – Théâtre de l’Europe in Paris.

This long-term project of cultural cooperation has the purpose of artistic development of the associated institutions, redefining the theatrical experience and widening the influence of art in a digital world, as well as supporting European integration through cultural and social actions.

A coproduction of Teatr Powszechny in Warsaw and Teatr Powszechny in Łódź.

teatr powszechny

Theater that gets in the way



**TEATR
POWSZECHNY
W ŁÓDZI**

Premiere in Łódź:
the 23rd of April 2022
during the International Festival of Plays
Pleasant and Unpleasant.



Międzynarodowy
Festiwal Sztuk
Przyjemnych
i Nieprzyjemnych
DIREKTOR ARTYSTYCZNY: SIA KŁAJBASA

Premiere in Warsaw:
the 7th of May 2022,
the Big Scene of Teatr Powszechny.

The show is realized within the “Prospero Extended Theatre” international project, thanks to the support of the “Creative Europe” program of the European Union.



The project's website:
prospero-theatre.eu/project-extended-theatre/



— There is a wake, or maybe it is just a meeting of old dreamer friends that is like a wake?... One of us prepared a PERFORMANCE for this occasion... LET'S TELL EACH OTHER EVERYTHING THAT WE COULD HAVE DONE AND THAT WAS ABANDONED...

Lennon's death met with the beginning of the end of the New Age in a peculiar way and for a decade it had a religious dimension. Lennon, drawn to America with New Age, with pacifism growing like moss during the Vietnam War led by our fathers, „the living dead of an old humanity” → he became, or wanted to become, even for a moment, a Warholian 15 minutes, a face, a deity of the New Age...

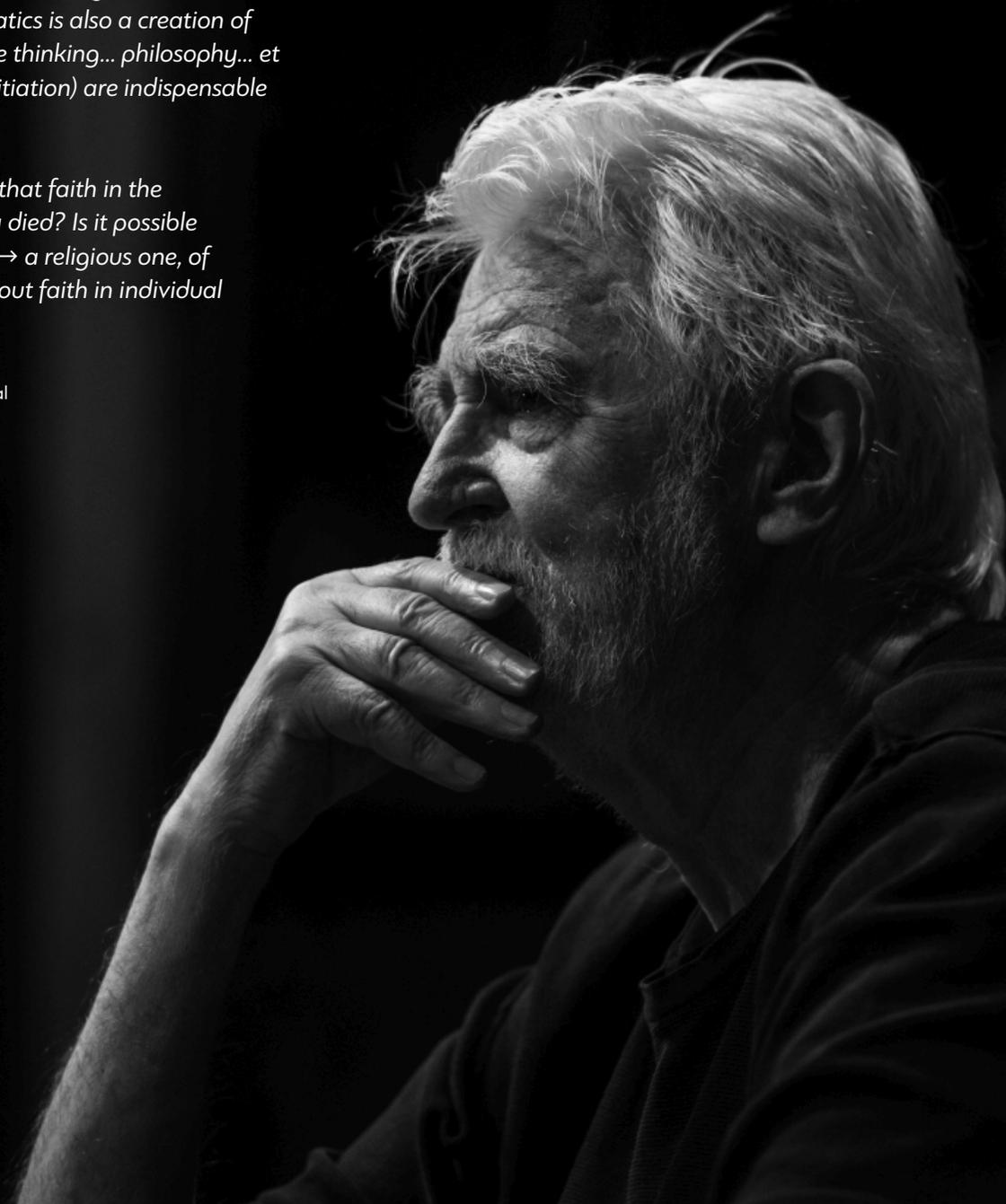
Who are the people at this wake that may have never met or maybe they were friends only by the affinity of their dreams...? Andy Warhol, Thomas Bernhard, Caspar Hauser, Carl Gustav Jung, Sylvia Plath, Albert Einstein, Marilyn Ferguson – the media and creators of new human's visions... This is only a group of random names initiating the search of a mental and literary matter entwining or penetrating this topic...

It won't be about a dream, nor dreamers. Not about John Lennon, nor The Beatles. Although the wake might have a connection to his (John Lennon's or his mythical double) death → with the shot of a revolver under the doors of Dakota on the outskirts of Central Park and the symbolism of Strawberry Field...

NEW AGE is not a sect of dreamers → Jung's Platonic month is not a „golden flower” of a dreamer → though, of course, in these visions and visionary ideas there is a dream of a human as a basic religious → cultural → creative matter. Mathematics is also a creation of a dreamer... So is speculative thinking... philosophy... et cetera... The idea (and its initiation) are indispensable to save the planet.

Are we able to answer why that faith in the transformation of humanity died? Is it possible to generate a second wave → a religious one, of the human community without faith in individual immortality?

extracts from Krystian Lupa's journal



An Extract from an Interview with Krystian Lupa

—— I don't know if this is a play about a utopia. Maybe it's rather about the necessity of thinking, which is often called utopian, especially on this side of the „barricade”. I can't imagine that it will be at least possible to save our planet from an ecological catastrophe without faith, or an idea one can believe in ardently. I don't believe that it will happen due to politicians' decisions, conferences, or climate symposia. I don't believe, that the politics of money and business will take such action. I also don't believe that manifestations of activists will have that power. What was said in the previous, counterculture era, what the New Age generation was talking about – faith in human transformation, the transformation of spirituality, the “Age of Aquarius” – it all collapsed in a way. Together with the message of humanism, tolerance, ecology. It died in people – a fear of losing their old ways of life, old God, old values was born – „God, honour, homeland” – national provincialisms that we waste 90% of our energy on. Until that process – the process of a deep human transformation, the transformation of thinking, paradigm and archetype – is reborn, it will be impossible to win with the phantom of a global catastrophe.

Maybe we need to tell ourselves that the planet should be our new homeland. Or maybe even our new God?! Perhaps then a new, humanistically-thinking person will be born – and not a national-patriarchal one. A human that believes only in the rational paradigm, that only exploits, only wants power – is not able to save our lives on this earth. We are making a show about how certain views, ideas, and intuitions that we filed as “utopian” may be necessary for us to survive the next 50 years

„Gazeta Wyborcza”, an interview of Witold Mrozek
with Krystian Lupa





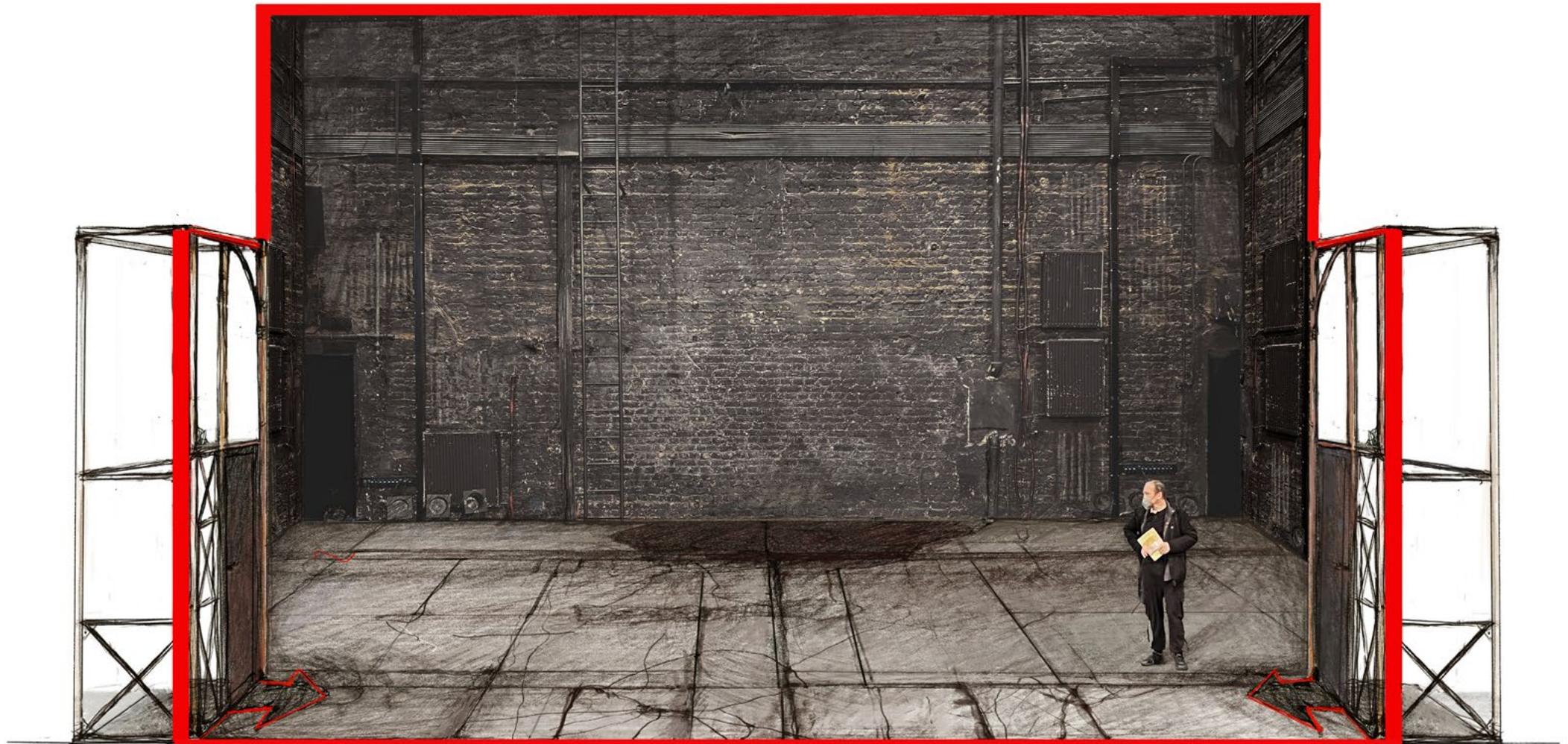
Krystian Lupa

renowned Polish theatre director, set designer and writer, considered as the one of the greatest European directors. His last works are “Capri – the Island of Fugitives” in Teatr Powszechny in Warsaw (2019) and “Austerlitz” in Valstybinis Jaunimo Teatras in Vilnius (2020). Lupa is a master at creating internally coherent stage realities. He often translates and adapts the texts which he stages, simultaneously designing the scenery and directing these productions. The quality of Lupa’s theatre derives from strong acting, which is often deemed “invisible” or “transparent”, made so by actors who unite almost completely with the characters they play. He was awarded with numerous prominent awards which include Leon Schiller Award (1992), Europe Theatre Prize (2009), Nestroy Theatre Prize (2014), Golden Cross of the Stage Award (2016).

Stage at Teatr Powszechny:

- width of stage window: 8,80 m
- height of stage window: 5,4 m
- depth: 10 m (including proscenium)

set design projects and drawings:
Krystian Lupa



31.01.2022, Kraków ∞ Teatr Powszechny — IMAGINE → Lupa's creative projection ∞ ~~AND~~ KL



21.12.2021 Imagine 2 Teatr Powstachy (OTMO) → ekrany przed me + dama → sztukiel metal ☺



Ok. ok. 2022 Warszawa @ (Nertbe p. 2022) (A) → in Desert ∞, Imagining STROYA STROYA (L) →

TEATR POWSZECHNY



68

WEJSCIE

SCENA

STÓŁ POWSZECHNY

ogrod powszechny

STÓŁ POWSZECHNY

WYKREŚLANIE

68

ogrod powszechny

STÓŁ POWSZECHNY

WYKREŚLANIE



'Theater that gets in the way' –

these words, a quote from a text by Zygmunt Hübner, were adopted by Warsaw's Teatr Powszechny as its motto. In the last four seasons we have created a space in the Warsaw district of Praga where we put on theatre, create a real space for public debate and help build a civil society based on democratic principles. First and foremost, we see the Teatr Powszechny as a public institution and we always ask ourselves and our audiences questions about its modern-day mission and duties towards the community.

The Programme

We do not see our programme of productions as a mere collection of titles, and our workplace as a production house for theatre directors. Instead, in all our artistic endeavours we address important, and sometimes uncomfortable, topics such as the refugee crisis, the recent resurgence of fascism, paedophilia in the Church, accountability for Poland's political transformation, critique of capitalism, the condition of critical art, the changed attitudes and lifestyles of the middle class, environmental concerns and feminism. We have taken on these issues in all our productions and we plan to further investigate them in the future.

The Institution

We see theatre as a space where hidden social conflicts can become visible, tackled head-on and resolved; a place where conflicting attitudes and views can be creatively debated, revealing the actual state of our society. Ultimately, theatre is a space where a community is created – not an imaginary, homogeneous and unanimous one, but one that brings together independent and creative individuals, developed through involvement, tolerance and empathy. Also, we are building a community within our organization by moving away from rigid, hierarchical structures towards democratising labour relations and subjectifying our employees.

Stepping Outside the Black Box

A modern institution cannot operate in isolation from its environment. Today, urban spaces are often subjected to the logic of capitalism geared towards exploitation. To counter this, we want to seek new ways of thinking about urban spaces, based on responsibility and innovation. We hold regular events and engage in ongoing projects such as the Forum for the Future of Culture, the Happy City Art and Community Festival, Universal Garden, a Praga revitalisation programme and our ongoing collaboration with Strefa WolnoSłowa, aiming to build long-term relations with the local community, urban activists and NGOs.

Coalitions

When nationalism, chauvinism and populism are on the rise in public life, an arts institution is duty-bound to propose an alternative way forward. That is why we focus on international partnerships (such as the international project Atlas of Transitions: New geographies for a cross-cultural Europe) and build broad social coalitions. We have partnerships with both international organizations and local activist groups. We also consider it our duty to support civic protest movements and people working to promote democracy.

In the coming years we will continue to constructively 'get in the way', opening our venue to important civic initiatives, acting locally and internationally, supporting democratic movements and intercultural dialogue, as well as opposing xenophobia and building a cultural opposition to the fascisation of public life and neoliberal thinking about art. We will also continue to create a modern, democratic arts institution, subjectifying and empowering its employees and audiences and forming coalitions with social movements; a place where visions of the future are forged.

More information about theatre:
<https://www.powszechny.com/index.html?lang=en>

Contact tour manager: Magdalena Płyszewska:
m.plyszewska@powszechny.com

Representative, Krystian Lupa Agency
Łukasz Twarkowski: krystianlupa.agency@hot.pl



www.powszechny.com