



Press Release / For Immediate Release

ETC GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM 13 - 16 MARCH 2014 AT THEATRE DE LIEGE, BELGIUM

“Theatre, Nationalisms and Europe of Culture” in debate at Europe’s leading Theatre Network

Berlin, 03 March 2014: Members of the **European Theatre Convention (ETC)**, Europe’s leading network of public theatres, will meet in Liège, Belgium, from 13 – 16 March 2014 for their first General Assembly of the year, hosted and organized by the Théâtre de Liège. The network members and guests have been invited to participate in innovative debate formats around the conference theme **‘Theatre, Nationalisms and Europe of Culture’**. This GA’s headline theme questions the role of theatrical practices in a time where the idea of 'nation' takes a toll on a Europe tending to overcome its borders.

The conference itself will be officially opened on Thursday 13 March 2014 with the welcoming words of **Dubravka Vrgoč**, ETC president and director of z/k/m Zagreb and **Serge Rangoni**, director of Théâtre de Liège.

Subsequently, there will be two intensive days of project presentations, meetings and panels around the question of whether theatre can really cross boundaries and unite countries despite its historically strong links to language and national cultural policies. The “World Café” debate format on Friday 14 March will be preceded by key note speeches of **Jean-Marie Piemme**, Belgian playwright and **Antoine Laubin**, young stage director and winner of the Fast Forward Festival 2013.

While focusing on the conference’s headline topic, this year’s initial assembly will also highlight the results of ETC’s 2013 commenced schemes. Thus, **Achim Müller**, head manager of the Center for Audience Development (FU Berlin), will present the first outputs of ETC’s pioneering **audience development study** which is the first study of its kind to come out of Europe.

During the General Assembly delegates will hold special working sessions to discuss a number of ETC collaborative artistic projects. These include the next **Young Europe 3** scheme and the new **ETC Theatre Laboratory**, a think tank designing and formulating the 2020’s/2050’s vision of theatre. Furthermore, the **‘Art of Ageing’** project (2013 -2015), under the patronage of playwright **Etel Adnan**, showcases its first research results. **‘Art of Ageing’** is a major



intercultural research and new play creation project which engages with the realities and challenges of Europe's ageing societies.

The three day conference and assembly will be framed by a performance program staging *Kabaret Warszawski* directed by Krzysztof Warlikowski, *Trilogie de l'enfer* directed by Martine Wijckaert and *Pourquoi Eve vient-elle chez Adam ce soir ?* by The Ubik company.

Notes to Editors –The European Theatre Convention (ETC) founded in 1988, is a non-profit-making membership organization representing the publicly funded theatre sector in 20 countries. Its aims are to create, protect and promote theatre art and its linguistic diversity in Europe and beyond; to act as a transnational theatre network to foster cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue; to act as a platform for professional exchange, development and capacity building of theatre-makers in an international context and to advocate for the public theatre sector at EU, member state and local levels. Further information – www.etc-cte.org

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