

Press release from  
Copenhagen International Theatre  
Copenhagen, May 21st 2002



## Copenhagen International Theatre presents **Sommerscene2002**

**Copenhagen International Theatre (KIT) introduces a series of visually, innovative, poetic and enticing performances under Sommerscene2002. Sommerscene2002 opens with the second and only Nordic biennial of world-dance, Dancin' World. Followed by three entirely different New Circus performances, visiting Copenhagen for the very first time, as two performances based on Shakespeare's Hamlet will world premiere in Hamlet's own castle, Kronborg in Elsinore.**

In 2002 KIT presents its 7th edition of Sommerscene. It'll be a summer providing performances that have left considerable impressions on audiences around the world. It'll be a summer packed with poetic performances radiating vigour and merriment. It'll be a summer including unique works by international artists, and works being created at this very moment. It'll be a summer presenting a range of new names, which will shape the future of dance, theatre and circus in the years to come.

**Dancin' World** will be the first on the Sommerscene2002 agenda. Ten performances, night-café, workshops and a seminar will dominate the program from June 15th to July 8th primarily taking place on the stage of Kanonhallen and in the foyer.

A visually splendid performance with great audience appeal devised by one of Asia's great choreographers Boi Sakti and his Indonesian dance company, **Gumarang Sakti Dance Company**, open Dancin' World with powerful images of Asia undergoing radical change. The program also includes **Jean Genet's "The Maids"**, staged as dance-theatre. This is one of the great meetings of masters, where one of Peter Brook's key-actors, Yoshi Oida has staged two master choreographers and dancers; the head of Impulstanz Vienna, Ismaël Ivo and voodoo-priest Koffi Kôkô.

Furthermore we present an array of up-coming, award-winning, young choreographers, and an old favourite, the French-Moroccan hip-hop company, **Black Blanc Beur**, who last visited Denmark with an explosive performance in 1990. They return with a full-length program directing their powerful and undiluted underground energy under the audience's skin.

August will see the arrival of three entirely different **New Circus** performances. They do have one thing in common: they have been audience magnets everywhere.

The first performance is a visual and musical cocktail staging 27 acrobats, dancers and musicians from Guinea in West Africa. **Circus Baobab** is a compilation of West-African folklore and new circus anarchy from France fronted by Archaos veteran Pierre Bidon. Circus Baobab's distinguishing joie de vivre and expressiveness reaches even seats at the very back of the theatre. Subsequently Belgian clown duo, **Okidok**, present their poetic and deeply entertaining performance HaHaHa!!! If this couple of hobbit-like comedians don't put a huge smile on your face, you must be well and truly burnt out. James Thierrée, son of Cirque Invisible duo Victoria Chaplin and Jean Baptiste Thierrée displays a very different kind of poetry. He has created a show with his **Compagnie du Hanne-ton** carrying on his family traditions adding a surreal dimension across the entire performance.

In Elsinore KIT has yet again hooked up with the cultural festival of Elsinore, **Hamlet Sommer to arrange Shakespeare at Kronborg**. This year will see **no less than two world premieres** at Hamlet's castle. The world renowned Asian director from Singapore Ong Keng Sen and British

director and playwright Howard Barker – by many called the present day Shakespeare – have devised two entirely different interpretations of Shakespeare's Hamlet. **“SEARCH: HAMLET”** by **Ong Keng Sen** is the visually grand and radically unique including top performers from Asian and European theatre, dance and music, utilising the entire castle as a stage. **“Gertrude – The Cry”** by **Howard Barker & The Wrestling School** placing the music of speech and the actor's abilities in focus in the beautiful Ball Room of Kronborg Castle.

### **Funding**

With a budget of DKK 3.7 million KIT will carry out Sommerscene2002. Funding has come about via subsidies from Municipality of Copenhagen, the Theatre Council, Danish Center for Culture and Development (DCCD) and the Copenhagen County Council/MusikTeatret Albertslund.

Additionally, the festival of Elsinore Hamlet Summer and some of the individual projects such as “Search: Hamlet” possess independent financing. For instant “Search: Hamlet” has an independent budget of DKK 6 million, receiving support from The Kulturbro Foundation, the Theatre & Music Council of Denmark, ASEF and Singapore National Arts Council and, naturally, from Hamlet Summer.

Furthermore, Kanonhallen and MusikTeatret Albertslund contribute with technical assistance etc. for the performances staged on these venues.

### **The Co-ordinators**

Copenhagen International Theatre (KIT) arranges Sommerscene2002 in collaboration with the Music Theatre Albertslund and the Canon Hall.

A Kronborg “Search: Hamlet” will be presented by Hamlet Sommer in collaboration with KIT and the Board of Castles and property, where as “Gertrud – The Cry” is presented by KIT in collaboration with Hamlet Summer and the Board of Castles and property.

“Search: Hamlet” is also part of the Bridge of Culture2002 and will perform as part of Bridge of Culture2002 at the Betty Nansen Theatre annex stage, Edison, in a theatre version that will tour abroad.

Copenhagen International Theatre is a self-ruling institution run by Trevor Davis in collaboration with program co-ordinator Katrien Verwilt and press-officer Hans Christian Gimbel. Katrien Verwilt and Hans Christian Gimbel handle the day to day management, and the Chairman of KIT's board is Bjørn Lense-Møller, previously Chairman of the Theatre Council and head of the TV and Radio Theatre department of the National TV & Radio of Denmark.

A few employees are engaged for specific projects during the festival, but the repertoire can only be completed due to the hard work of many volunteers and people on trainee schemes.

### **Press contacts and information**

For further information including photos etc. please contact press-officer Hans Christian Gimbel at tel. +45 3315 1584 or email: hgc@kit.dk or press assistant Stine Nissen at tel. +45 3315 5828 or sni@kit.dk

A free program can be obtained for each of the Sommerscene's agendas or all three on +45 3315 8681 or on info@kit.dk.

All press releases will be available on [www.kit.dk](http://www.kit.dk) where links can be found to the homepages of the various companies.

Kind regards

Hans Christian Gimbel  
Copenhagen International Theatre