

Press Release



ECHTER BERLINER !!!! IHR NICHT FUCK YOU

Documentary Theater

Directed & devised by Daniel Brunet

World premiere:

Tuesday, September 24, 2013 | 8pm



Photo: Rod Di Sciascio

Producer, Art Director, Stylist, Model: Matthew Peach

FUCK YOU TOURISTS. NO MORE ROLLKOFFER. WELCOME TO SCHWABYBLON. Berlin ✖ U. – Greetings from the Berlin welcoming committee in the form of meter-high graffiti adorning every available surface. One, ECHTER BERLINER !!!! IHR NICHT FUCK YOU, especially invites questions. What is a “real Berliner”? According to whom?

ECHTER BERLINER !!!! IHR NICHT FUCK YOU is a documentary theater piece exploring the diverging and converging experiences of so-called “expats”, often coming from comparably richer countries who travel to Berlin for self-realization, with those of so-called “immigrants”, often coming from comparably poorer countries for financial survival. At least, these are the generalizations.

These “expats”, however, have been all but ignored in the debate regarding multicultural society, integration as well as the present and future of Berlin as the “**city of diversity**”, although, according to the media, Germany is working to develop a **welcoming culture** for all of the workers urgently needed to absorb the shocks of its demographic changes as well as their effects on the German welfare state and economy. Instead, these “expats” are excluded from the conversation and seen simply as the “**easyJet set**” or “**permanent tourists**”.

For this piece, an international ensemble of six performers, each connected to a so-called “expat” or “immigrant” group, have conducted interviews with more than 60 members of their respective communities about their experiences in Berlin. Every word spoken on stage is taken from direct transcriptions of these interviews.

Drawing from six different related thematic blocks, the performers will develop **monologues** and **scenic collages** based upon individual life stories, revealing a surprising image of the **reality** too often hidden behind clichés and stereotypes, giving the term **parallel society** a wholly new meaning.

Performances:

Tuesday, September 24 – Saturday, September 28, 2013 | 8pm

Tuesday, October 1 – Saturday, October 5, 2013 | 8 pm

In English.

ECHTER BERLINER !!!! IHR NICHT FUCK YOU is the first part of *Aliens of Extraordinary Abilities?*, a two-part project investigating the experiences of so-called “expats” and so-called “immigrants” in Berlin and the Hauptstadt’s rapidly changing cityscape. The second part, *New Weird Berlin*, a collaboration with DISTRICT Kunst- und Kulturförderung, will take place in November and December. This project is funded by the Hauptstadtkulturfonds (Capital Cultural Fund). >>

Ensemble *ECHTER BERLINER !!!! IHR NICHT FUCK YOU*

Lara Babalola

is a Canadian actress based in Berlin. Born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Lara studied theater before moving to Vancouver to pursue work in film and television. In 2009 she moved to Berlin to experience life abroad. Growing up in Canada with both African and European roots, the subject of immigration, identity and *Heimat* are familiar to Lara and become more so as she continues to plant roots in Berlin.

Daniel Brunet

was born in Syracuse, New York in 1979 and studied theater and film at Boston College. He moved to Berlin in 2001 with the support of a Fulbright Scholarship and began a career as a freelance theater maker.

Brunet founded THE LAB at English Theatre Berlin while Director in Residence for the 2003/2004 season. He was the Associate Director/Associate Producer of German Theater Abroad from 2005 to 2008. His directorial work has been seen at venues including Forum Freies Theater, Düsseldorf, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin and Performance Space 122, New York. Brunet has received multiple awards for his translations of German play by writers including Dea Loher, Falk Richter, Roland Schimmelpfening and Heiner Müller. Brunet became Producing Artistic Director of English Theatre Berlin in 2012.



Photo: Daniel Brunet

Murat Dikenci

was born in Hannover in 1987 and studied applied cultural studies at Leuphana Universität Lüneburg. As an assistant director, he has worked on numerous productions with directors including Hakan Savaş Mican, Lukas Langhoff and Hans-Werner Krösinger. As a freelance actor, he has performed at Schauspiel Hannover, Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus, Ballhaus Naunynstrasse and several other stages. He currently appears in Nurkan Erpulat's production *Verrücktes Blut*.

Lynn Femme

was born in Hanoi, Vietnam and immigrated with her family to Germany at the age of five. After secondary school, she completed a three-year acting course in Berlin. She has appeared in numerous feature films including *Der Nachmahr*, *Das Jahr des Drachen* and *Allein gegen der Zeit*. She also works as a filmmaker; her projects have been screened at numerous film festivals and nominated for multiple young talent awards (including the Max Ophüls Prize and the youth film prize at Filmschau Baden-Württemberg). *ECHTER BERLINER !!!!* is her first major theater project.

Lara-Sophie Milagro

was born in Berlin, Germany and conducted full-time acting training (BA) at Goldsmith's College and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London as well as coaching at the Stella Adler Conservatory in NYC and with Larry Moss. She holds a degree in opera studies (certificate) from Berlin University of the Arts. Lara-Sophie is co-founder and Artistic Director of the Berlin-based artistic network LABEL NOIR. Lara-Sophie has worked at Nationaltheater Mannheim, Theater Bonn, DT Berlin, Ballhaus Naunynstraße Berlin and HAU Berlin. She has also appeared in various German and English TV and short film productions, worked as a director at Staatstheater Mainz and dubbed several films including Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained* and the award-winning documentary *Mama Africa*.

Ariel Nil Levy

was born in Tel Aviv in 1977 and graduated from the state acting academy there. He has lived in Germany since 2001 and gained German citizenship in 2010. Levy has worked as a dramaturg, actor, director and assistant at Volksbühne Berlin in Dimeter Gotscheff's production of *Ubu Roi* (2008), at Mousonturm and Schauspiel Frankfurt. In 2011, he served as production dramaturg, translator and performer for the opening piece of the Heidelberg Stückemarkt. Together with Niva Dloomy and the Israeli director Hila Golan, he has developed numerous award-winning productions, including *Polio* and *Schweigeminute* (the best production at the Acco-Theaterfestival, Israel), in Israel and Germany.

<<