

Zurich 1 September 2012

Press release: ZKB Patronage Prize 2012

On the occasion of the Zürcher Theater Spektakel 2012, the ZKB Patronage Prize and the ZKB Acknowledgment Prize were awarded for the 17th time today. The ZKB Patronage Prize of 30 000 Swiss Francs goes to the Cambodian dance company Amrita Performing Arts for its production «Crack», which was created in collaboration with the Belgium-based choreographer Arco Renz. The ZKB Acknowledgment Prize of 5000 Swiss Francs goes to the Germany-based Japanese performance artist Naoko Tanaka for her Short Piece «Die Scheinwerferin». This year, all productions presented within the series Short Pieces were nominated for the Acknowledgment Prize, unless the artists were not previous winners of either the Patronage or the Acknowledgment Prize.
(Find the detailed statement of the jury at the end of this press release.)

The nominees for the ZKB Patronage Prize 2012

- Marta Górnicka (Poland): Tu mówią chór / Hier spricht der Chor
- Jetse Batelaan & Ro Theater (Netherlands): Bunter Abend mit Bodybuildern
- Jakob Ampe & Pieter Ampe / Campo (Belgium): Jake & Pete's Big Reconciliation Attempt for the Disputes from the Past
- Arco Renz, Kobalt Works & Amrita Performing Arts (Belgium/Cambodia): Crack
- Stylize Production (Switzerland): Outside the Box

The nominees for the ZKB Acknowledgement Prize 2012

- Ntando Cele (South Africa/Switzerland): Face off
- Fatou Cissé (Senegal): Regarde-moi encore
- DançaRio (Brazil): Interrogations and Ellipsis
- Geumhyung Jeong (South Korea): Video Camera
- Eisa Jocson (Philippines): Death of the Pole Dancer
- Sofia Medici (Argentina): Simultaneous Translation
- Naoko Tanaka (Japan/Germany): Die Scheinwerferin

The jury

The distinctly young members of this year's international jury were the director, author and theatre director Omar Abu Saada (35) from Damascus, Max-Philipp Aschenbrenner (30), director of the Kulturhaus Südpol Lucerne, the theatre scientist and production manager Mona De Weerd (25) from Zurich, Nunu Kong (30), choreographer, performer and producer from Shanghai and Azade Shahmiri (30), arts journalist, author and translator from Teheran.

Statement of the jury: ZKB Patronage Prize 2012

Arco Renz, Kobalt Works & Amrita Performing Arts (Belgium/Cambodia): «Crack»

«Crack» by Arco Renz & Amrita Performing Arts is a captivating, powerful piece. An intense, unsettling, not easily accessible work, which lingers on, preoccupies and touches. This is surprising and pleasant at the same time. For the collaboration between different cultures is often difficult, especially when the proportion of power between the two is unbalanced. Against this background, «Crack» is a successful piece because its topic, the tension between tradition and modernity, is strongly reflected in the movement esthetics.

The show mixes traditional Cambodian dance with contemporary movement. The six dancers move to an impressive technoid sound collage in the semi-darkness of a black picture-frame stage. This artificial austerity stresses the presence of the singular bodies, their subjective qualities, their slight shifts to each other. «Crack» addresses the living conditions of young people in contemporary Cambodia, which is affected by poverty and corruption as well as by progress and the spirit of optimism of a young, dynamic society. In the piece this is represented by a combative attitude of anger, yet neither in a representative nor narrative, but in a mere physical way. That is exactly the strength of this work.

The successful topical realization, the interesting esthetics, but above all the highly virtuosic dancers, their energy and compelling body language have convinced the jury. For the stated reasons, we would like to award this year's ZKB Patronage Prize to Amrita Performing Arts.

Statement of the jury: ZKB Acknowledgement Prize 2012

Naoko Tanaka (Japan Germany): Die Scheinwerferin

The ZKB Acknowledgment Prize 2012 goes to Naoko Tanaka for her performance «Die Scheinwerferin» for searching for a specific language and creative form of art to encounter visual art, installation and performance in a thoughtful context; Innovative working with objects; Interactive relations of light, sound, image and performer's body; projecting individual life and the world outside in an analytic way, presenting the absence, challenging the meaning of reality and the dream, image and imagination; Precise work of dramaturgy and sharing an experience with audience through a playful discovery.

Award ceremony

The Patronage Prize and the Acknowledgment Prize are awarded today, Saturday, at 18:00 hrs by the city mayor Corine Mauch and Dr János Blum, deputy chairman of the board of the Zürcher Kantonalbank. In addition to the prize money, the winners will receive a bronze sculpture created by the Swiss artist Max Grüter commissioned by the Zürcher Kantonalbank.

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. You can find pictures of the award-winning productions as well as of the award ceremony on www.theaterspektakel.ch >presse

We thank you for your interest.

With kind regards

Esther Schmid
Head of communication