

Press Release

Mitos21

European Theatre Network based in Düsseldorf

On Tuesday 9th October the General Artistic Director of the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus, Staffan Valdemar Holm, held a press conference to introduce the European theatre network **Mitos21**. Holm, who was elected Chairman of **Mitos21** on 9th September at the founding general assembly in Paris, outlined the organization and its aims: in future **Mitos21**'s base will be in Düsseldorf. The new General Secretary, Iphigenia Taxopoulou from Greece, was also in attendance: she will organize the collaboration between members.

Mitos is the ancient Greek word for *threads* and above all references the mythical threads of Ariadne, who helped Theseus to find his way out of the labyrinth. **Mitos21** – consists of: Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus; La Colline – théâtre national, Paris; Det Kongelige Teater, Copenhagen; Schauspiel Frankfurt; Katona József Színház, Budapest; Royal National Theatre, London; KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen, Hanover; Narodowy Stary Teatr, Krakow; Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne; Toneelgroep Amsterdam; Deutsches Theater, Berlin; Kungliga Dramatiska Teatern, Stockholm; Teatre Lliure, Barcelona

International collaboration between theatres has long been a focal point of Holm's work. From 2005 to 2007 he was Vice-President of UTE (*Union des Théâtres de l'Europe*, founded in 1990 by Giorgio Strehler, Director of the Piccolo Teatro Milano and Jack Lang, then French Minister of Culture) and in 2008 one of the co-founders of the European theatre network **Mitos21**, an informal non-profit network.

Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus was also one of the founder members of **Mitos21**, whose aim is to promote the exchange of artists and unconventional projects beyond national boundaries and institutional thinking, to encourage collaboration and to make new theatrical vocabularies accessible to audiences. Highly successful international projects have taken place so far in Stockholm, London, Copenhagen and Krakow. After the network had worked together on a more informal basis in its initial years, the decision was taken in September to establish an official organizational structure – which at the same time will continue to avoid a large bureaucracy.

The following board was elected at the constituent meeting in Paris: Staffan Valdemar Holm (General Artistic Director of the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus) as *chairman*, Lluís Pasqual (Artistic Director of the Teatre Lliure, Barcelona) as *vice chairman*, Emmet Feigenberg (Artistic Director, Det Kongelige Teater, Copenhagen), Manfred Weber (Managing Director of the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus), Gabor Zsambeki (Director of the Katona József Színház, Budapest) and Iphigenia Taxopoulou (international projects manager, Thessaloniki, Greece) as *secretary general*.

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