

Press Release

Berlin, 11.9.14



International Performing Arts Center

THE EMIGRANTS

by & featuring **THE THREEPENNY THEATRE**, adapted from a play by Sławomir Mrożek

2 THU | + 3 | 4 | 9 THU | + 10 | 11 | 8pm

Tickets 14€ / 8€

Life as immigrants in Germany - setting off into alleged freedom, intellectual, political or financial, leads a man and a woman into somebody's basement. One, seemingly a migrant worker, and the other, who at first glance appears to be an intellectual, are left to sink or swim in this barren environment. The reference to **theater of the absurd** is clear. Up to this point, Threepenny Theatre follows the dramatic source material of Sławomir Mrożek.



Then the text intertwines with the lives of the performers, is deconstructed through a **Babylonian confusion of languages** and the boundaries between **intimate reality** and performance blur. After all, Babylon is the everyday life of the performers: Marija Maki Lipkovski is Serbian and Miklós Miki Barna is Hungarian - they live together in Germany and speak Hungarian and Serbian, usually English and German with each other, and sometimes Italian, too. The fact that misunderstandings are just a regular part of the daily routine becomes the means to **cryptic humor** on stage.

Through a dizzying combination of **mask theater, political and intellectual digressions and self-made films**, these *emigrants* search on stage for the freedom they came here for in the first place. In doing so, they explore especially elaborate relationships between theater and film.

This results in **grotesque hybrids**: 1/3 human being, 1/3 stage character, 1/3 film character. It increasingly seems as though they are chasing a ghost that is not to be found on any of the three levels, leaving them prisoners of a grand idea.

Link to the trailer: <http://youtu.be/fBy-w13Byjg>

The Emigrants was first presented at ETB | IPAC during the 2014 EXPAT EXPO: A Showcase of *Wahlberliner*.

Performed in Serbian, Hungarian and English

The Threepenny Theatre

Marija Maki Lipkovski was born in 1989 in Belgrade, Serbia, where she grew up and studied theater and radio directing at the University of Performing Arts. In Serbia, she struggled for the re-birth of the Serbian *Freie Szene* by creating performances independent from established government or non-government organizations. She is especially interested in the relationship between stage and screen. Lipkovski lives and works in Berlin.

Miklós Miki Barna was born in 1987 in Budapest, Hungary, and is a Hungarian multimedia artist and journalist based in Berlin. He has a Master's degree in television and documentary directing from the University of Film and Theater Arts of Budapest. In the recent years, he has primarily worked as a freelance journalist and filmmaker, always with a strong focus on theater. After gaining experience as an amateur actor, he is now experimenting with a mash-up of the various creative fields he is involved in.