

Press Release

Berlin, 30.08.14

WE ARE THE PLAY

International Performing Arts Center

by **SISYPHOS, DER FLUGELEFANT**

An interactive performance examining the perspectives of immigrants and Germans of other descents from the Fall of the Berlin Wall until today

World premiere on THU | September 11, 2014 | 7pm | Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer | Meeting point: in front of the Visitors' Center, Bernauer Straße 119, 13355 Berlin



“Wir sind das Volk” (“We are the people”) was the chant of the protestors on the streets of East Germany. **But who was there when two German states became one?** Ms. Müller and Mr. Meyer? What about Ms. Gül and Mr. Ho? And who counted as a part of “we”? A German-born Turkish child witnessing her parents suddenly losing their jobs? A Vietnamese contract worker keeping her baby without being deported? How did “we” feel as different groups protected themselves against the **rise of xenophobia**, reinforced by the rise of nationalism?

“We Are the Play” explores the **long-overlooked personal stories of immigrants and Germans of various descents** over the course of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. Based on **research and interviews conducted with eyewitnesses**, the duality of the contrary experiences of the Fall of the Wall is dissected - a collision of celebration with the anxiety accompanying freedom.

The audience will be both guided and set free to explore those stories **on the site of Berlin Wall Memorial**, where they will experience a playful and interactive journey of the same event, examining the same questions from different perspectives. In collaboration with the Berlin Wall Memorial and the Protestant Reconciliation Parish on Bernauer Straße, the independent

production platform **SISYPHOS, DER FLUGELEFANT (SdF)** will use **interactive activities and glimpses of narrative** to bring the Berlin Wall Memorial site and the diverse stories to life in a unique way.

“We Are the Play” uses the act of playing as a method for discovering the past in order to find a path towards each other in the **here and now**.

Additional performances:

FRI - SUN | September 12 - 14, 2014 | 7pm

THU - SUN | September 18 - 21, 2014 | 7pm

THU - SUN | September 25 - 28, 2014 | 7pm

In English and German.

“We are the Play” is part of English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center (ETB | IPAC) - project **„25 Jahre Mauerfall or: How I Learned To Stop Worrying and Love the Ossis/Wessis“**, a performative examination of German Reunification (August to December 2014). Additional Information: www.etberlin.de , www.sdfprojekte.de and www.wearetheplay.wordpress.com

With – Jonathan Kwesi Aikins, Kristin Becker, Sonja Chan, Dilan Gülmez, Para Kiala, Lara-Sophie Milagro, Larius Phoulivong | Artistic Direction – Chang Nai Wen | Forum Theater Techniques & Text – Evan Tsitsias | Dramaturgical Collaboration – Marie Urban | Text & Composition – Sophie Reyer | Set & Costume Design – Christin Vahl | Sound&Video Design – Michael Tibes | Production Management – ehrliche arbeit - freies Kulturbüro | Production Assistance – Theresa Pommerenke | Stage Management – Nicole Mühlberg | Research & Editorial Support – Michael Wäser | Internship – Marie Wilka

We Are the Play is a production by **SISYPHOS, DER FLUGELEFANT (SdF)** in coproduction with English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center and cooperation with *ehrliche arbeit - freies Kulturbüro*.

Funded by *Regierenden Bürgermeister von Berlin - Senate Chancellery - Cultural Affairs and Fonds Darstellende Künste e.V.* With the friendly support of the *Protestant Reconciliation Parish Berlin, the Berlin Wall Foundation, Theaterhaus Mitte, Radio Multicult.fm and the Taiwanese Ministry of Culture*.