

# SCHWARZ GEMACHT

Six additional performances of the controversially discussed play by **ALEXANDER THOMAS (USA)**  
Examining heritage and identity of Afro-German actors in Nazi-Germany  
April WE 15 | FR 17 | SA 18 | TH 23 – SA 25, 2015 | 8 pm | (WP February 26, 2014 | ETB)



Photo: Dragan Simicevic

Proud to serve his country, *Afrodeutscher (Afro-German) actor* Klaus appears in propaganda films calling for the return of Germany's former African colonies. Encounters with a young German-American woman and an African-American musician and activist at an underground jazz bar lead to hard questions about the treatment of people of color both in Germany and in the United States of America.

The production utilizes elements of **expressionist silent film** on a formal level as a reflection of the life of the protagonist. The surreal, often **claustrophobic atmosphere** of this era connects the various storylines and settings, focusing directly on the core issue of the play: "identity", the question of what makes us who we are and who has the right to define us.

*„Schwarz gemacht ist, mit seiner als perspektiviertem Bilderrahmen angelegten Bühne (David L. Arsenault), als Anfang zu betrachten, die an dramatischen Wendungen nicht arme Geschichte afrodeutschen Lebens für die Bühne zu gewinnen.“* (Matthias Dell, derFreitag, März 2014)

*„Daniel Brunet geht ganz anders an das Thema Nationalsozialismus heran, als wir es kennen. Das macht das Theaterstück nicht nur sehr sehenswert sondern auch wertvoll, skurril und schön.“* (Isabelle Zucker, Mit Vergnügen, März 2014)

*„Herausgekommen ist ein Stück, das nicht nur zum Nachdenken anregen, sondern auch historische Fakten vermitteln will. [...] Autor Alexander Thomas hat dabei die Größe, sich nicht auf Deutschland zu beschränken.“* (Ralf Hutter, neues deutschland, März 2014)

## Afrodeutsche and National Socialist Cinema

A surprising number of Afro-Germans were able to earn their living as extras in the film industry during the NS regime. They were used by Joseph Goebbels's propaganda machine to serve racist stereotypes while their precarious day-to-day existence was subject to constantly changing, arbitrary legislation. Extreme cases included being declared "stateless" and even deportation. One of the primary inspirations for the main character in *Schwarz gemacht* is, among others, the well-known Afro-German actor Louis Brody.

*Written by Alexander Thomas, directed by Daniel Brunet | With Sadiq Bey, Ernest Allan Hausmann, Peter Priegann, Miriam Anna Schroetter and Kerstin Schweers | Production Dramaturgy by Aline Benecke | Set Design by David L. Arsenault | Lighting Design and Production Management by Christian Maith | Costume Design by Tamar Ginati | Sound Design and Composition by Natalia Lincoln | Video Design by Noam Gorbat | Assistant Direction by Joseph Wegmann | Design Assistance by Matthew Peach | Dramaturgiehospitantz: Gavin Whitehead*

Tickets: 14 € | 8 € | **Exhibition free.**

In English and German.