

Science&Theater | Part 8:

EIN/VERSTÄNDNIS

A play (German premiere)

by Deborah Zoe Laufer

Premiere: September 20, 2018 | Additional performances: September 21, 22, 26 - 29, October 2 - 6 | 8:00 pm (all performances feature English subtitles)



For the first time, ETB | IPAC is presenting an English-language play in German in order to open the genre of science plays, little known in Germany, to a broader audience.

In the USA and in Great Britain, a veritable wave of science plays came with the worldwide success of Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen* (1998) which are now supported by special funding structures. On stages in Germany, however, science is rarely treated as a topic. Beside a few exceptions such as Bertolt Brecht's *Galileo Galilei* (1947) or Friedrich Dürrenmatt's *The Physicists* (1962), science plays are absent from the repertory and ensemble theaters. Within the Freie Szene, groups such as Rimini Protokoll or Flinn Works only address the topic through performative formats on an occasional basis.

To work against this, ETB | IPAC created the **Science&Theatre** series in 2010 to bring internationally famous English-language science plays to Berlin - *EIN/VERSTÄNDNIS* is the first to be translated into German and will feature English subtitles.

Synopsis of the play:

A young geneticist conducts research into a tribe of Native Americans in the Grand Canyon in search of the genetic causes of diabetes. In her excitement, she fails to take the interests of the tribe into consideration and finds herself at the ethical boundaries of science. She also experiences tremendous resistance in her family when she seeks to conduct gene tests on her own daughter.

In her play, Deborah Zoe Laufer connects an historic case, a perfect example of non-compliance with so-called "informed consent", which is the permission provided by the subject of the research test on the basis of having received sufficient information, with the very personal struggle of a scientist against a variety of interests, as well as against the loss of her own memory.

SCIENCE&THEATRE is a transdisciplinary cooperative project at the **interface between science and the arts**. It combines the academic studies of young scientists with the staging of science plays and science communication in theater. The series is artistically directed by Günther Grosser (who also serves as the director of the productions) and scientifically coordinated by the microbiologist Professor Regine Hengge (Humboldt-Universität Berlin).

With Sonja Keßner, Tina Ajala, Luzia Schelling, Kenneth George and Markus Weiß | **Directed by:** Günther Grosser | **Set Design by:** Tomas Fitzpatrick | **Costume Design by:** Heike Braitmayer | **Lighting Design by:** Katri Kuusimäki | **Video Design by:** Magnus Hengge | **Scientific Advisor:** Professor Regine Hengge, Humboldt-Universität Berlin | **Photo:** Gerald Wesolowski | **Original Title** Informed Consent (translated by Günther Grosser) | **[Tickets 15 € | 9 € (students)]**

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