

TEKSTER AV KIM DAVIES, SOMBEL GAFFAROVA, MIKE VAN GRAAN,
LIV HELDØ, GU LEI, LETIZIA RUSSO, ZHU YI OG HANNE ØRSTAVIK

APENE I HIMALAYA

URPREMIERE 18. JANUAR



Apene i Himalaya – The Monkeys of the Himalayas

A handful of warm, personal and humorous stories about travel and identity, written by eight different authors.

Man has always been wandering, but never to the extent as we see today. The story of migration has become the most important topic of our times - for good or bad. Now we bring this story to our stage by letting authors from around the world tell their tales.

In **China**, we meet a person on the way to the airport in a taxi, and in the jungles of **South Africa** a hostage is on an uncertain journey while waiting to be sold to the terrorist group Boko Haram. In **New York**, a Chinese girl is waiting for her parents to come to the metropolis to buy her an apartment and in **Norway** a woman is waiting for a man who will help her move. In **Rome** sits fascist in a cafe talking about how he wants to change the world and move people in his direction. Somewhere else, a young girl holds her family at arm's length by presenting lies. She hopes this will prevent them from visiting her. Simultaneously, but in a completely different place, a man is ready to venture the great unknown world, the one with no specific location.

In the performance "The monkeys in the Himalayas" director Jon Tombre creates a playful universe where many threads converge, while set designer, dramaturge and costume designer Yngvar Julin forms a space allowing the characters to migrate. On this voyage are actors descending from China, Norway, South-Africa, Sweden and Italy. Initially, authors from China, Tatarstan, Norway, Italy, Netherlands, South Africa and the United States were assigned to write texts with *migration* as the common denominator. They then met in China for several workshops working with the texts. The written material was later edited and compiled, resulting in the script called "Apene i Himalaya" or "The Monkeys of the Himalayas", as it is called in English.

We invite you to join us on an exciting journey to many corners of the world. Some will be different and unknown while much will be familiar and easily recognized.

Director: Jon Tombre

Set designer: Yngvar Julin

Costume design: Yngvar Julin

Lighting designer: Jon Håkon Paulsen

Sound designer: Kolbjørn Lyslo

Adaptation: Yngvar Julin, Vilma Štritof and Jon Tombre

Norwegian Translation: Ragnar Olsen

Actors: Kathy Johnson, Jørn-Bjørn Fuller Gee, Maria Grazia di Meo, Huy Le Vo, Karl Flyman, Li Jialong, Wang Yao, Ma Zhuojun

Texts by: Gu Lei, Mike van Graan, Hanne Ørstavik, Zhu Yi, Letizia Russo, Kim Davies, Sombel Gaffarova and Liv Heldø

The visiting Chinese actors



Ma Zhuojun, graduated from Central Academy of Drama, majoring in performing. She has been working with some of the most famous Chinese drama directors, like Lin Zhaohua and Yi Liming. She has also performed in "Ibsen in One Take" produced by Ibsen International directed by Wang Chong, an experimental theatre director in China, which has been touring in Norway and Australia. Ma Zhuojun has also been working in the theatre education field.

马卓君，生于1987年，毕业于中央戏剧学院表演专业，曾与著名国内戏剧导演林兆华，易立明等合作，参演易卜生国际出品，国内实验戏剧导演王翀创作的《一镜一生易卜生》，并巡演至挪威，澳大利亚等国家。马卓君还从事戏剧教育领域。



Li Jialong, graduated from Beijing Film Academy, majoring in performing. He has been working with some of the most famous Chinese drama directors, like Lin Zhaohua and Yi Liming. He has also worked with experimental theatre director Wang Chong on several pieces. Also has been working with director Tian Gebing on one of the very intense physical theater pieces. Jia Long has also worked in the film and TV series. Adept at theater pieces that combine video, multi-media and physical elements. At the same time, Jia Long has done a lot of staging of the classic works, by playwrights like Shakespeare, Chekov and Ibsen. He has been touring in Taiwan, Germany, Netherland, Norway, Israel and

Japan. In 2014, granted with the highest award in the category of competition during Festival/Tokyo.

李嘉龙，毕业于北京电影学院，表演专业。与舞台剧导演林兆华，易立明有多部作品合作。参与实验戏剧导演王翀多部作品。演出过肢体性很强的田戈兵导演的作品。并出演过电影，电视剧主要角色。在剧场影像、多媒体、肢体方向有深入广泛的探索。演出过莎士比亚，契可夫，易卜生等剧作家的作品。作品巡演于台北，德国，荷兰，澳大利亚，挪威，以色列，日本等地区。2014年获得东京剧场艺术节竞赛单元最高奖。



Wang Yao, graduated from Ocean University of China, has been trained in different performance workshops, likes to explore in theatrical performances, especially good at physical expressions. He has been working with HK physical theatre director Wong Chun Ta on many original creations, receiving a lot of acclaim during the Wu Zhen Theater Festival. Wang Yao has also worked with theatre directors like Yang Ting and Huang Ying, with strong eagerness to approach and learn different ways of performing. He is also performing in Independent movies, short videos and embrace different styles of expressions.

王尧，毕业于中国海洋大学。多次参加不同类型表演工作坊，不断追求剧场探索，擅长肢体表达。长期跟随香港肢体剧场导演黄俊达创作表演，作品巡演国内多个城市并在乌镇戏剧节获得广泛好评。与戏剧导演杨婷，黄盈均有合作，对不同类型的表演充满求知欲。也参与独立电影，微电影的拍摄，尝试不同的演出风格。

The Authors

KIM DAVIES

Kim Davies is a member of Youngblood and the New Georges Jam. Her play *Smoke* recently premiered at the Flea Theater for a thrice-extended run, was a New York Times and Time Out New York Critics' Pick, will be premiering in São Paulo, Brazil, and is forthcoming in print from Playscripts and Overlook Press. In 2015 and 2016 she joined Ibsen International's *New Text, New Stage* program in China to workshop a new play. MFA in playwriting, Brooklyn College.

LETIZIA RUSSO

Letizia Russo (Rome, 1980) began her activity as a playwright in 1998 with the play *Niente e nessuno*. She received the Tondelli Award in 2001 and Ubu Award winning in 2003 for *Tomba di cani*. Between her plays, staged in Italy and abroad: *Binario Morto – Dead End*, commissioned by the National Theatre in London, UK, for the Shell-Connections festival; *Primo Amore*; *Babele*; *Edeyen*; *Os Animais Domésticos*, wrote during the residency at the Artistas Unidos company, Lisbon, Portugal; *Dare al buio*; *Blitz*; *Per una Donna*; *Se ci sei batti un colpo*. Her plays are translated into English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Rumanian and Slovak.

HANNE ØRSTAVIK

She was born in 1969 in Tana, Finnmark, in the very north of Norway. At sixteen she moved to Oslo, where she lives today. Ørstavik holds a bachelor's degree (1992) in psychology, French and sociology. In 1993/94 she attended the Writers Study at Bø college in Norway, and at the same time she had her first novel published. Since then she has written 12 novels. Her literary work is translated into 18 languages and she has received several literary prizes and awards nationally and internationally. Her most famous novels are *Kjærlighet*, *The Blue Room* and *Like sant som jeg er virkelig*.

MIKE VAN GRAAN

Mike van Graan is the Executive Director of the African Arts Institute (AAI), a South African NGO based in Cape Town whose two-fold mission is to help develop leadership for the African creative sector and to build regional markets for African artists and their creative works. He was the founding Secretary General of Arterial Network, a pan-African network of artists, cultural activists, creative enterprises and others engaged in the African creative sector and its contribution to human rights, democracy and development on the African continent. Van Graan graduated from the University of Cape Town with an Honours Degree in Drama, after which he served in leadership positions in a variety of anti-apartheid cultural organisations including Director of the Community Arts Project, Projects Officer for the Congress of South African Writers and General Secretary of the National Arts Coalition. He was appointed Honorary Professor in the Drama Department from January 2015.

SOMBEL GAFFAROVA

She was born in the Russian republic of Tatarstan in 1980. She majored teaching as a second language. Sombel is a Member of Writer's Association of the Republic of Tatarstan and she has published a number of works on newspapers and magazines and fairy tales. She has also won several prizes for her literary works, such as *Iron Wire*, *The Airplane*, *I remember* and *Samat and the Black King*. Gaffarova writes all her works in Tatar. In addition, she is editor of the teenage magazine *Yalkin*, and she writes for *CYUYUMBIKE*, a female social political and cultural magazine.

ZHU YI

Zhu Yi is a New York-based playwright and screenwriter, born and raised in China. She received her MFA in playwriting from Columbia University. She received Shanghai Drama Valley's 2015 Outstanding Playwright of the Year Award. She is a 2012-2013 Emerging Artist Fellow at New York Theatre Workshop, a Youngblood Writer at Ensemble Studio Theatre, a member of Dramatists Guild of America, a member of Chinese Pioneering Filmmakers Association, and an adjunct lecturer at Nanjing University, China. Among her most important works are *I Am a Moon*, *How Time Flies*, *Holy Crab!* And *The Offended Audience*. She also wrote the scripts for motion pictures *Scope* and *Apolitical Romance*.

LIV HELØE

Liv Heløe is born 1963 in Harstad, Northern Norway and is a Norwegian playwright. She worked as an actress 1985-2000 in theatres, in television and in movies, such as *Flaggermusvinger*, *Hard asfalt og Folk som faller*. In 2001 she finished her two-year drama studies and since 2003 she has been writing for radio and radio theatre full time. In 2006 she received the Ibsen Award and in 2009 she got Honorable Mentions for her play *Lise L.* at the Prix Radio. Among her most famous works are *Lise L.*, *Idag og I morgen*, *I en butikk* and *Dialoger om demokrati*.

GU LEI

Gu Lei is a contemporary Chinese dramatist and drama director. Against a cold and dark backdrop, his works are sprinkled with light dark humor. In the abstract space, he avails himself of the traditional aesthetic spirit, balancing the taste of the grassroots and the air of a scholar, while at the same time ensuring high quality and striking a balance between aesthetic accessibility and beauty of art. Representative works: *Saying Goodbye to Boundless Long Night*, *Ten People's Night* and *Notime Gu*.

Pictures from the performance are available at <http://ht.tr.no/presse/bilder> . You may download the pictures free of charge as long as the pictures are used in editorial material concerning the production "Apene I Himalaya – The Monkeys of the Himalayas". No commercial use of the photographs are allowed. The pictures are copyrighted to Hålogaland Teater – The Arctic Theatre © 2017.

For further information about "Apene I Himalaya – The Monkeys of the Himalayas" or other matters regarding Hålogaland Teater – The Arctic Theatre please consult Information Advisor Mr. Stein Sebastian Fredriksen at cell phone +47 911 69 943 or via e-mail stein.fredriksen@ht.tr.no.

Check our website at www.ht.tr.no

