

Zurich 3 September 2011

## Press release

### ZKB Patronage Prize 2011

#### Two productions awarded form the programming focal point «The Arts and Social Change»

On the occasion of the Zürcher Theater Spektakel 2011, the ZKB Patronage Prize as well as the ZKB Acknowledgment Prize have been awarded for the 16<sup>th</sup> time. The international jury is impressed by the great artistic quality of all six productions nominated this year: «We have seen a young generation of theatre makers, who are passionately involved with an issue and have managed to find individual and original ways of artistic expression for their cause. Each of those works would have deserved the prize», the jury wrote in their final report. Nevertheless during the conclusive meeting, the decisions for the awards were made unanimously.

The ZKB Patronage Prize of 30 000 Swiss Francs goes to the young Mexican trio Lagartijas tiradas al sol (in English: lizards lounging in the sun) for their production «El Rumor del Incendio».

The ZKB Acknowledgment Prize of 5000 Swiss Francs goes to the Egyptian artists Aly Sobhy and Omar Mostafa, who were denied a travel permit to Zurich, for their contribution to the much acclaimed production «Lessons in Revolting» by Laila Soliman & Ruud Gielens.

*(Find the detailed statement of the jury at the end of this press release.)*

#### The nominees

- Mokhallad Rasem (Iraq/Belgium): Iraqi Ghosts
- Lagartijas tiradas al sol (Mexico): El Rumor del Incendio
- Laila Soliman & Ruud Gielens (Egypt/Belgium): Lessons in Revolting
- Contact Gonzo (Japan)
- Andréya Ouamba & Cie 1er Temps (Senegal): Sueur des Ombres
- Race Horse Company (Finland): Petit Mal

#### The jury

- Anja Dirks, director of the festival Theaterformen Braunschweig/Hannover
- Panaïbra Gabriel, Maputo, choreographer and dancer
- Phil Hayes, Zurich, performer, actor and director
- Andrea Schwieter, chief dramaturge Schauspielhaus Zürich
- Selma Spahić, artistic director «Future mess», theatre festival MESS Sarajevo

## Statement of the jury: ZKB Patronage Prize 2011

### **Lagartijas tiradas al sol: «El Rumor del Incendio»**

The piece of the young Mexican company is a quest for a buried part of their country's history. Their long-term research project, of which they presented a part in Zurich, impresses with its great diligence and sincerity. Their approach to the Mexican guerilla movements of the sixties and the seventies is courageous and very personal. At the same time, the artistic realization is refreshing and playful. The company masterfully applies a multitude of formal means such as figures, masks, video as well as scenic and autobiographical material and combines them in a seemingly effortless way. The dramaturgical and symbolic structure of the play is precise and subtle and very effectively ends with the touching monologue of Luisa Pardo. Besides the very successful realization, a further criteria for the jury's decision was the fact that Lagartijas tiradas al sol develop their projects in collaboration with all company members. And finally, the «lizards» convinced the jury with the sense of emergency of their cause, with the necessity to bring their issue onto stage. The jury is convinced that this young group will continue to realize unusual and unique projects and to refine its original theatrical language.

## Statement of the jury: ZKB Acknowledgement Prize 2011

### **Aly Sobhy und Omar Mostafa for their contribution to «Lessons in Revolting» of Laila Soliman & Ruud Gielens**

The ZKB Acknowledgement Prize 2011 goes to Aly Sobhy and Omar Mostafa for their contribution to «Lessons in Revolting», the courageous and engaged work of the collective around Laila Soliman and Ruud Gielens on the ongoing revolutionary conflict in Egypt. Especially Aly Sobhy's monologue – a fictitious speech to the military – convinced with its textual qualities. It is to be regretted that the voices of those two artists could only be heard indirectly here in Zurich. The jury finds it very questionable that they were denied travel permits because of their conscientious objection. Therefore, the contribution of Aly Sobhy and Omar Mostafa shall be honored in this way.

### **Award ceremony**

The Patronage Prize and the Acknowledgment Prize are awarded today, Saturday, at 18:00 hrs by the city mayor Corine Mauch and Dr János Blum, deputy chairman of the board of ZKB. In addition to the prize money, the winners will receive a bronze sculpture created by the Swiss artist Max Grüter commissioned by the ZKB.

*Should you have questions or need further information please contact us tomorrow, Sunday between 14:00 and 17:00 hrs. You can reach us on +41 44 488 18 80 or via [presse@theaterspektakel.ch](mailto:presse@theaterspektakel.ch). You can find pictures of the award-winning productions as well as of the award ceremony on [www.theaterspektakel.ch](http://www.theaterspektakel.ch) >presse*

We thank you for your interest.

With kind regards

Esther Schmid  
*Head of communication*