



## press release

Avignon, July 25<sup>th</sup> 2010

### *final report*

64<sup>th</sup> FESTIVAL D'AVIGNON

**7-27 July 2010**

\_\_\_\_\_ The 64<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival d'Avignon will end on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2010 with the last performances of *Délire à deux*, *Un mage en été*, *La Tragédie du roi Richard II*. The fringe "Le Off" will continue until the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2010.

Conceived with the associate artists Christoph Marthaler and Olivier Cadiot, a large part of this edition has been dedicated to artistic encounters and collective adventures, making theatre interact with dance, music and literature. The worlds depicted on the various stages, often with a quirky spirit and humour, focused on the everyday life, on the margins, on the most vulnerable ones, but also on the issue of power. In their quest for new forms, the shows have questioned, each in their specific way, the notions of space and time, notably by working with the architecture of the venues where they were created or presented, and by playing with rhythms, stretching time towards contemplation or, on the contrary, speeding it up. Memory and silence were also strong themes in this Festival, as if the 'ceremony' that is theatre allowed us to see our times from another angle.

Many artists of the Festival have presented more than one piece of work, allowing the audience to better access their world. Apart from the associate artists, accompanied by Anna Viebrock for Christoph Marthaler and by Ludovic Lagarde for Olivier Cadiot, we can highlight the performances of Angélica Liddell, a true revelation for French audiences, Alain Platel, Falk Richter, Rodolphe Burger, Jean Lambert-wild, Cindy Van Acker, Pascal Dusapin, the GdRA and Boris Charmatz. It was also the case for many performers such as Laurent Poitrenaux, Denis Podalydès, Olivia Grandville, Valérie Dréville, Jonathan Capdevielle, Pierre Baux and Laurent Sauvage.

For 21 days, the Festival has presented 50 shows in 20 different venues (including 10 for the Vingt-cinquième heure and 8 for the Sujets à Vif) for a total of nearly 250 performances. Two thirds of these shows were created especially for the Festival or presented to France for the first time. 21 artists and companies were invited for the first time in the Festival, including Jean-Baptiste Sastre, François Orsoni, Pierre Rigal, Zimmermann & de Perrot, Julie Andrée T., Christophe Feutrier, Frank Van Laecke, Anouk van Dijk and Andreas Kriegenburg. Others continue their journey with the audience of the Festival, notably Josef Nadj & Akosh S., Guy Cassiers, Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker, Gisèle Vienne, Philippe Quesne, Massimo Furlan, Christophe Huysman, Bartabas, Faustin Linyekula and Stanislas Nordey. A unique place of discovery for the general public as well as for the French and foreign professionals, the Festival once more fulfilled its role as an international platform.

Audiences also had the opportunity to complement their journey through the Festival thanks to numerous, and often free, propositions around the shows enabling them to share or to deepen their experiences: readings, films, exhibitions, meetings, debates, notably at the Ecole d'Art which welcomed more than 14 000 festival-goers. Two exceptional events have also marked this edition: the tribute to Alain Crombecque and the Bal of the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, organised by Rodolphe Burger and which gathered more than 10 000 people on the square of the Pope's palace.

For the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the Festival's attendance rate has been superior to 90%. 116 000 tickets were delivered this year for a total capacity of 122 000 seats, setting a new attendance record of 95%.

The two performances presented in the Cour d'honneur were filmed: *Papperlapapp*, by Christoph Marthaler and Anna Viebrock, was broadcasted live on Arte on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July and *La Tragédie du roi Richard II*, directed by Jean-Baptiste Sastre, on France 2 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. With more than 200 000 visitors in July, the new website of the Festival also proposed to follow the daily events of the Festival.

The Festival continues to open itself to new audiences, notably by organising, in collaboration with the Ceméa, the visit of nearly 800 secondary school students coming from 10 different regions of France; by promoting the presence, in the Festival, of young people from Avignon, introduced to the theatre by the voluntary group "Les amis du Festival"; by supporting the "School for Citizenship" organised by Dexia; and by continuing its collaboration with the prison of Avignon-Le Pontet. The diversity of the performances shown, the public success, the richness of the discussions which took place in the meetings and debates all testify of the vitality of the performing arts, despite a rather difficult economic context and the anxieties weighing on the question of funding for the arts. These issues have emerged in many debates and professional meetings which were held during the Festival. This 64<sup>th</sup> edition was notably marked by two declarations of elected and political representatives who demonstrated their attachment to a public policy in favour of culture and to the role of culture in the projects of society, whether it be through the declaration taken on a European level on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July or through the one created under the initiative of the associations of local elected representatives in France on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July.

For the next edition, Hortense Archambault and Vincent Baudriller have chosen the choreographer and dancer Boris Charmatz. The programme will be revealed in March 2011.



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