

For Immediate Release

Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee

3 August 2016

## **Festival/Tokyo 2016 Full Lineup Press Conference and Guest Lecture**

Festival/Tokyo has announced the full lineup of 16 productions for the 2016 festival this autumn.

Based in the Ikebukuro area of Toshima, Tokyo, Festival/Tokyo (F/T) is Japan's largest performing arts festival. Festival/Tokyo 2016 runs from October 15th to December 11th for 58 days as part of Tokyo Metropolitan Festival 2016, featuring 16 productions in the Main Program and 14 productions in the Affiliated Program.

A press conference will be held to announce details of the program, followed by a special guest lecture on the work of Polish theatre giant Krystian Lupa, whose work is appearing in Japan for the first time as part of F/T16.

### **F/T16 Press Conference**

August 30th / 14:00-14:50 (Doors open: 13:30)

Guests: Piotr Rudzki (theatre scholar, dramaturge for Polski Theatre in Wrocław), Sachio Ichimura (Director, Festival/Tokyo)

The press conference is held in Japanese and Polish

### **Lecture: The Theatre of Krystian Lupa**

August 30th / 15:00-16:00

Introducing the work of the Polish theatre giant

Lecturer: Piotr Rudzki

The lecture is in Polish with Japanese interpretation

Venue: Embassy of the Republic of Poland

2-13-5 Mita, Meguro, Tokyo 153-0062

Presented by Festival/Tokyo

Co-presented by Instytut Polski w Tokio

Endorsed by Embassy of the Republic of Poland

## **Festival/Tokyo 2016**

October 15th to December 11th, 2016 (58 days)

Venues: Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre, Owlspot Theater, Nishi-Sugamo Arts Factory, Ikebukuro Nishiguchi Park, Morishita Studio, and more

Organizers: Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee, Toshima City, Toshima Mirai Cultural Foundation, NPO Arts Network Japan (NPO-ANJ), Arts Council Tokyo & Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

Festival/Tokyo 2016 is organized as part of Tokyo Metropolitan Festival 2016.



## **Woodcutters**

This highly acclaimed production by Polish theatre giant Krystian Lupa, known for his remarkable set designs and sharply critical eye, makes its long-awaited debut in Japan. Based on the novel by Austrian writer Thomas Bernhard, the play takes place over a gathering of old friends from the theatre world. The “artistic dinner”, as the hosts like to call it, follows the funeral of an actress who committed suicide. As the bohemians drink and talk, the sham of their decadence gradually unravels, exposing their inner fears, damage, and grudges. Eventually, they turn on each other. Inspired by actual events, Bernhard’s scandalous book led to a lawsuit after it was published. Swinging like the axe of a woodcutter, this razor-edged satire remains vivid and relevant today for our supposedly fair and democratic society.

Adapted, Stage Design, Lighting and Directed by Krystian Lupa

Based on the novel by Thomas Bernhard

Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre (Playhouse) / October 21st to October 23rd

Advance: ¥5,500 / Day: ¥6,000 / Students: ¥3,000 / Other tickets available

Running Time: 260 min. (with interval) / Performed in Polish with Japanese surtitles

Produced by Polski Theatre in Wrocław

Special cooperation from Instytut Polski w Tokio, Propel Performing Arts & Media Co., Ltd.

Co-presented by Culture.pl

## **Krystian Lupa**

Born in 1943, Krystian Lupa is a director and writer who also designs scenography and lighting. He studied physics, painting, graphic design, and stage directing, and made his debut as a director in 1976 with Mrożek's "The Slaughterhouse". He has enjoyed a long relationship with the Stary Theatre in Krakow since 1980, where he started to focus on adapting and directing the work of Russian, German and Austrian writers. He has had particular success with adapting the plays and novels of Thomas Bernhard, long considered difficult to stage, such as "Immanuel Kant", "The Lime Works", "Extinction" and "Heldenplatz". Recent major work includes "Factory 2", "Persona. Marilyn", and "Waiting Room.0". He is current working with Polski Theatre in Wrocław on a stage adaptation of Franz Kafka's "The Trial".

## **Piotr Rudzki**

A theatre scholar and dramaturge for Polski Theatre in Wrocław, Piotr Rudzki taught at the University of Delhi from 1995 to 2000, and currently teaches at the University of Wrocław. Specializing in contemporary Polish theatre, his book published in 2013 about the work of Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz (Witkacy) also offered a comprehensive perspective on Polish theatre from 1956 to 1989. Since 1994, he has served as an editor of the Polish theatre magazine Notatnik Teatralny (Theatrical Notebook), and has written many articles about Krystian Lupa.

## **Inquiries**

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