

## **The Europe Ensemble – Together with Nowy Teatr and Zagreb Youth Theatre, Schauspiel Stuttgart has set up a European ensemble**

**- Associate Partner: The National Theatre of Greece**

At the beginning of the 2018/2019 season, Schauspiel Stuttgart established a European ensemble together with Nowy Teatr of Warsaw, Zagreb Youth Theater and associate partner the National Theatre of Greece. Within the firm structures of state theatre, the Europe Ensemble will receive ample time and space to be able to establish itself as an independent ensemble. Actors and directors from Croatia, Bosnia, Poland, Greece and Germany will work together as an ensemble and make theatre together over a two-year period. Thematically, the productions will focus on questioning how Europe can be newly imagined, and which socio-political ideals the European project could strengthen. Can numerous western societies' democratic fatigue be tackled artistically? As the European Project currently sinks into crisis, how can it be reinvigorated?

Famous for his critical perspective on the state of affairs within society and his provocative visual language, director and author Oliver Frljić will act as The Europe Ensemble's artistic director. In his controversial and much discussed theatre pieces, Frljić alludes to European society's blind spots and open wounds, and in doing so regularly puts the new countries of the former Yugoslavia in focus.

Each participating theatre will produce two pieces and will show both other directorial works as guest performances. During the first year, the ensemble will create productions with Oliver Frljić and Anna Smolar, and Anestis Azas. The Europe Ensemble's performances in Stuttgart will be accompanied by a large-scale symposium.

“The vital funding from the German Federal Cultural Foundation means a great deal,” explains the designated creative director for acting, Burkhard C. Kosminski, happily. “The Europe Ensemble is an exceptional project that enables a heterogeneous group of European artists to gather shared experience, exchange ideas, to mutually inspire each other via the various productions and perspectives and to work on a shared theatre language over the course of two years in alternating theatres. With its theatre aesthetic characterised by diversity and multilingualism, The Europe Ensemble challenges the traditional municipal and state theatre ensemble structures, while at the same time harbours enormous potential for innovation for future work models.”

### **THE EUROPE ENSEMBLE**

Visions of the theatre of the future

Artistic Director: Oliver Frljić (HR)

Direction: Oliver Frljić (HR), Anna Smolar (PL), Anestis Azas (GR)