



2016-2017

**Round-up of season 2016/2017
at TR Warszawa**

A NEW BEGINNING

*The **2016/2017** season at TR Warszawa draws to a close with a record of nearly **190** performances, six premieres, almost 20 fringe events and guest performances.*

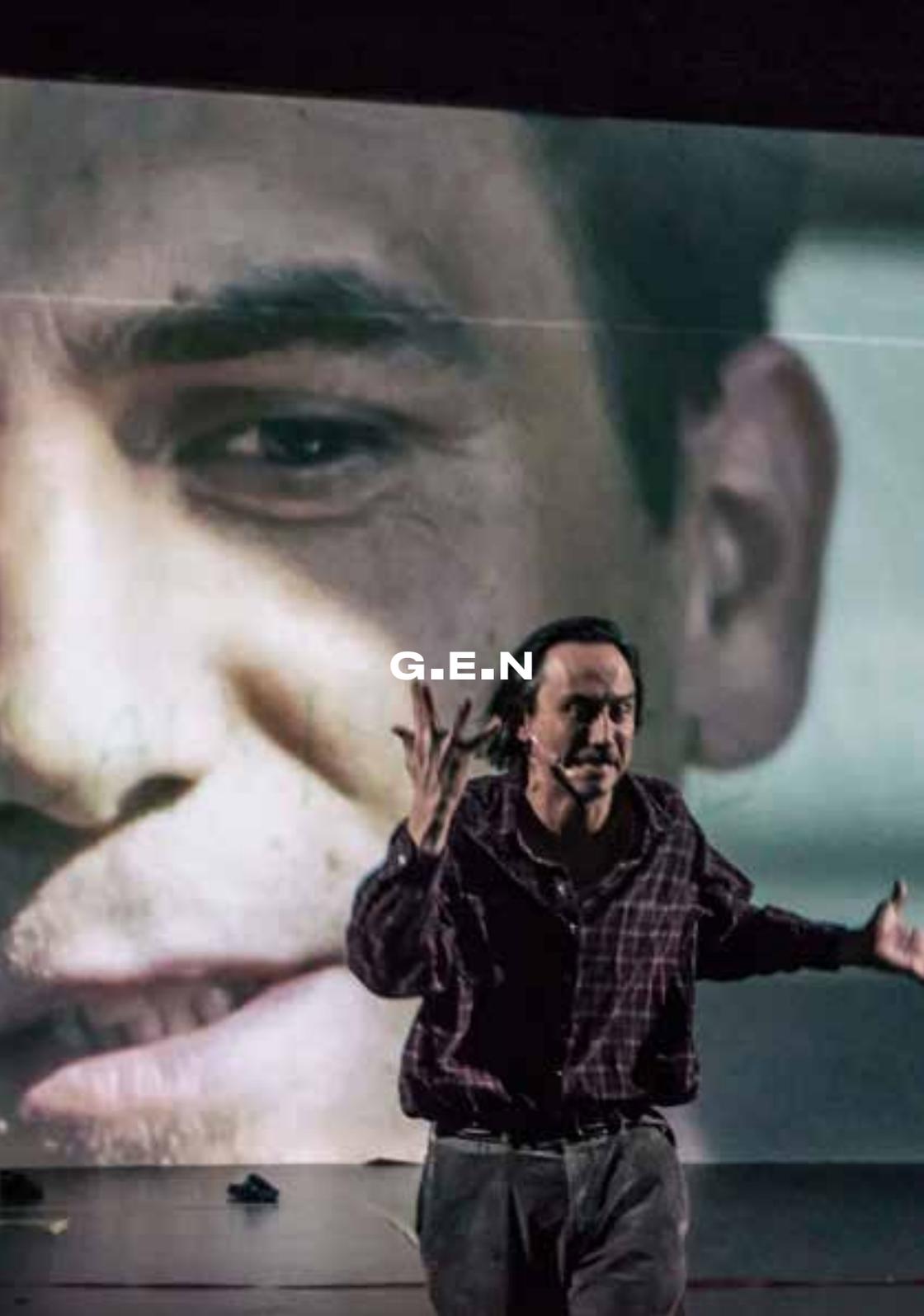


In many ways, this was a symbolic season for the theatre at 8 Marszałkowska Street. Among its highlights was the 20th anniversary of the premiere of Grzegorz Jarzyna's production of **TROPICAL CRAZE**, which marked a beginning of a new chapter in the history of theatre in Poland and brought together the group of people who make up TR Warszawa of today. To celebrate the occasion, we invited the creators, actors in this iconic production, and the audience for a special nostalgia night featuring a screening of the recorded performance and a staged reading of the original script based on Witkacy's plays, prepared by the young generation of artists and actors under the direction of Oskar Sadowski. In collaboration with the Theatre Institute, we also organised a debate on the breakthrough in the Polish theatre and an exhibition about **TROPICAL CRAZE**. A special issue of "Notatnik Teatralny" devoted to TR Warszawa was published to commemorate the celebrations.



DANUTA SZAFLARSKA
1915—2017

The passing of the late-lamented **DANUTA SZAFLARSKA**, a distinguished actress and a wonderful human being put an end to an era in the history of our company. We paid our last tributes at Warsaw's Powązki Cemetery with the sense that we had lost not only an illustrious figure of the Polish theatre and cinema, but also a vital part of our artistic and human community. We reminisced about "our Danusia" at a special evening event organized together with the National Audiovisual Institute, confident that her personality and artistic energy will stay with us forever.



G.E.N

For all of us the **2016/2017** season was a new beginning: we launched preparations for the transformation of TR Warszawa into a novel institution that is expected to move to a new location at Plac Defilad in **2020/21**. As part of the **TR 2.0** project, we have launched a temporary third stage at TR Warszawa/ATM Studio at Wał Miedzeszyński **384**, where we are expanding our programming and attracting audiences for our future theatre.

The first premiere on the new stage was **G.E.N** – a story of an alternative community that rebels against the existing order, looking for answers to questions about the moral condition of man today. This was an exceptional and ground-breaking endeavour for us, and a community of authors, directors, performers and technicians emerged from this production. We printed their names in the production's programme in alphabetical order without mentioning the assigned functions and roles to emphasise their collective contribution to the creation of this incredible piece of art.

Another of this season's large-scale productions was **IVONA, THE PRINCESS OF BURGUNDIA** directed by Grzegorz Jarzyna, co-produced with the Theatre of Nations in Moscow. A modern staging rife with references to today's world and starring Russian actors was hailed in Russia as a universal and hard-hitting tale about the mechanisms of



THE FANTASIA

power and subjugation, with the eponymous heroine Ivona becoming a symbol of rebellion in the time of compromise. The production was appreciated by the audience of Warsaw Theatre Meetings Festival, where it was performed twice.

In **2016/2017** we continued working with young authors, which is the core of our theatrical DNA. Anna Karasińska, director of the widely acclaimed production of **EWELINA'S CRYING**, directed her third play, **THE FANTASIA**, a critical analysis of theatre as a phenomenon and of the mechanisms of performative fiction. As part of the TR.doc review, Małgorzata Wdowik directed **THE FOOTBALLERS**, in which she cast former professional football players. Exploring the theme of the male body in sports and mixing the genres of documentary, theatre, and movement, the play has become a part of our repertoire.

Jędrzej Piaskowski from Krakow's National Academy of Theatre Arts, the first winner of the TR Debut award for young directors, staged his debut play with TR actors. Together with the playwright Magda Fertacz he produced **PUPPENHAUS. KURACJA** to be staged at TR Workshop Room, a play touching upon the taboo issue of sexual violence and collaborationism during World War II. With this production, we brought back the memory of Maria Malicka, a famous pre-war actress, banned from performing in Warsaw for accepting offers from public

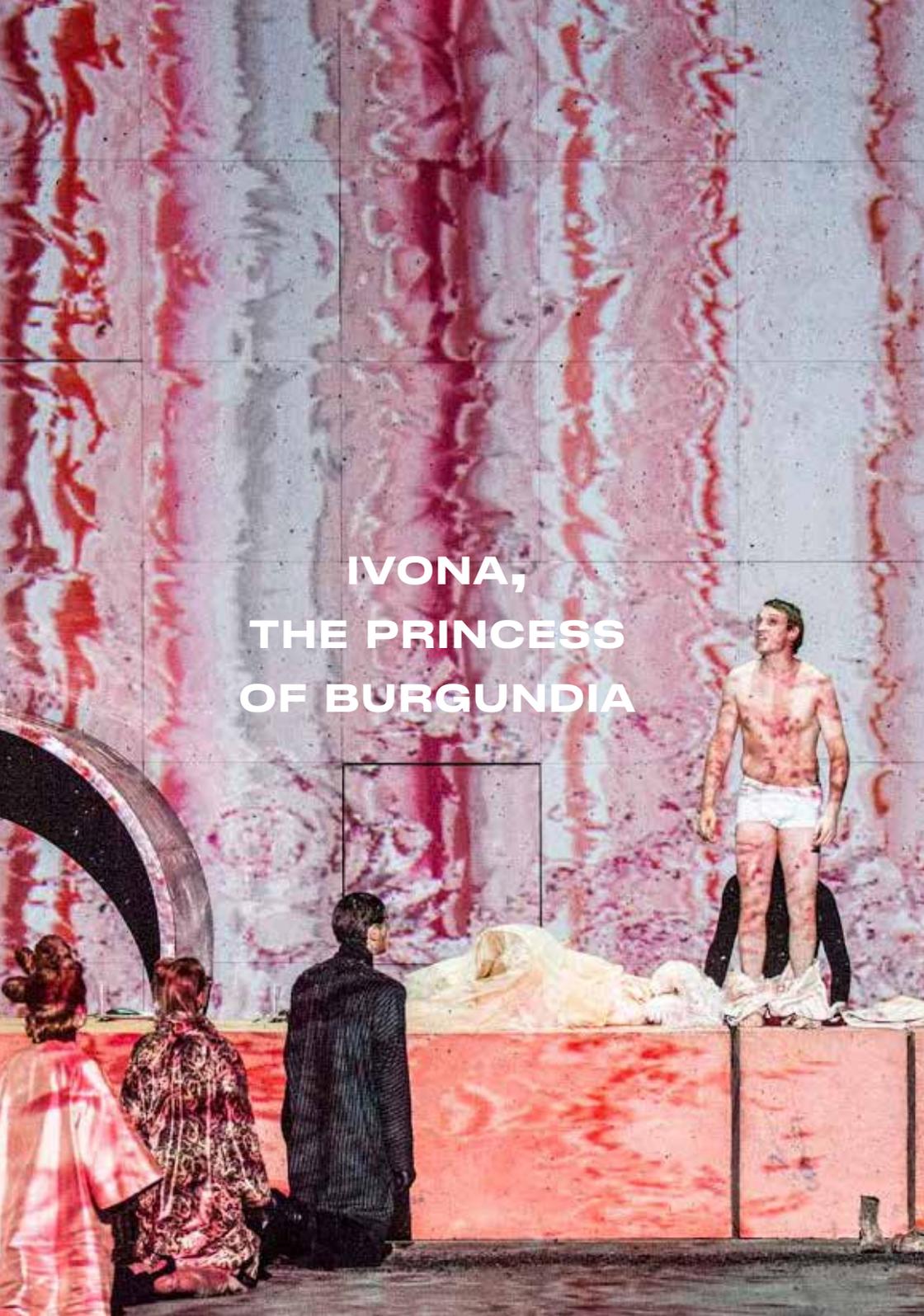


SOUNDWORK

theatres during the Nazi occupation of the Polish capital. The theatre at 8 Marszalkowska Street, which is our current stage, was built in **1939** with Maria Malicka in mind.

We have also continued our forays at the intersection of various forms of art and drama. The outstanding contemporary music composer Wojciech Blecharz directed a musical **SOUNDWORK**, with actors taking parts of musicians performing music on special instruments fashioned from everyday objects. This unique piece, working as an introduction to the world of music and sound, teaches spectators not only to listen to but also to make music.

As part of our repertoire, we staged 16 titles, including TR's classics: **FESTEN** and **4.48 PSYCHOSIS** dir. Grzegorz Jarzyna, René Pollesch's **RAGAZZO DELL' EUROPA** and **ANGELS IN AMERICA** dir. Krzysztof Warlikowski (with Teatr Nowy). Our productions were presented at important festivals and stages in Poland and abroad: from Koszalin, Kielce and Krakow to Maribor, New York, and Beijing. **HOLZWEGE** was performed at the Divine Comedy Festival in Krakow and in Bydgoszcz at the World Premiere Festival, **ROBERT ROBUR** at Divine Comedy and Kalisz Theatre Meetings Festival, **REQUEST CONCERT** - in Maribor and at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York, **FOOTBALLERS** at the Counterpoint Small Form Theatre Festival in Szczecin and at the Close Strangers Theatre



**IVONA,
THE PRINCESS
OF BURGUNDIA**

Meetings Festival in Poznan, **EWELINA'S CRYING** in Kielce, Kłodzk and Lublin as part of Theatre Confrontations Festival, in Toruń at the First Contact Festival, and in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janerio at the Tempo Festival, **4.48 PSYCHOSIS** in Tianjin and Beijing in China, **IVONA, THE PRINCESS OF BURGUNDIA** in Moscow's Theatre of Nations, which also hosted the "TR Laszuk" exhibition showcasing Grzegorz Laszuk's posters for TR Warszawa.

As for our actors: Justyna Wasilewska, Paweł Smagała and Cezary Kosiński won awards at Kalisz Theatre Meetings Festival for their roles in **ROBERT ROBUR**, Anna Karasińska won the 1st prize for stage direction at the First Contact Festival in Torun for her production of **EWELINA'S CRYING**, while Ewelina Pankowska won the award for her acting in that play. **FOOTBALLERS** directed by Małgorzata Wdowik won the 1st prize at the 6th Young Directors' Forum. The artists behind the production of **ROBERT ROBUR** won awards at the 23rd All-Poland Competition for the Best Production of a Contemporary Polish Play: Krzysztof Garbaczewski for direction, Jan Duszyński for music, and Aleksandra Wasilkowska, Sławomir Blaszewski, Robert Mleczek and Bartosz Nalazek for visual art framework. Robert Mleczek was also awarded at the Divine Comedy Festival in Krakow for the best multimedia visuals in **ROBERT ROBUR**. The winner of this year's TR Warszawa Award – Debut Competition is Klaudia



FOOTBALLERS

Hartung-Wójciak, 3rd year student at the Direction and Drama Department of the National Academy of Theatre Arts in Krakow for the production of **WEAVERS: A STORY THAT IS TRUE, AND THEREFORE SAD.**

For the second time we took part in the unique “Theatre Poland” project organized by the Theatre Institute to bring performances to places with no permanent theatre companies. **EWELINA’S CRYING** was shown in Żary, Nowa Sól, Jarocin, Krotoszyn, Konin, Krasnystaw, and Kraśnik, making it the longest tour of TR Warszawa in Poland to date.

We invited prominent theatre companies and productions from Poland and abroad to perform on our stage in Warsaw. Teatr Nowy from Poznan gave a guest performance of **VERSUS** based on the play by Rodrigo Garcia, dir. Jędrzej Piaskowski. In collaboration with the Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding we presented two documentary dramas of Moscow’s dissident .doc Theatre: **24+** and **THE WAR IS COMING**, and, together with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office Berlin, we hosted **MACBETH** produced by Tang Shu-Wing Theatre Studio.

Also, a key part of our strategy was to establish a working relationship with the Jewish Theatre in Warsaw, currently without permanent location, and Teatr Polski in Poznan. At TR Warszawa/ATM Studio we hosted Maja



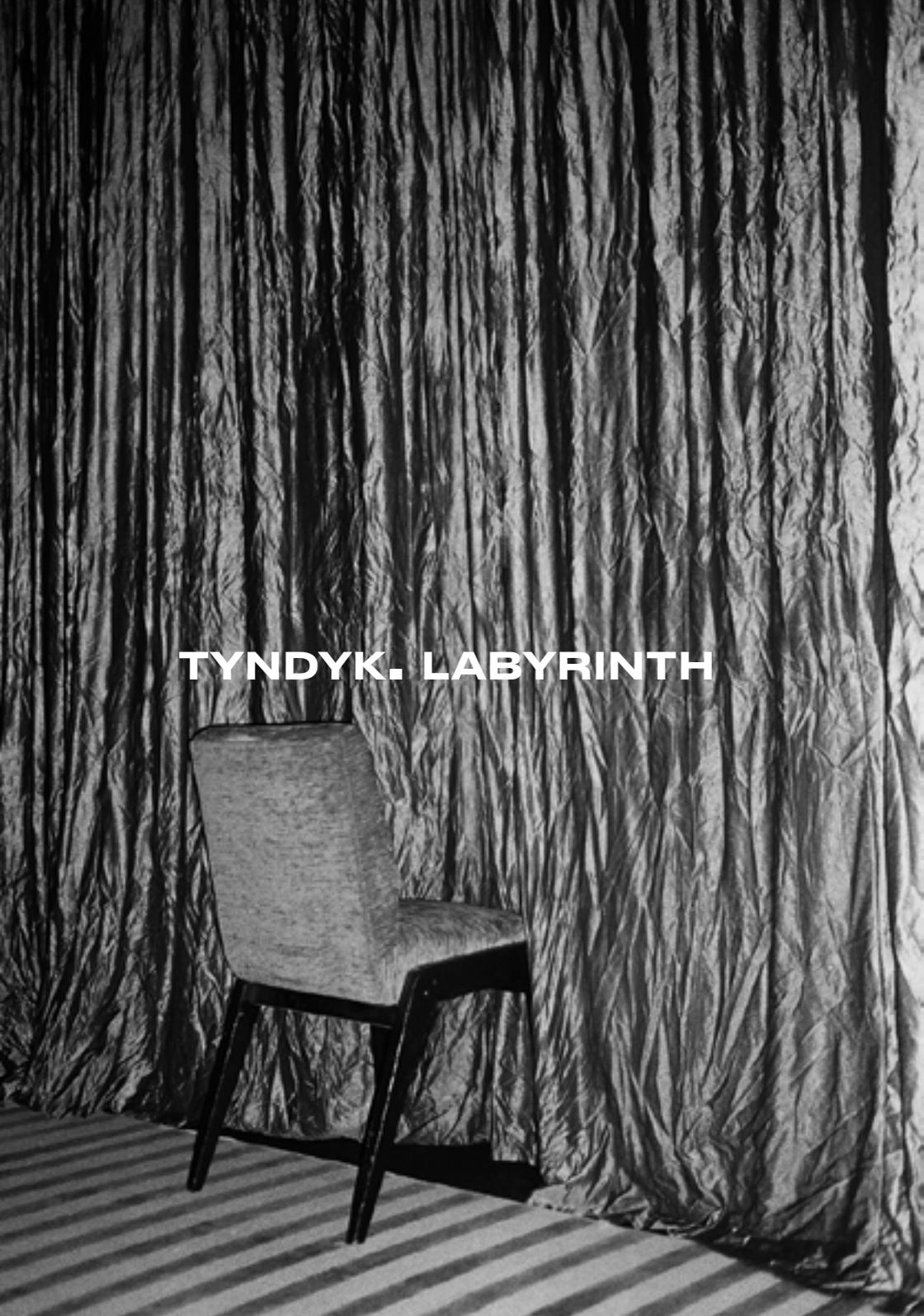
PUPPENHAUS.KURACJA

Kleczewska's double feature: S. An-sky's **THE DYBBUK** and **THE PAINTED BIRD** (Warsaw premiere) based on the novel by Jerzy Kosiński, both of which raise the problem of the responsibility of those who witnessed the Holocaust.

As usual, our premieres and returning productions were accompanied by fringe events: readings, concerts, and screenings. We responded to the refugee crisis and the war in Syria with the **WARSAW — ALEPPO** action and reading together with money collection for the victims of the war in Syria. Joined by Komuna / Warszawa we held readings of poems by famous poets that describe the experience of war from the perspective of civilian victims.

An important part of our international schedule was the contemporary Spanish drama month, prepared in collaboration with Acción Cultural Española from Madrid. The young directors invited for the event prepared staged readings of Spanish dramas, most of which had never been staged in Poland. Authors that came for Q&A sessions with the audience included Rodrigo Garcia, Jose Manuel Mora, Josep Maria Miro, and Marc Crehuet. To commemorate the occasion, we have published a volume of Spanish plays in our "TR New Drama" series.

We have continued our exploration of documentary theatre; in collaboration with Bemowo Culture Centre



TYNDYK. LABYRINTH

and BOTO Foundation from Sopot we staged three productions by young authors: Michał Szymaniak's **KIM** dir. Elżbieta Depta, Krzysztof Szekalski's **FOOTBALLERS** dir. Małgorzata Wdowik, and Tomasz Szczepanek's **WARSAW CALLING**. The TR Film series brought the screenings of **ZUD, KRYSZTAŁOWA DZIEWCZYNA [CRYSTAL GIRL], LO AND BEHOLD** and **LES COWBOYS**. As part of TR Music, we co-organised concerts of Radio Asia with the Five Flavours Festival, hosting such avant-garde performers as Rasmee Wayrana, Jeong Cha-sik, and Midori Takada. The closing event of the season was the concert of the feminist band "Żelazne Waginy" [Iron Vaginas], made up of the actresses of "A Fire in a Brothel" cabaret group, with special guest appearance by TR Warszawa's Maria Maj.

This past season has been a further reassurance that we are getting to know our audience better and better. With audience development in mind, we are constantly expanding our repertoire, catering to our regulars while inviting new spectators to discover our theatre and one another. The educational program has been in place at TR for 10 years because involving audiences in the life of the theatre and building close relationships is one of our main objectives. This is why we make a point of removing any obstacles to participation in art. What cannot be seen, our audience is able to touch or hear, and that which cannot be heard, can be experienced and watched up

close. We have made performances with English surtitles a permanent feature of our repertoire. In the 2016/2017 season we treated our regular audiences and newcomers to workshops in the following series: **OPEN WORKSHOPS, TR WITHOUT BARRIERS, MUM, DAD, LET'S GO TO THE THEATRE!, THEATRE HOLIDAYS, EDU SPACE, STARTER.** We have also established collaboration with three secondary schools in the one-year **TR/TISZ** project.

In addition, the last season featured art workshops conducted by Grzegorz Jarzyna and Anna Nykowska – a the Tempo Festival in Rio de Janeiro (18-21 October 2016) and “The Jarzyna Lab at Yale 2017” at the Yale University School of Drama (2-7 January 2017). Furthermore, Grzegorz Jarzyna conducted a workshop in Warsaw for the students of New York’s Pace School of Performing Arts (19 June 2017).

And, last but not least, our actor Tomasz Tyndyk had his debut as photographer. An exhibition of his photographs **LABYRINTH** showing the making of a play from the actor’s perspective was held at the Workshop Hall and foyer of TR Warszawa/ATM Studio at the premiere of **G.E.N.** In June the foyer of TR Warszawa/ATM Studio hosted the exhibition of photographs by Aleksandra Rogalska titled “TR without barriers,” showcasing shots taken during the TR WITHOUT BARRIERS project and 2016 Summer at the Theatre workshops and at the Róża Czacka School and

Education Centre for Blind Children in Laski, with which TR Warszawa has been collaborating for years.

This was a season full of events and challenges, and it left us feeling ever closer to our audience who make our every single undertaking possible.

2017

IR WARSZAWA

2018

PROGRAMMING PROPOSALS FOR THE FIRST PART OF THE 2017/2018 SEASON

Michał Borczuch's production based on Karl Ove Knausgård's **MY STRUGGLE** series of novels, a new play by the German director René Pollesch, and a stage adaptation of one of the most important novels of the 20th century, Mikhail Bulgakov's **THE MASTER AND MARGARITA** directed by the Russian visionary Konstantin Bogomolov are TR's offerings for the coming season.

Along with premieres by Polish and foreign directors, TR Warszawa will organise a series of workshops titled "Stranger at Home" during which young theatre artists will develop plans for productions inspired by the Jewish experience of March 1968 Events in Poland. The co-organiser is Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews, which will host a premiere of one of the projects, in the autumn of the following year.

My Struggle

Based on the series of novels

My Struggle by Karl Ove Knausgård

Directed by: Michał Borczuch

Adapted by: Tomek Śpiewak

Cast: Jan Dravnel, Dobromir Dymecki, Magdalena Kuta,

Lech Łotocki, Maria Maj, Sebastian Pawlak,

Agnieszka Podsiadlik, Halina Rasiakówna,

Paweł Smagała, Tomasz Tyndyk, Justyna Wasilewska

Premiere: October 6, 2017

at TR Warszawa / ATM Studio, ul. Wał Miedzeszyński 384.

Michał Borczuch's production based on the series of novels by Karl Ove Knausgård, one of the leading Scandinavian writers. The six-volume novel published in 2011 is a project unique in the history of world literature: a literary record of the author's life from early childhood to adulthood.

Michał Borczuch about the production:

“My Struggle” is a long, epic meditation about reality. Knausgård’s obsessively detailed narrative inspired me as the modern algorithm for preserving reality and ourselves within it. The extreme, obsessive subjectivity, which at times makes me hate the writer, reveals the truth about our modern times in which the experience of studying oneself as if in a selfie becomes a struggle for existence in a world full of people. Others can be very close to us, they can be part of

our family, but when confronted with our egos, they are reduced to characters in a novel. Knausgaard invites us to make literature out of our lives. But there is a paradox here: when our life becomes important, any other life - even if preserved in minute details - becomes anonymous. For this reason when we developed the project, we juxtaposed Knausgård’s novel with personal experiences of selected readers that will make a vital part of the production.

Original project of René Pollesch

Premiere on December 8,

TR Warszawa / Marszałkowska 8, Main Stage

René Pollesch is back at TR! The famous German playwright and director will direct his new production based on his new original script in December 2017. It will be his third production for TR Warszawa after *Ragazzo dell' Europa* and *Jackson Pollesch*. The new project will be based on improvisation and conversations with actors, and the main theme will be the current socio-political situation in Europe. Pollesch intends to analyse the socio-political and economic mechanisms that determine the human condition today. Four TR actors will take part and the rehearsals will start in the autumn of 2017, with the premiere planned for December 8, 2017.

The Master and Margarita

based on the novel by Mikhail Bulgakov

adapted and directed by: Konstantin Bogomolov

Premiere: March 2018

The eminent Russian director Konstantin Bogomolov, famous for unconventional interpretations of classics, comes to TR Warszawa to direct his own adaptation of Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*, one of the most important novels of the 20th century. In Bogomolov's reading, the novel of the celebrated Russian writer becomes a story about the yearning for metaphysics in today's world and the artist's place in contemporary reality. Konstantin Bogomolov (1975) – one of the most prominent artists in contemporary Russian theatre, graduate of GITIS, associated with the MChAT Theatre in Moscow. He found recognition for his innovative productions that uncompromisingly explore the themes of coming to terms with the history and the modern times of Russia and Europe, such as *Lear: A Comedy* at the Priyut Komedianta Theatre in St Petersburg (2012), *An Ideal Husband* and *The Brothers Karamazov* at MChAT in Moscow (2013). In Poland, he directed *Ice* based on the novel by Vladimir Sorokin (2013) at the National Theatre in Warsaw and *Platonov* at the National Stary Theatre in Krakow (2015).

Stranger at Home. On March 1968 Events.

A collaboration between TR Warszawa
and the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews

October 2017 – March 2018

The March 1968 Events: the banning of the performance of *Dziady* dir. Kazimierz Dejmek at the National Theatre, brutally suppressed student protests and an antisemitic campaign that led to forced emigration of over ten thousand Polish Jews, left a permanent mark on the history of Poland and remain to this day a reference point for political debate. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March 1968 political crisis, TR Warszawa and the Museum of the History of Polish Jews are holding a closed competition titled “Stranger at Home” for a proposed production inspired by the Jewish experience of the events. The organisers have invited a group of young dramatists and performance artists to take part in history workshops at the Polin Museum. Until the end of June, participants are developing concepts of theatre productions and performances. Early in July an artistic committee will choose 5 projects to be presented in October as workshop productions at TR Warszawa and Polin Museum. The next round of workshops is planned for March 2018, and the endeavour will end in a premiere of the winning project in the autumn of 2018.

