



SCHÄXPIR Theater Festival

Co-Productions with Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture and the World Premiere of DAS SCHIFF (Theater Sgaramusch/NIE)

An extraordinary program befitting an extraordinary year has been orchestrated for the 5th **SCHÄXPIR International Theater Festival** set for **June 25 – July 5**. The facts & figures that form the foundation of this highly acclaimed theater festival for young audiences are impressive indeed: **4 co-productions with Linz09, 170 performances over 11 days, 41 productions** featuring actors and actresses from **10 countries**, as well as **20 venues** in Linz, Wels, Steyr and Gmunden.

Thus, amidst Linz's Capital of Culture year—and, after all, what could be a better proscenium than this one—the Province of Upper Austria is also making a major commitment to its **cultural offerings for children and young people** and organizing, in addition to Linz09's "I like to move it move it" school project, the SCHÄXPIR festival that constitutes the Capital of Culture year's most prominent **production conceived especially for young audiences**.

SCHÄXPIR 2009 – Program Overview

SCHÄXPIR 2009 is following up on last year's extremely successful festival that attracted approximately 17,000 visitors over nine days. One of the 2009 focal-point themes—an outgrowth of co-productions for Linz09—is **international networking and collaboration**, an approach that offers a very promising philosophy to pursue in

the future as well. In addition to staging **world premieres of Austrian plays** that have come to define **SCHÄXPIR's** style and producing **Linz09 projects**, this year's festival will also feature an interesting selection of **co-productions involving Austrian artists and their international colleagues**, including theater people from France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany. Outstanding guest productions from **South Korea** and **Russia** top off the SCHÄXPIR lineup.

A series of **outdoor projects** carries on SCHÄXPIR's tradition of staging **theatrical events at out-of-the-ordinary locations**—one that has been very well received by audiences. This year, SCHÄXPIR will be appearing at Linz's parks, lakes and gardens including the Botanical Garden.

SCHÄXPIR Meets Linz09!

For the first time in its history, SCHÄXPIR is presenting productions prior to the beginning of the festival itself. In a total of four co-productions that SCHÄXPIR has financed with Linz09, renowned international theater groups will be dealing with themes closely connected to this city and its inhabitants. With this **fascinating series of productions**, the festival is opening up **new terrain** and **making a name for itself internationally**.

SCHÄXPIR and Linz09 have been collaborating for three years now, and thus ever since Martin Heller was appointed artistic director. He was enthusiastic about the SCHÄXPIR concept right from the outset, which made the festival a fixed starter in the Linz09 lineup. Airan Berg, Linz09's director of the performing arts, has been intensively involved in the development of SCHÄXPIR co-productions for the Capital of Culture year. He was also the source of the impetus to deal with Linz themes once SCHÄXPIR had proposed international co-productions for Linz09.

Shipboard Adventure, Youthful Rebellion, Eating Rituals and Steel City Myths

The results are joint efforts with leading international ensembles that have already made guest appearances at SCHÄXPIR and proved to be audience favorites. Getting things started on **March 25** is the world premiere of “Das Schiff,” a joint production of the Swiss theater group **Sgaramusch** and the Norwegian ensemble **NIE**. They’ve taken stories by Linz youngsters about ships and turned them into a play for children age 7 and up. **On June 18** is the world premiere of the second Linz09 co-production “RUMORЯ” by Dutch theater group **Het Lab Utrecht**. Volker Schmidt was commissioned to create this work, which will be presented in Linz’s Schillerpark.