



Claus Knecht Großmann

in cooperation with FIDENA – Puppentheatre of Nations

**Grete L.
and her K.**

A violent chamber play about the frailty of love





[...] inspired celebrated: with the premiere of „Grete L. and her K.“ by the group Claus, Knecht & Grossmann the FIDENA 2008 found an explosive ending [...]

[ZDF- Second Channel of German Television, Theatre Channel, 22.09.2008]



[...] a great demonstration what puppettheatre can be. The audience in Bochum cheered this premiere.

Many curtain calls; the people stamped their feet with appreciation. [WAZ Bochum, 22.09.2008]



CLAUS KNECHT GROSSMANN
GRETE L. AND HER K.

Direction: Jonas Knecht
Idea and Play: Susi Claus, Lutz Großmann
Puppets: Lutz Großmann
Scenery: Ensemble
Premiere 20.9.2008, Zeche 1, Bochum

CONTACT

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OWING TO:

Annette Dabs, Mathis Künzler, Rüdiger Koch,
FIDENA – Puppettheatres of Nations,
PAF Performing Arts Forum St.Erme France, Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH,
University of Performing Arts „Ernst Busch“ Berlin, department puppetry





Gretel What do you want from me, actually?!

Kasper Sleep.

Gretel You're welcome. But I don't want to sleep in the same bed as you tonight...and I've already said that you stink and all those other things. I can't stand you anymore. Good night.



THE STORY

Kasper and the Devil have been arch-enemies for centuries. The Devil has been defeated by Kasper tricks again and again and again. That makes the Devil furious. So he cooks up a cunning plan to trap Kasper once and for all.

Margarete Ludwig a young lady, 33 years old and single. She changes men like there's no tomorrow. They come and go and go and come! As the years pass her by, she can only laugh bitterly at the way her life has turned out. She sings the Blues and wants to jump off the next bridge. But along comes her chance, finally, to put her life to rights. Persuaded by the Devil she changes her name to Grete L. and meets at last the man of her dreams: Kasper. Kasper has been doing what a Kasper does. He eats, drinks, shits and fucks. Suddenly, as soon as he meets Grete L. that all changes. He is a new man.

They become a couple, climb together the summits of Love, Joy and Passion and start a family. Time passes... And inevitably the passionate summits give way to a descent into the tedious monotony of everyday family life. The Devil's cunning plan starts to take shape...



[...] transfer in their play an enthusiasm for this old history around Kasper, Gretel, Devil & CO, which the audience cannot escape. Their acting with the puppets – and above all with their voices – is brilliant and simply very funny.

[Theater der Zeit – Theatre of the Time, yearbook 2008]





YEARBOOK „THEATRE OF THE TIME“ 2008
SCENE RUHR – PUPPETTHEATRE

The the conclusion was performed by the trio Claus, Knecht & Großmann with the premiere of their piece „Grete L. and her K.“, which was developed in Coproduction with the FIDENA. Here as well, force plays a role, however on a completely different, humoristic way.

The piece addresses the question of the eternal conflict between Kasper and Devil, which traditionally the Kasper wins. The Devil is fed up with this situation, he is a sore loser and he now he is looking for some really bad and cunning ways in order to bring Kasper down. In an earlier piece by Lutz Grossmann entitled Kasper dead. End of fun? the devil gives Kasper a brain tumor. Because he in that piece he has once again failed he now plans something much more drastic: He makes Kasper fall in love.

On stage two booths become the single flats of Grete L. and Kasper. In the beginning Kasper lives like a typical lonely city bachelor. He eats, drinks, shits and leaves his flat now and then for a one-night-stand. That changes immediately, when, arranged by the devil, he meets Grete L. Blinded by love, they do what all people do. Two singles become a couple and finally a family. That sounds romantic, but all too soon the two are in the middle of a intense relationship crisis, which they try to solve without recouring to violence. They fail, fighting wildly with each other Grete L pulls off Kasper's hat and then they finally separate. But Kasper cannot cope and does not want to be without Grete L. Having lost his hat, now in despair he even throws his stick away. Kasper decides to commit suicide and the devil standing close by awaits the moment of his triumph...

Susi Claus and Lutz Grossmann transmit in their play an enthusiasm for this old story around Kasper, Gretel, Devil & CO, which is obvious to the audience. Their acting with the puppets - and above all with their voices - is brilliant and quite simply very funny. They are not afraid to leave their booths and give up their roles as puppeteers and distance themselves from their characters. At the end of the play, we come to understand, from our own experiences that a happy ending perhaps is only possible in «real» life.





POTSDAMER LATEST NEWS (POTSDAMER NEUESTE NACHRICHTEN) UNIDRAM 2009

OF DEATH AND DEVIL

Since forever and with each opportunity the Devil tests his abilities, and always loses in the end. Occasionally however he is successful and a bitter defeat awaits his victims. On Tuesday evening we had a rare insight into this world with the magnificent puppet play „Grete L. and her K.“ by the trio of artists Claus, Knecht and Grossmann from Berlin. This a joyf lly beautiful production and was part of Unidrams very popular „Long Night of Puppet Theatre“.

As with all the other plays it was sold out. But this piece, particularly, was different and bewitched the public, like Goethe's „Plundersweilern“. Well, what Gretel and Kasper did with each other, was familiar to the young people in audience. Quarrels, controversies, partings included. the underworld needs souls and so the baldy headed bad guy with his fire-red cape sends Margarete L. to visit Kasper. She is already 36, living in Berlin and wants to have a family after having many different, unsuccessful relationships.

Things start to happen very fast driven by the sex fixated Kasper. Will the poor Devil finally get one or both of them? How does the story of „Grete L. and her K.“ end? The couple separate, Kaspers life ends tragically at the end of a rope. Luck is on the side of the Devil and pale faced Death. Too late, even Gretel regrets Kasper's death. This, however, is not be the end, evil is not allowed to triumph and actually, the intelligent, rapid, laconic performance emerges as a play within a play. So the couple leaving theatre go home very much in love like in a Chaplin movie. Who lost? Certainly not the public.



TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

LIGHT AND SOUND

- detailed information on the extra technical reader
- important for non- german countries: beamer for english/ french subtitles
- build up for lightning depending on help from the theatre – aprox. 5 – 7h

STAGE

- at least 6m x 5m, ideal 8m x 6m
- high at least 3,30m
- background, sides and floor- black (curtain and dancefloor)
- there will be two puppetstages
- audience not to steep, because of the look into he puppetry stages
- if audience is plan – 20 oder 30cm podestery
- build up and down aprox. 1h
- possiblility to fix snowpipe with C-hooks on pipe or linkage over stage

Please call us for questions. Thanks.





WHERE AND WHEN

20. septembre 2008 Premiere FIDENA 2008 Puppentheatres of Nations Bochum
14. – 16. novembre 2008 SCHAUBUDE Puppentheatre Berlin
3. april 2009 Theatre, Opera and Orchestra GmbH PUPPETTHEATRE HALLE
2. may 2009 FESTIVAL NEWZ! 09
at FITZ Centre for Puppentheatre Stuttgart
16. and 22. may 2009 International PUPPETTHEATRE-FESTIVAL
Erlangen / Fürth / Nürnberg
16. june 2009 BLICKWECHSEL – International Puppentheatrefestival
Magdeburg
3. septembre 2009 FIDENA 2009 – Puppentheatres of Nations Herne
3. octobre 2009 FigurenTheaterForum München, Stadtmuseum
15. – 16. octobre 2009 Festival TAM TAM, Paris
Les dessous de la marionnette, Theatre aux mains nues
3. novembre 2009 UNIDRAM International Theatrefestival Potsdam
5. – 6. novembre 2009 Festival International de la Marionnette NEUCHATEL
30. january 2010 and
3. february 2010 IMAGINALE 2010 – International Puppentheatrefestival BW
29. april 2010
Theatre Kiesel at K42, Friedrichshafen
- june 2010
FIGURA Baden
30. septembre 2010
Puppentheatrefestival BRÜHL
17. decembre 2010
THEATRE Fellbert
31. march – 4. april 2011
THEATRE FESTIVAL Chateauroux



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