

WORLD ON STAGE

POLINA  
AKHMETZYANOVA

(RUSSIA)

*L'INCORRUPTIBLE*

25 NOV. '17

18:00 - 19:00: Russian version  
20:30 - 21:30: English version

## L'INCORRUPTIBLE

POLINA AKHMETZYANOVA, text, performer, concept



In the framework of 'Russian Turn', BOZAR's interdisciplinary cycle of encounters with famous Russian artists and intellectuals from all disciplines. Check bozar.be for more information.

**With *The International Selection - World on Stage*, BOZAR brings successful international productions and promising voices from all over the world to Brussels. Pioneering artists from the world of theatre and dance take on classical texts or new writing and talk about Europe and the modern world. Tonight, it's Polina Akhmetzyanova's turn.**

Valentin Parnakh (1891-1951) was an eccentric dancer, poet, translator of Spanish writers such as Federico Garcia Lorca, musician and the founding father of jazz in the USSR. In 1913, he traveled from Saint Petersburg to Italy and the Middle East and turned back to study Roman languages, music and theatre. "Valentin Parnakh travelled so many times in and outside Russia, that it's strange that he was not accused of being a spy", says dancer and choreographer Polina Akhmetzyanova while smiling. "He brought a lot of influences from Russia to Europe and the other way around."

In the middle of World War I, Parnakh moved to Paris. He studied at the Sorbonne University and became fascinated by the local jazz scene. "In Paris, he met avant-garde artists like Guillaume Apollinaire, Tristan Tzara and Pablo Picasso, who drew a sketch of him. Back in Russia, he became quite popular and contaminated with his ideas artists of the avant-garde. One of them was the theatre director Vsevolod Meyerhold with whom he worked closely together for a while."

In 1922, he took jazz scores, saxophones, tam-tam's and trumpet sordinos home and founded the "Valentin Parnakh's Jazz Band", the "First Eccentric Orchestra of the Russian Federated Socialist Republic", and held its debut concert at the Russian Academy of Theatre Arts in Moscow. During this event Parnakh performed his exentric "lying down dance", which caused a sensation because of it's bizzare and syncopated movements absolutely unfamiliar to the public. We can only guess how the dance looked like, since the only recording of it has gone missing from

the archives in Moscow.

"Valentin Parnakh is the starting point of *L'Incorruptible*", says Polina, but the performance does not really focus on his life or work as such." *L'Incorruptible* deals with the nature of memorial politics using the example of Vladimir Lenin and Valentin Parnakh. The stories of their bodies are intertwined on the basis of formally common gestures: one is laying down for decades in the middle of the Red Square and another for a brief moment astonishes the public with a dance on his back. The absurdity of everlasting presence of the one is compared to the total oblivion regarding the other in a way that both could be considered as victims of the regime.

Fragments of informations about the two create hybrid characters with symptoms of mummification. They exist in the tension between assertive lecturing and decomposing, speaking and evaporating. Some intonations might remind of politicians and gangsters we have heard in Russia since 90s up till now. After all, it's not the New Man to whom avant-gardists and Parnakh aspired that tend to withstand all upheaval, but corrupt monsters who speak through their teeth.

Born in USSR in 1987, Polina Akhmetzyanova is now based in Brussels, Belgium. Her education in contemporary dance and performance includes studies in the college of North Karelia in Outokumpu, Finland (2007 - 2008) as well as in P.A.R.T.S., Belgium (2008 - 2012). Since then she worked as a dancer for Xavier le Roy, Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker, Sabine Macher and Malin Elgån. The practice of writing and working with appropriation of texts has become a way to reflect on research in performance forms regarding the subjects of her interests and vice versa. The illustration of that are performances made in collaboration with Aristide Bianchi, Cyriaque Villemaux and Florian Aimard Desplanques as well as her solo works *Nesnosnije Binokli* and *L'Incorruptible*.

**08 - 10.12.2017**

## EUROPALIA INDONESIA WEEKEND

08.12.2017 - 20:30

### **BALABALA**

Eko Supriyanto /

Ekosdance Company (Indonesia)

09.12.2017 - 18:00

### **BRIDGING TRADITION**

Male Solos /

Gede Radiana Putra, Mugiyono Kasido,

Kurniadi Ilham, Moh. Hariyanto

09.12.2017 - 20:30

### **BRIDGING TRADITION**

West Sumatra Evening /

Pencak Silat, Saluang Dendang,

Nan Jombang Dance Company