

TIN theater
instituut
nederland

Between design and performance

The Prague Quadriennale has changed its name from *International Exhibition of Scenography and Theatre Architecture* into *Performance, Design and Space* and focuses in this edition on the art form in the range between design and performance. In the Netherlands this genre – it is alternately called experience theatre, modern mime, location theatre, community art, live art, visual theatre or sometimes does not have any name at all.

Four centuries of theatre

Scenography in the traditional sense plays an important part in the history of the Theater Instituut Nederland (Theatre Institute of the Netherlands). The current TIN offers support for the performing arts in the Netherlands – providing information, study facilities and international promotion. But the Institute once started as Toneelmuseum, with a vast collection of objects of scenographers

and theatres. Today the TIN is the treasurer of what has expanded into one of the major theatrical heritage and media collections of Europe. The remains of four centuries of theatrical history, recorded in ten thousands of pictures, posters, design plans, scale-models, costumes, dolls, texts and videos, constitute an endless source of study and inspiration. At the end of this year a digital Theatre Encyclopedia will go online.

New developments

Building bridges between past and present, between heritage and theatre field, the TIN also supports the latest developments. In this the 'designers' still play an important part. We collect their designs. We organize exhibitions of their work – for instance the exhibition on location theatre *Ergens en Overal* (Anywhere and Everywhere), on view these months in Munich and at the Oerol festival in the Netherlands. The TIN grants three awards each year – for theatre

photography, poster design, and scenography. However, within the Instituut the boundaries between hardware and software of the theatre also become less distinct. Theater Instituut Nederland is happy that with the delegation consisting of Theun, Marloeke, Roos and Lena four artists go to Prague who reign in the kingdom between performance and design. They are able to question our concepts of stage design. Their art does not only touch our senses, but our entire being. As spectator you are absorbed by the complot which renders everyone into actors. These four designers represent a strong new generation in Dutch performing arts, and even make us wonder if the words 'performing arts' are an anachronism. ◀

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