

RESIDENZ THEATER

"UR" by Sulayman Al Bassam

World-premiere with Arab und German Actors at Marstall-Theatre



All performances are shown with Arab, German and English surtitles.

Bringing together a rich and dynamic cast of Arab and German actors, acclaimed British-Kuwaiti playwright and stage director Sulayman Al Bassam's new play "UR" starts from an interpretation of the tragic story of one of the first cities in the history of humanity, recorded on stone tablets in cuneiform signs, in one of the Sumerian languages, dating back to 2000 BC.

The play traverses time with a captivating agility, back and forth, between the eve of the city's destruction in 2000 BC, 1903, marking the arrival of European archaeologists, then forward to our recent present, in 2015, marking the brief, but destructive passage of ISIS and finally, in 2035, our near future. At the heart of the dramaturgy are questions of cultural memory and oblivion, namely the traces and legacy of the wildly liberating and libertine rule of Nin Gal, once goddess-daughter who was entrusted to govern Ur. Nin Gal opens the city's closed gates and calls for free intellectual and erotic exchange, defying stern missives from her father, the god Enlil. As the city is attacked, Nin Gal accepts to witness its material destruction preserving however its memory and story.

At the beginning of the twentieth century archaeologists from the German Oriental Society began to dig into the ruins of Babylon. They attempted to colonize ancient Mesopotamian heritage and appropriate it as the origin of the Aryan race, so as to "liberate" Christianity from its Jewish roots. The battle over interpretation of remembrance continued in 2015, when ISIS militias kidnapped Syrian archaeologist Khaled Asaad. Even under torture, he did not reveal the location of certain artefacts in Palmyra. He was publicly beheaded. In the eyes of these heavily armed religious extremists, the stones, on which Nin Gal recorded the knowledge and poetry of her time, were a "false" heritage that should be prevented from continuing to testify of its experience.

Cast Lara Ailo, Mohammed Al Rashi, Marina Blanke, Gunther Eckes, Dalia Naous, Hala Omran, Tim Werths, Bijan Zamani

Director Sulayman Al Bassam | Stage designer Eric Soyer | Costume designer Carlos J. Soto

Music Tom Parkinson | Dramaturgy Sebastian Huber

Tickets 21,-

Discounted Tickets (Students) 8,-

Tickets are available at our box-office (Marstallplatz 5),
by telephone under 089/2185 1940 or online at
www.residenztheater.de.



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