

Comédie de Genève!

PRODUCTION BOOKLET

Lenz

BASED ON
GEORG BÜCHNER

A PROJECT BY
ÉLÉONORE BONAÏ
& MARIA CLARA CASTIONI



© Nicolas Brodard

Creation November 2024 at Comédie de Genève

+41 22 320 50 00

Adresse postale

Promenade Louise-Boulaz 2
Case postale · 1211 Genève 6

“Rushing straight ahead may be an exuberant form of individual thinking, of mental rebellion in a world made up of strange beings and objects, but it is also the only acceptable option for those who open their minds to the excessiveness of the moment.”

Jean-Christophe Bailly, *Le 20 Janvier* (Christian Bourgeois, 1980)

Credits

Based on *Lenz* by Georg Büchner
French translation Georges-Arthur Goldschmidt
Direction & stage adaptation Éléonore Bonah
Scenography, costumes & stage adaptation Maria Clara Castioni
Light design & management Édouard Hügli
Artistic collaboration Michèle Pralong
Set construction & costumes Ateliers de la Comédie de Genève

Featuring Luna Desmeules and Anne Tismer

Production Comédie de Genève

Coproduction La Manufacture – Haute école des arts de la scène - Lausanne (in progress)
With the support of Fondation Leenaards

Show in French created from a work presented the frame of OUT 10 at La Manufacture (September 2023)

Estimated running time 45 minutes

The text *Lenz* by Georg Büchner has been translated in French by Georges-Arthur Goldschmidt and is published by Éditions Vagabonde, Paris, 2020

Creation

From November 6 to 17 2024 at Comédie de Genève (Modular Auditorium)

Available for touring from mid-November 2024

Production and touring set-up in progress

CONTACT PRODUCTION AND TOUR

Comédie de Genève
Pauline Pierron
Production manager *ad interim* & deputy to the direction
+33 6 76 59 15 22
ppierron@comedie.ch

Note of intent

Lenz is a fugitive, running away from a torn-apart world that is both too big and too small. His lucidity tips over into madness, and this madness tips over into disenchantment, sometimes even terror. In this way, Lenz is thrown out of his comfort zone; his thought dilates and expands, bringing in turn anguish and enlightenment.

It is a thought that cannot be contained, that turns in on, and broods over itself. In our adaptation, the story of Lenz's madness is told by two women who take him in during this frantic episode. For a moment, their lives are disrupted.

This true story continues to resonate. Büchner wrote it at a time when he was encountering setbacks on all sides. Embracing Lenz's flight across the mountain, we sought to bring this timeless, existential maelstrom to the stage.

Éléonore Bonah & Maria Clara Castioni, July 2023



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Lenz

We move through a text as through a landscape or an inward thought. Here, *Lenz* becomes a place for research into time, disenchantment, and the joyful resistance we can put up against it. A voluntary inability to be in the world. We find ways of walking on our heads, believing, failing, and continuing to live.



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Éléonore Bonah

DIRECTION

Éléonore Bonah grew up in both the Plaine Valley in the Vosges, and Strasbourg. About to start training as an apprentice woodcarver in Germany, she met director Johan Simons in 2018, which led to her being hired as assistant director at the Schauspielhaus Bochum.

At the same time, she directed her first project entitled *La terre est une boule*. In September 2021, she enrolled on the MA in Theatre Directing programme at La Manufacture, Lausanne. She has also been asked to work as dramaturge on a student project at ESAD-TNS in France and is collaborating with Philippe Gandrieux on his opera *Tristan et Isolde* in Belgium.



© Nikita Thevoz

Maria Clara Castioni

SCENOGRAPHY

Maria Clara Castioni grew up in Italian-speaking Switzerland. In 2018, she obtained a BA degree in Literature from the University of Bologna. She then went on to study for a BA in Interior Architecture at HEAD – Genève, which she completed in 2021. In 2023, she concluded her training with an MA in Theatre Scenography at La Manufacture, Lausanne.

During her studies, she worked with artists Daria Deflorian and Antonio Tagliarini, as well as set designer and architect Laurent P. Berger. In her research and practice, she views space as a trigger for dialogue and imagination.



© Nikita Thevoz

Luna Desmeules

ACTING

Born in 2001, Luna Desmeules began acting at an early age at Théâtre du Loup in Geneva, before joining the Acrylique junior troupe in Geneva. In 2020, she graduated with a bilingual German/French Matura and entered Geneva Conservatoire. She will graduate with a BA in Theatre from La Manufacture, Lausanne, in June 2024. Desmeules has also featured regularly in feature films, short films, series, and on television.



© Bahar Kaygusuz

Anne Tismer

ACTING

Anne-Kathrin Tismer is a performance artist, dancer, author and visual artist born in Versailles. She studied at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst Max-Reinhardt-Seminar in Vienna, then worked with various directors including Christoph Marthaler, Jürgen Kruse, Luc Bondy, Tom Kühnel, Christoph Schlingensiefel and many others.

She has also worked as a performance artist in Berlin and Brussels, where in 2006 she founded Ballhaus Ost with artist friends and developed performances such as *Gutestun 1.3*, *No he was White*, *Bongani*, *Bei mir*, *Anne-Ka's Ikea Wunschkonzert*, and *WOYZICKINE*, with performer Rahel Savoldelli and choreographer Margret Sarah Gudjunsdottir, among others. In 2010, she wrote a play, *HITLERINE*, which was subsequently directed by Alexis Bug. Two years later, together with set designer Silvia Albarella, she developed the performance *Non Tutta* for the Sophiensaele, presented at the 2013 Avignon Festival.

From 2011 to 2017, she lived and worked mainly in Lomé (Togo) and Brussels, collaborating with Togolese writer Joel Ajavon on the performance *Lomé en couleurs fluorescentes, panée et en marschmellow*, presented at the Goethe-Instituts in Togo, Brussels and Paris, and at the No Limits festival in Berlin. She also studied traditional and contemporary Togolese dance at the University of Lomé and joined the NEWSTARDANCECOMPANY, with whom she created the dance pieces *Les Daltonnes*, *Le Parcours*, and *Just Dance*.

As a visual artist, she had her first solo exhibition, *Körperzentralhaltestelle*, at NAK Aachen in 2010. Then, in 2013, she was artist-in-residence at Taipei Artist Village (Taiwan) with her second solo exhibition: *Xie Xue Hong Drifting Journey*.



© Edouard Hügli

Edouard Hügli

LIGHT DESIGN

Edouard Hügli trained as a stage technician at L'Arsenic in Lausanne, finishing in 2018. He then worked with various lighting designers, including Daniel Demont and Jean Phillippe Roy, under whom he trained.

He then toured with ILKA's *Lignes de Conduite* and *Diverti menti*. In 2019, he created the lighting for *Showroom* by K7 Productions (Rébecca Balestra, Igor Cardellini and Tomas Gonzalez), with whom he has collaborated on every project since.

In the years that followed, he designed the lighting for various shows including *Q.I Capacité intellectuelle* by Matteo Prandi, *Carmen* by Omar Porras, and *On est pas venues les mains vides* by the Sörörö company, a show in which he also acted.

In January 2023, he created the lighting for *Un sentiment de vie* by Emile Charriot at the Théâtre National de Strasbourg. At the same time, he has been touring shows by the Old Masters collective since 2021, and has also worked at L'Arsenic, Théâtre Sévelin, and La Manufacture in Lausanne.