

# 3x KÖNIG

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## 3 times king

Being a king is not only a childish wish. Being a king means to be rich, to determine, to have fun, to be respected by your people and much more. Being a king means to be in charge of something too. Who knows the stress and crucifying nightmares a king has? Who knows his secret wishes and desires?

TheaterGrueneSosse shows a surreal, poetical and musical performance about three very different kings, torn between dream and reality.

The stage design aesthetics reminds of something dilapidated, used and refers back to more pompous times. The kings unintelligible murmurs, a fantasy language, leaves free space for own interpretations.

*DIRECTOR and CONCEPT:*  
*Katya Averkova*

*PERFORMER:*  
*Willy Combecher, Sigi Herold, Detlef Köhler*

*COSTUMES: Katya Averkova*  
*STAGE DESIGN: Motz Tietze*  
*COMPOSITION and MUSIC:*  
*Matvei Saburov und Katya Averkova*  
*TECHNICAL ASSISTANT: Ralf Neumann*  
*ASSISTANTCE: Elisabeth Koch*  
*AGE: 4+ family / 5+ groups*  
*TIME: 60 Minutes*



## Ui, Pardauz

Performance for Children: Theater Gruene Sosse plays „Three times King“

What would you do, if you were King? Sleep on soft pillows, have fun all day long, govern everything. But what if there are two other Kings? They also want sleep on soft pillows, have fun all day long, govern everything. Only differently. There is struggle. And then: War!

In the Empire of the three Kings, which Frankfurt`s Theater Gruene Sosse comes up with now, the cannon fodder is made of colorful foam rubber. So indeed the poor little men can fly through the air, a puppet of the powerful people such as authentic subjects. But a big shovel with a white-red cross, a siren wailing and a little rigging are sufficient: Then the fellas stand up straight as a pole again.

The slapstick-like “Doesn´t hurt at all” of cartoon and circus in “Three Times King” make the disaster safe and sound again and like in a children`s game this is repeated again and again.

This is comforting. Because the recent production, which once again puts all three actors of Theater Gruene Sosse, Willy Combecher, Sigi Herold and Detlef Köhler in front of stage, is not half as harmless, as it might seem at first sight.

“Three Times King” is a play, the young Belarusian art director Katya Averkova, whom they got to know at an International Director`s Seminar of Children`s Theatre Association ASSITEJ, designed tailor-made for the three best-aged gentlemen. A piece of masterstroke without words, but only fantasy murmuring, which as much else puts in mind the beautiful east-european Children Movies of the sixties and seventies. But with accurate gestures, mime, body tension, timing for the impelling, allusive original music of Matvei Saburov. And with fancy costumes (Averkova), imputing a grotesque to each of the three gentlemen: Combecher, the tallest, ultralong arms and high shoulders, Herold, the smallest, a tubby belly, Köhler oversized feet. They wear it as well as their paper crowns with a peculiar grace and grandeur - obviously the actors enjoy working with this young und very unusual concept.

It is a theatrical challenge, whose fourth king is likewise the simple as crafty stage design of Motz Tietze: There is snow falling from above, a switch is buzzing, a clap is opening, a snowman gets legs: the small canopy of the door, out of which all this is pouring out, is a feast for the eyes.

Pictures and rhythm do not create a story, but food for inspiration, associations, feelings, happiness and satisfaction. Sometimes the adults are more laughing than children up from 6, for whom the play is intended for. Nevertheless they are taken by this wordless performance as well:

Experiment successful.

EVA-MARIA MAGEL

## **An Ode to Fantasy**

### **Performance for young audience: TheaterGrueneSosse plays "3times King"**

In general, the innovative capacity of fringe theatre companies in the Rhein-Main-Region is limited. Who is searching for new forms aside the bigger venues, will mainly find them in the theatre for the young audience. TheaterGrueneSosse is a protagonist in this scene.

If snow flakes can become snow mens in microwaves, if pillows float and stars can be fished, then only in the new performance "3times King" of TheaterGrueneSosse.

It deals with three kings, which live together and couldn't differ more from each other, even just because of their caricatural costumes (Averkova). In a silent film-like manner the ensemble performs clownish quarrels, moments of confusion à la Marx Brothers, innovative tinkers and a dreamy silence. The precise clocked choreography is accompanied with the polymorphic original music by Matvei Saburov.

With overdrawn facial expressions and gestures the three performers appeal to the fanatsy of the young and old audience members. In this way, the stage changes shape in the inner eye again and again: Where a snowy countryside has been, a foggy sea appears which soon changes to a battlefield. Far from realism, performance and stage design follow their own rules and teach amazement with skilfully used moments of surprise to young and old. After many slapstick scences, the performance doesn't lack seriousness.

With its new performance TheaterGrueneSosse builds up a world, in which everthing is possible and offers enough room for own associations and memories.

CORINNA HACKEL



## Technical Rider

"Three times King" is a performance played on stage.

### Audience:

The number of audience members is limited to 200. The performance is suitable for children attending primary school and adults. Children attending the performance with their parents should not be younger than 4 years.

### Stage Requirements:

Venue: Black Box with raked seating. In case the seating is not raked, the view lines of the young audience must be considered.

Stage size (minimum): 7meters width x 7meters depth x 3,5meters height.

The stage design consists of a 4meter wide and 3meter high wall with flaps, doors and boxes. We need 4meters of free space in front of this wall and 2-3meter behind it for props and preparation. At the front border of the stage (close to the audience) stands a small column. We move it from left to right and to the middle of the stage by using a horizontal cable control.

If it is necessary to go across the stage to reach the emergency exit, you have to contact us.

The rear wall must have a neutral colour or a black curtain. A total blackout is required.

### Times:

Duration:	60 minutes.
Load in:	4 hours.
Break down:	2 hours.

### Stage lighting and Sound:

At least: backlight, basic light, a night mood, a warm mood and 3 further Specials (PC/Profiler). We bring one spotlight with a gobo, which should be placed over the auditorium.

We need a lighting system with 24 canals at least.

We need a sound system too. We bring a sampler to connect it to the existing system.

## About TheaterGrüneSosse

TheaterGrüneSosse is an independent, mobile children- and youth- actor theatre, domiciled in Frankfurt am Main.

Our performances in Frankfurt are managed by Theaterhaus Frankfurt, so we have in Frankfurt 2 venues for presenting our productions: Löwenhof and Theaterhaus

The artistic leadership is common by Willy Combecher, Sigi Herold and Detlef Köhler.

The theatre was founded in 1981 and actually shows about 200 performances per year. Looking theatre and acting theatre are equal experiences.

We leave lasting impressions on youth and children by our performances and by the theater work with youth and children.

In touching, atmospheric, choreographic pictures and with a peculiar and smooth humor we want to activate emotions and entertain the young audience.

Theater and education are different sides of the same coin and are understood as artistic and aesthetic process.

Through workshops, the children's ensemble, youth projects and the young ensemble (Junges Ensemble) we enable children and young people playing theater.

The young ensemble works semiprofessional and is part of the regular programme.

Acting for us means to reflect childhood and experiences and to grapple with actual images of childhood and construction of society. We want to show acting as a transparent play to show the importance of playing and adapting a character as a role.

In recent years we participated in various international festivals for children- and youth theatre:

“Real Theatre” in Jekaterinburg 1999,  
Herning, (Denmark) festival Theater for born og unge 2000,  
Luaga n Losna, Nenzing, Austria 2001, 2003,  
Theaterfest St. Vith, Belgium 2001, 2005, 2011  
Suita Festival in Osaka, Japan 2004,  
Arad Goch in Aberystwyth, Wales 2005  
Milk Festival in Toronto, Canada 2006.  
International Children ´s Festival St. Albert, Canada 2006  
Vancouver International Festival, Canada 2008  
Colombo International Theater Festival, Sri Lanka 2014

The repertoire of TheaterGrüneSosse includes plays for all ages above 4 years. Among adaptations from Shakespeare or other historic plays, there could be find also plays by own creation or plays basing on texts of contemporary authors.

Important part of the work is the cooperation with schools, there are different plays only shown in schools and workshops for pupils.