



NIEDOKOŃCZONY DOM ›  
PRZEMIESZCZAJĄCY SIĘ LUDZIE ›  
RUCHOME GRANICE /  
/ EUROPEAN SONGLINES  
REŻYSERIA STEPHAN STROUX

# PRESS KIT

**31** SIERPNIA - **10** WRZEŚNIA **2016**  
DWORZEC ŚWIEBODZKI

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W R O C Ł A W

# ABOUT PROJECT

The project “Unfinished palace, moving people, floating borders/European songlines” is a story of the motives, needs and facts connected to the movements and migration of people in Europe. A poetic search for European identity is the point of departure for reflecting on the stability of borders and origins of culture. Artists from different disciplines, working together, cross the borders of various art forms in order to create the story of the history of human migration.

This multimedia performance created by Stephan Stroux is comprised of two interconnected parts, taking place both inside the buildings and on the platforms of the Świebodzki train station. The first part will take place **daily, from August 31 to September 10, in the buildings of the train station**. The audience will have the opportunity to take part in exhibits (including that of **Marek Raczkowski**), readings (including **Olga Tokarczuk** and **Matthias Göritz**), film screenings, and concerts (including **Małe Instrumenty, Julia Marcell** and **Zar Theatre**).

The whole of the project centers around the multimedia performance entitled “Don’t be so sure that you are legal,” which will be performed **August 31 to September 3 on the platforms of the Świebodzki train station**. Actors from the **Polski Theatre in Wrocław** (Małgorzata Gorol, Adam Szczyszczaj, Marta Zięba), as well as actors from **Zar Theatre** (Ditte Berkeley, Matej Matejka), will perform in the show. The two parts are complementary but can also stand alone. Their mutual stories are complex and do not limit the artists’ nor the audience’s imaginations.

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PRZEMIESZCZAJĄCY SIĘ LUDZIE >  
RUCHOME GRANICE /  
european songlines

REŻYSERIA: STEPHAN STROUX

WYSTAWY / INSTALACJE / KONCERTY / PERFORMANCE

31 SIERPNIA \_10 WRZEŚNIA 2016

DWORZEC ŚWIEBODZKI WROCŁAW

WWW.NIEDOKONCZONYDOM.PL

## STORY OF THE PHOTO



(20.09.2015. Tovarnik, Croatia)

Young refugees are using rails as a pillow on the train station in Croatian town of Tovarnik as they wait for the uncertain train to take them further on their way to Western Europe.

During the 2015, refugee crisis caused by the war in Syria and the unfavorable political situation in the Middle East has escalated to enormous proportions. As a result, hundreds of thousands of refugees have started moving along unsafe routes, looking for a better and safer life in Western Europe. Balkan countries have found themselves on this route. Although these countries were not a destination for any of the refugees, the human tragedy was followed by many heartbreaking scenes, questionable political decisions and tensions in the region. Many demonstrated duplicity, saying that refugees are more than welcome, and on the other hand they were closing the borders and aggravating to the maximum their journey. The truth, written on the faces of these people, can easily be decoded.

***Photo by Marko Risovic / Kamerades Photo Collective***

# STEPHAN STROUX

The project's originator and director is Stephan Stroux – an artist, director, actor, and translator living in Berlin. Stroux was born in 1945 in Bad Peterstal in Schwarzwald, Germany. He studied philosophy and history of art at the university of Cologne. He studied directing and acting in Max Reinhardt's school in Vienna. Since 1966, he has worked in acting and directing, as well as theatre director for various theatres. He has produced over 60 performances in both city and national German-language theatres, as well as many performances in theatres and institutions abroad (also in the language of the given country).

Most of his work revolves around working in public spaces, for example "The Sinking of the Titanic" (based on the poem by Hans Magnus Enzensberger), which was staged in Montreal and Weimar, or the "Virtual Bridge on the Vistula" in Warsaw in 2006, for which the director received the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. Stephan Stroux is also known for his interdisciplinary and multicultural projects. He has created shows for the European Capital of Culture (Berlin 1988, Lisbon 1994, and Weimar 1999) as well as for Unicef.

In his work, Stroux often addresses the themes of history, cultural heritage, identity, religion, ethics, and human dignity. In the collection entitled "The real end of the war is before its beginning", he gathered incredible and moving stories from foremost Polish and German writers of different generations (including Volker Braun, Matthias Goritz, Durs Grünbein, Wojciech Jagielski, Marian Pankowski, Silke Scheuermann, Salina Stroux, Wojciech Tochman, Olga Tokarczuk and Magdalena Tulli).



# STEPHAN STROUX

Stroux's projects are primarily filled with many emotions and connections, not always easily read by the audience. "I think we should have more trust toward what is called the emotional memory of the audience. An audience member is able to read significantly more than just the superficial story. We are trying to create a composition which will elicit in the audience associations based on their own experiences, their own emotions," explains Stroux.

Stroux has been awarded many various awards and distinctions, including the title "Friend of Tibet" given by the Dalai Lama, the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, and the Walenty Różdzieński Medal, among others.

Among his most important projects are the following:

- JACQUES OU LA SOUMISSION and LA CANTATRICE CHAUVE – codirection with Eugene Ionesco
- Actor of many principal roles in theatre and tv, including Jerry O'Cary in George Tabori's PINKVILLE
- Windhoek, Namibia: MATUTURA, cultural festival and theatre project as part of the celebration of Namibia's gaining independence; documentary film about Namibia's independence and the MATUTURA theatre project, in English and German
- Amsterdam, Holland - Stadsschouwburg: QUAI OUEST by Bernard – Marie Koltès
- Porto, Portugal : LEONCE UND LENA – award for show of the year
- Lisbon, Portugal : DER PARK by Botho Strauß, Teatro da Cornucopia
- Santiago, Concepcion, Lota, Puerto Montt, Chile: BALADA DE LOS CONDENADOS A SONAR by Juan Radrigan
- Lisbon, Portugal: DAS SPIEL VOM FRAGEN by Peter Handke, Teatro da Cornucopia, as part of the „Lisbon- European Capital of Culture '94" festival
- Montreal, Canada: DER UNTERGANG DER TITANIC by Hans Magnus Enzensberger in Montréal, Monument National.
- Portugal, Angola, Mozambique, Cabo Verde, São Tomé e Príncipe/ Guinea Bissau/ Brazil: QUEM COME QUEM „WER FRISST WEN“ . Sum-up of the project „A Viagem ao Centro do Circulo“ .Development of the text and performance „QUEM COME QUEM“ with 14 actors, musicians, and dancers from seven countries and three continents
- Essen, Germany: UNION DER FESTEN HAND – stage adaptation of Erika Regér's novel in former industrial buildings of West Germany, historical monuments of the XX century.
- Warsaw, Poland: WIRTUALNY MOST NA WIŚLE – a project in remembrance of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising with the participation of 150 artists from Germany and Poland.
- Katowice, Poland: PAMIĘĆ PRACY – an installation on the themes of history and industrial culture and the transformation of the world and attitudes to work and nature.



# WYBRANE WYDARZENIA

## CONCERTS

### Religions or Conversions

A fundamental element of European identity is religion. Lower Silesia has always been a site of confrontations and wars of faith – from battles between Christians and Muslims to the 30-year War. This unique concert presents the musical legacy of the three main European religions – Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Both Jewish and ancient Christian songs, along with ritual Sufi dance, will be presented on the same stage.



Each day, we will hear the sounds of traditional polyphonic Gregorian songs as well as Christian songs from Corsica performed by the actors of one of the most distinct award-winning theatres in Poland – **Zar Theatre**.

Alongside Christian songs, there will be a concert of traditional religious Jewish music. The songs sung by **Bente Kahan** – a Jewish actress, singer, director and playwright – come from different parts of Europe.

The last religion whose musical legacy we will experience at the Świebodzki Train Station will be Islam. During the musical performance of “Dance of the Dervish”, we will see the Turkish artist **Mustafa Konucku** presenting elements of Sufi culture. We will hear the traditional sounds of the ney (a reed flute), and we will see the traditional whirling dance of the dervishes known as sema.

The project’s authors do not intend to evaluate nor judge the three monotheistic religions, and they also do not want to ignore the religious feelings of people who gave meaning to their lives through pagan cults.



## Only a human being – Bente Kahan



Bente Kahan – actress, singer, and director, is one of the most active promoters of Jewish culture in Poland. In her concert “Only a Human Being”, Kahan will sing interpretations of Tadeusz Różewicz’s poetry translated by Joanna Trzeciak. The artist presented this material for the first time in June 2015 as part of the 10th anniversary celebration of the Center for Jewish Culture and Education in the White Stork Synagogue in Wrocław..

## Respect for Living – Julia Marcell

The organizers also invited **Julia Marcell**, one of the foremost singers and lyricists of the new generation, to the project. The Polityka Passport laureate began her career singing classic punk and evolved in the direction of pop and indie rock sounds. Many musical genres can be found in her compositions, from alternative to pop. In her lyrics, Julia focuses deeply on human values, human dignity, and also communication and interpersonal relations. Concern for what is happening in today’s world can be heard in her work. Because of common themes, the artists behind “Unfinished Palace, Moving People, Floating Borders/European Songlines” invited Julia Marcell to collaborate on the project, and to set a unique tone for the entire project with her concert.





## Between saetas and flamenco - Borja Soto



Amid the musical journeys of “Unfinished Palace”, we will also hear the sounds of flamenco and saeta. A saeta is a type of spontaneous religious song derived from Jewish ritual music. From around the XVI century, it accompanied processions during the Catholic Holy Week in Spain. In its character, the saeta is quite similar to flamenco, though the form and style of both types of song evolved and changed very much over the centuries.

These traditional Spanish sounds will be presented by the only flamenco singer currently living in Poland – Borja Soto – who comes from a well-known gypsy family in Seville. He will be accompanied by guitarist Damian Kowaliński.

## Concert – Bastiaan Maris



Working with steam, fire and sound, Bastiaan Maris creates living paintings in his work. The artist transforms technical elements into a complex organism. The aim of his installations is to bring back life to the Świebodzki Train Station, which no longer functions today. The abandoned train station, which was witness to many individual stories of people forced to migrate, no longer serves its fundamental purpose. Using various tools and pyrotechnic techniques, Maris will bring new artistic life to the place which saw hundreds of thousands of people leaving and arriving.

## POETS READINGS

### Lower Silesian Identity: Olga Tokarczuk



Olga Tokarczuk and her creative output will be one of the main voices reflecting artistically on European identity. As one of the foremost Polish authors, essayists, and poets, she has often dealt with the subject of European as well as Polish cultural identity in her work. Tokarczuk will present a text on Lower Silesian identity, which she has written especially for the needs of the “Unfinished Palace, Moving People, Floating Borders/European Songlines” project. In the material, the poet analyzes the identity of Lower Silesia and, through this filter, she tries to understand what exactly we mean when we speak of European identity. This text will represent the unique manifesto of the entire project.

### The Jacobean Books: Olga Tokarczuk

Leaving one faith in order to follow a different truth is one of the themes found in Olga Tokarczuk’s novel “The Jacobean Books”. The questions of religion, truth, and that which has formed the identity of today’s Europe are the questions being asked by the artists behind the “Unfinished Palace, Moving People, Floating Borders/European Songlines” project.

On the last day, the author will read fragments from this, her most renowned book, which won the Nike award.

## **Transfer!: Matthias Göritz**

In Wrocław, Matthias Göritz is mainly known for his participation in the play “Transfer!”, directed by Jan Klata, which played at the Wrocław Współczesny Theatre and made headlines. Göritz had already met Stephan Stroux during the publication of the book “The Real End of the War is Before Its Beginning”, in which his own work was published, along with texts by Volker Braun, Durs Grünbein, Wojciech Jagielski, Marian Pankowski, Silke Scheuermann, Salinia Stroux, Wojciech Tochman, Olga Tokarczuk and Magdalena Tulli.

In “Unfinished Palace, Moving People, Floating Borders/European Songlines,” Göritz continues the work he began in “Transfer!” in an even wider context. In his work, the poet deals with the themes of identity and human dignity, observing the current movement of refugees and analyzing the history of Wrocław’s migrations.

Göritz will read fragments of the play “Transfer!”, based on his book “Jakob Voss’ Short Dream”.

In the reading, a fragment of the script of “Transfer!” is used  
Author of fragment: Matthias Göritz,  
Director: Jan Klata,  
Theatre: the Edmund Wierciński Współczesny Theatre in Wrocław  
Premiere: 18/11/2006



## PERFORMANCE

### **Don't be so sure that you are legal**

This is a multimedia performance dealing with the subject of the journeys and migration of people in Europe. Using various art forms, such as theatre, film, performance art, sound, light, and photography, the artists encourage reflection on the reasons, needs and facts of human migration.

Actors from the Polski Theatre in Wroclaw (Małgorzata Gorol, Adam Szczyszczaj, Marta Zięba), as well as actors regularly collaborating with the Grotowski Institute in Wroclaw (Ditte Berkeley, Matej Matejka, Agnieszka Cwiągł), will perform in the show.

The now - abandoned Świebodzki train station in Wroclaw was witness to hundreds of thousands of individual stories of people who were forced to leave Lower Silesia or who arrived here from distant Eastern regions. On the basis of several dozen interviews, films, sound recordings, and photographs, Stephan Stroux asks what is a person's home to them and what may be the significance of needing to leave it. How, in such a situation, can one take with them at least a small part of what was their identity until now? Or how can one begin to build a new identity? If we were to reach into our DNA, we would learn that the history of migration affects each and every one of us. Recent world events show us just how fragile and fleeting absolute certainty of one's world, identity, and nationality is.

The director provokes the audience directly by saying "Don't be so sure that you are legal here". It's not a matter of passport or citizenship, but the ability to live and accept other people. The only way to be "legal" is by mutual respect and acceptance of the person you are speaking to.





## FILMS

### Desert



The film “Desert” evokes human journeys, the stories of people searching for the traces of those exiled who journeyed toward the “promised land”. The desert landscape is a universal space which can represent any place and time. Traces in the sand disappear and appear endlessly. Were these people who were forced to leave Wrocław or arrived here after 1945? Are these the traces of all those who must leave their homes today?

Actors of Wrocław theatres, as well as over 40 extras, were involved in the making of the film. Among them, we will see Adam Szczyszczaj, Ditte Berkeley, Małgorzata Gorol, and Marta Zięba. The film will be one of the elements of the dramatic installation of the “Unfinished Palace, Moving People, Floating Borders/European Songlines” project, which will be presented during the performance of “Don’t be so sure that you are legal”.





## Śląza

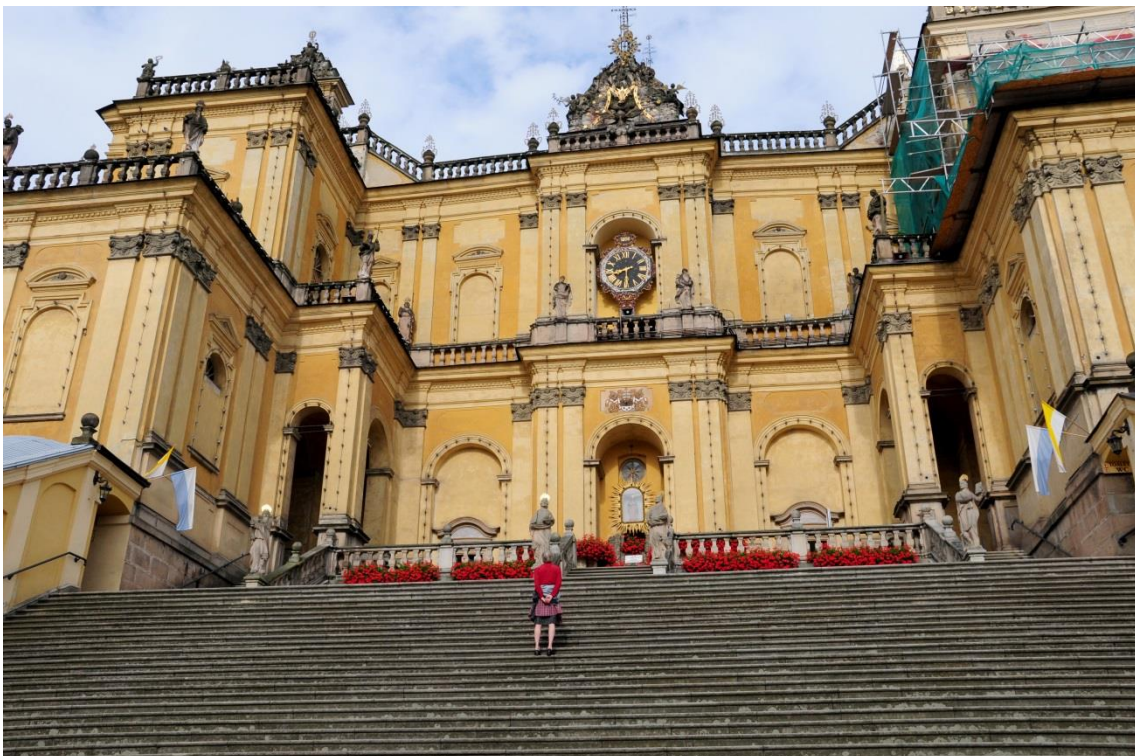
One of the fundamental elements of European identity is religion. Human beings have, from time immemorial, tried to give their life meaning and to cope with existential fear by creating gods. We now speak of a Christian Europe, forgetting the rich history of Jewish Europe or the great influence Islam had on shaping European culture. It is worth remembering that the need for religiousness existed long before there were “book religions”.



The film “Śląza” speaks about the human need for religiousness in reference to the primal human instinct of survival. The action of the film is set in one of the oldest places of pagan worship – the Śląza mountain. In the film, many religions are collated, and Polish Catholic symbolism is interwoven with paganism. The setting of

Lower Silesia was not chosen randomly, as this region was the center of many conflicts, including those of faith. The film wants to show that a person flung into the frenzy of war has one fundamental goal: to survive.

Barbara Nüsse, one of Germany’s most outstanding theatre actresses, plays the main character in the film.



## EXHIBITS

### On the run

Looking at human history, we can easily conclude that the world is a giant refugee camp. Throughout all the different periods of history, individuals, groups, and even entire nations journeyed and mixed with each other. There were, and are, different reasons for this: religious, political, economic, and environmental. As part of the project, there will be a presentation of **64 caricatures by the best artists in all of Europe**. These drawings refer to the most current contemporary political issues (European religiousness, refugees, terrorism, and European identity) in a humorous and remarkably accurate way. The exhibit mirrors the effects of these issues on Europe today. Already in 1867, the famous French caricaturist Honoré Daumier showed how fragile European balance was, according to him. Has much changed since those times?

The collection was gathered and prepared by Koos van Weringh.

### Marek Raczkowski – How to bear what you can't bear



The exhibit of Marek Raczkowski's caricatures shows, in a way characteristic of the artist, how to bear that which you can't stand. His drawings, which are full of humorous references, mercilessly expose human behavior and people's reactions to their reality.

#### Meeting Faces

The intention of the project is to clearly point out that each refugee is, first and foremost, an individual human being, who found themselves in their situation due to circumstances outside themselves. This is why when we speak of migration, we avoid the abstract term "refugee" and prefer to speak of a person.

The exhibit will present portraits of people who were forced to leave their home in order to undertake a dangerous journey in search of a safer place to live. Looking at their faces, the audience will stand face to face with individual human stories.

## **INSTALATIONS**

### **Maidan**

The Maidan installation, which makes reference to the recent events in the Ukraine, serves as a reminder that people have the right to fight for their rights and for democracy. Identity is built and maintained only when we are able to understand and define ourselves, while, at the same time, respecting others. Meeting with this “other” brings about the realization that each of us deserves the same fundamental rights and that we all have the same needs. Freedom, therefore, is not a question of nationality or passport, but the mutual recognition of each other and the mutual acceptance of each other’s right to live.

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## PLACES

- **EXHIBITS, CONCERTS, PERFORMANCE**

Dworzec Świebodzki we Wrocławiu  
pl. Orłąt Lwowskich 20C  
Wrocław

Teatr Polskie we Wrocławiu  
Scena na Świebodzkim  
pl. Orłąt Lwowskich 20  
Wrocław

- **BANQUET**

Stacja Dizajn  
pl. Orłąt Lwowskich 20  
Wrocław

## TICKETS

Ticket sales is held only on before entering.

Prices:  
normal/reduced: 1 zł

## PROJECT'S WEBSITES

[www.niedokonczonydom.pl](http://www.niedokonczonydom.pl)

[www.facebook.com/niedokonczonydom](https://www.facebook.com/niedokonczonydom)

## ORGANIZER

Europa Oculata in cooperation with Grotowski Institute and European Capital of Culture Wrocław  
2016

# PARTNERS

Our project is supported by diplomatic institutions, companies engaged socially and culturally and editorials.



# KONTAKT

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