

Press Release: THE INVISIBLE HAND

Office: vienna theatre project

Marktgemeindengasse 63/C1

Tel.: 069912127679

www.viennatheatreproject.com

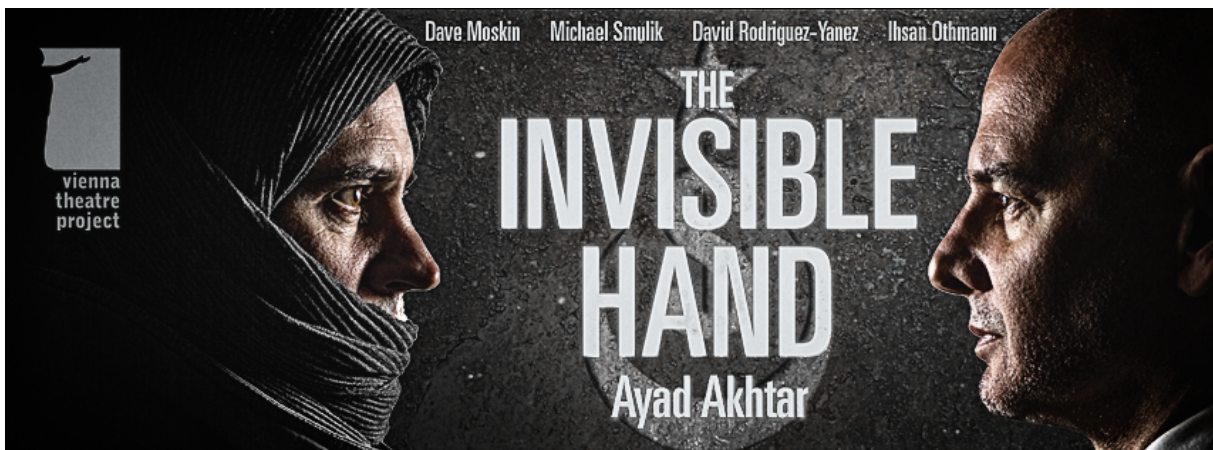
office@viennatheatreproject.at



Contact Person: Christina Köppl (PR & Sponsoring) Tel.: 0664 4242587

The Play in short: vienna theatre project presents the PULITZER Prize for Drama Winner 2013 & Tony Award Play-writing Winner in Theater Drachengasse Bar &Co AYAD Akhtar with his newest piece „THE INVISIBLE HAND“. A fascinating ride through the world of terrorism and high finance.

Sponsored by: Theater Drachengasse, WIENKULTUR, FFAB, Demobrewery and the US EMBASSY Vienna



Starring

DAVE MOSKIN - NICK (Disgraced, Jesus Christ Super Star, 1984)

MICHAEL SMULIK - BASHIR (Another One Opens, Smooth Operators, Mein Kampf) Nestroy Prize Winner various shows.

DAVID RODRIGUEZ-YANEZ - DAR (Disgraced, Saturday Night Fever, West Side Story)

IHSAN OTHMANN: IMAM SALEEM (Besuch der Alten Dame, Entführung aus der Serail)

DIRECTOR: Joanna Godwin-Seidl (Disgraced, Topdog/Underdog, Plenty)

SET DESIGN: Richard Panzenboeck (Karlsonn vom Dach, Marry Me a Little, Into the Woods).

Premiere: 8. February 2016, 8pm

Further shows: 9. February – 20. February 8pm
Theater Drachengasse, Fleischmarkt 22, 1010 Vienna
Tel.: 01/5131444
Tickets: karten@drachengasse.at
On-line: www.drachengasse.at/karten.asp
www.drachengasse.at
www.viennatheatreproject.com
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About the show:

An astounding cast will enthrall audiences this February as **vienna theatre project** once again tackles current events head on. Islamophobia, terrorism, Western involvement in the Middle Eastern crisis and how economics can influence policies and governments; can even so far as to topple societies. The fascinating play is filled with irony and dangerous philosophy. In this game, no one is a winner but everyone believes they are in the right.

Pulitzer Prize winning Ayad Akhtar (Disgraced) brings us another brilliant masterpiece to the stage in this European Premiere. In remote Pakistan, Nick Bright awaits his fate. A highly successful player at a major investment bank, Nick is kidnapped by an Islamic militant group, but with no one negotiating for his release, the prisoner must take matters into his own hands. Full of questionable alliances and moral bargaining, this world premiere – New York 2015 - is a chilling examination of how far we will go to survive and the consequences of the choices we make.

Be perplexed as Nick decides to take his survival into his own hands and battles it out; even making friends with a young fundamentalist who is easily influenced, by a seasoned, more dangerous terrorist and their mentor, Imam Saleem. But is Nick's fight for life filled with good moral intentions? What is Bashir's game? Who is the usurped and who is the usurper? A play that questions everything you have thought about the current crisis and will make you leave the theatre discussing the ethics of what you'd do and how far you'd go in an impossible situation.

About Ayad Akhtar

Ayad Akhtar was born in New York City and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is the author of *American Dervish*, published in over twenty languages worldwide and a 2012 Best Book of the Year at Kirkus Reviews, Toronto's Globe and Mail, Shelf-Awareness, and O (Oprah) Magazine. He is also a playwright

and screenwriter. His stage play *Disgraced* played at New York's LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater in 2012, and won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. His latest play, *The Who & The What*, premiered at La Jolla Playhouse in February 2014, and will be opening in New York at LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater in June 2014. As a screenwriter, he was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for Best Screenplay for *The War Within*. He has been the recipient of fellowships from MacDowell and Yaddo, as well as commissions from Lincoln Center Theater and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He is a graduate of Brown and Columbia Universities with degrees in Theater and Film Directing.

What the press say?

""Compelling and brilliant." Broadwayworld.com

"Confounding initial indications, the play is not a captive narrative about pain and torture but a scary (and dreadfully funny) treatise on the universality of human greed... a sly and subtle plot." Variety

"The Invisible Hand has layers of delicious irony." The Guardian New York



About Nick

Dave MOSKIN - Dave was born in New Jersey and grew up in New York City. He's returned to Vienna's English Theatre once again in *CHICKENSHIT*, after playing Richard Ehrlich in 2012's *Time Stands Still*.

As a child performer he was in numerous theater and television productions including *Oliver*, *Gypsy*, the national company of *The Rothchild's* and *The Grassharp* and *Seesaw* on Broadway.

Musical theater credits include Berger in *Hair* at the Raimund Theater, Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Tommy, Footloose, *Jekyll & Hyde*, Vince Fontaine/Teen angel in *Grease*, and the Big Bopper in *Buddy the Musical* in Essen, Germany. Dave also sang the Rock Tenor part in Leonard Bernsteins *Mass* with the Tonkünstler Orchester NÖ at the Konzerthaus in Vienna and the Festpielhaus in St. Pölten.

Theater Productions in Vienna include Jamie in *Territory*, Ben in *IZ*, Leon/Nick in *Speaking in Tongues*, Shakespeare in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, A Christmas Carol, Charlie in *Over The Threshold*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*,

Frank in *How the Other Half Loves*, Winston in 1984, Richard Ehrlich in *Time Stands Still* and Martin Sterneck in Gabriel Barylli's *Chickenshit*(Butterbrot)

He is also the Producer of, and plays "Jake" in *The Blues Brothers Are Back*, touring Europe and appearing most recently in the *Wiener Stadthalle*.

Film credits include *Tootsie*, *The Godfather*, *Manhattan*, *Im Weissen Rössl* 2013 and *Good Morning Kabul*.



About Bashir

Michael SMULIK - was born in Port-Elizabeth, South Africa, to a bi-lingual couple (that wasn't an offence over there) in 1975 . After a turbulent and infuriating school career, followed by an equally frustrating attempt at leading a normal life, he finally emigrated to Austria by mistake! Originally he was on his way to Holland, the land of freedom and civilisation, when he found himself broke in Vienna (who isn't?).

Starting from scratch, he took various jobs, but found himself bored, over-educated and under-challenged. Taking the advice of a girlfriend, he decided to try out for the Konservatorium der Stadt Wien drama class and was accepted. Thus began a new, turbulent and infuriating school career, culminating in expulsion from the school after three years. Michael decided to complete his training and acquired a drama diploma via the Actor's Union. Since then he has played in every major Austrian city, and some not so major ones too, in English and German. He is now a sought after actor who also directs and writes. In 2001 he teamed up with fellow sufferer Christian Strasser and formed *Christian&Michael und die Emotionale Rock-+Showband*. He rents living space in Vienna.



About Dar

David RODRIGUEZ-YANEZ – was born in Venezuela and graduated from Konservatorium Wien Privatuniversität in 2015. He performed in the Tango-Opera „Azrael“ and in „The Drowsy Chaperone“ (ÖE) as Adolpho at Konservatorium Wien as well as Merkur in „Orpheus in der Unterwelt“. He also performed in “The Phantom of the Opera” at the Wiener Ronacher, in „Jesus Christ

Superstar“ at the Stadttheater Baden, in „Das Vergnügen, Verrückt zu Sein“ at the Novomatic Forum Wien, in „West Side Story“ (Chino) at the Felsenbühne Staatz as well as the role of Abe in „Disgraced“ at the Theater Drachengasse. David is also the author of „Descent Into Youth“ which was staged in 2011. He was singer (stand-in) at the Eurovision Song Contest at the Wiener Stadthalle and performed as Chester Brinson in Saturday Night Fever at the Summermusical Amstetten stage.



About Imam Saleem

Ihsan Othmann - The Kurdish actor Ihsan Othmann comes from Iraq. In Berlin, where he has lived for several years, he starred in several theater productions and also participated in various film projects. In Baghdad - next to Berlin currently his second residence – he directed and performed in the play "The Visit of the Old Lady" by Friedrich Dürrenmatt . At the Potsdam Winter Opera he developed, under the direction of Uwe Eric Laufenberg, the role of the Bassa Selim in Mozart's "Die Entführung aus der Serail" also reprising this role in Iraq when the Cologne Opera performed there (Spring 2011). He has since performed at the Hessian State Theatre Wiesbaden and just completed a cultural tour of the Middle East.

About Joanna

Joanna GODWIN-SEIDL - Director / Producer - the actress and director studied theatre in the United Kingdom. She has been running VIENNA THEATRE PROJECT since 2006. THE LAST FIVE YEARS was her musical directing debut at the Theater Drachengasse. German language theatre credits include directing MÄDCHEN MIT DEN SCHWEFELHÖLZERN workshop (Ronacher Theater);, HAUTNAH (Patrick Marber) for Theaterverein Vision (OFF Theater) and MORD IM MUSIKANTENBEISL (Asst. director - Theater Drachengasse). Recent acclaimed musicals include MARRY ME a LITTLE, ORDINARY DAYS and TICK TICK..BOOM!

She has a solid repertoire, often choosing plays with social & political content; PLENTY (VIS Theatre), DIRT (Theater am Petersplatz) and THE MEETING (Black History Month/Theater am Petersplatz) to name a few. In 2014 she directed the hit play TOPDOG/UNDERDOG, was pleased to receive rave reviews for her musical TITLE OF SHOW and starred in Sarah Kane's 4.48 PSYCHOSIS (Dialog im

Dunkeln). Her first play in 2015 was the award winning DISGRACED by Ayad Akhtar. As an actress she has starred in a number of shows from Aykourn to Coward, Shakespeare and back in theatres such as Vienna English Theatre, Kammeroper, Schönbrunner Schlosstheater. After THE INVISIBLE HAND she will be directing the socio-political thriller THE DUTCHMAN May 2016. www.joannagodwinseidl.com for more info.



Set
Theater Drachengasse
A drone will fly through the room.

Richard Panzenboeck

About Richard

Richard PANZENBOECK – Set Design - was trained at the Fashion Institute Vienna in Hetzendorf Castle as a designer. He trained as a puppeteer under Nigel Plaskitt (London - Avenue Q, Muppets, etc). He is completing acting training at the Schauspielschule Krauss and studies Theatre, Film and Media Studies at the University of Vienna.

His work includes: Designer / Assistant for many ORF shows (Dancing Stars, Starmania, Quiz Safari, Contra der Talk, Franz Ferdinand, Servus Kasperl, etc) He has worked as an actor / puppeteer for film, television and theatre (The Tragedy of Macbeth, Tom Turbo, Kasperl, Franz Ferdinand, ABC-Bär, Theater der Jugend, Schubert Theater, Nestroyhof/Hamakom, to name a few). Author (Paperman, Zusatz: Vorstellungen, Internet Opera, and more). Director (Mord im Musikantenbeisl, Kreuzungen des Lebens). Assistant Director (Blood Brothers, I See a Darkness, Into The Woods)

Coming soon: www.richard-panzenboeck.com

Produktionsteam

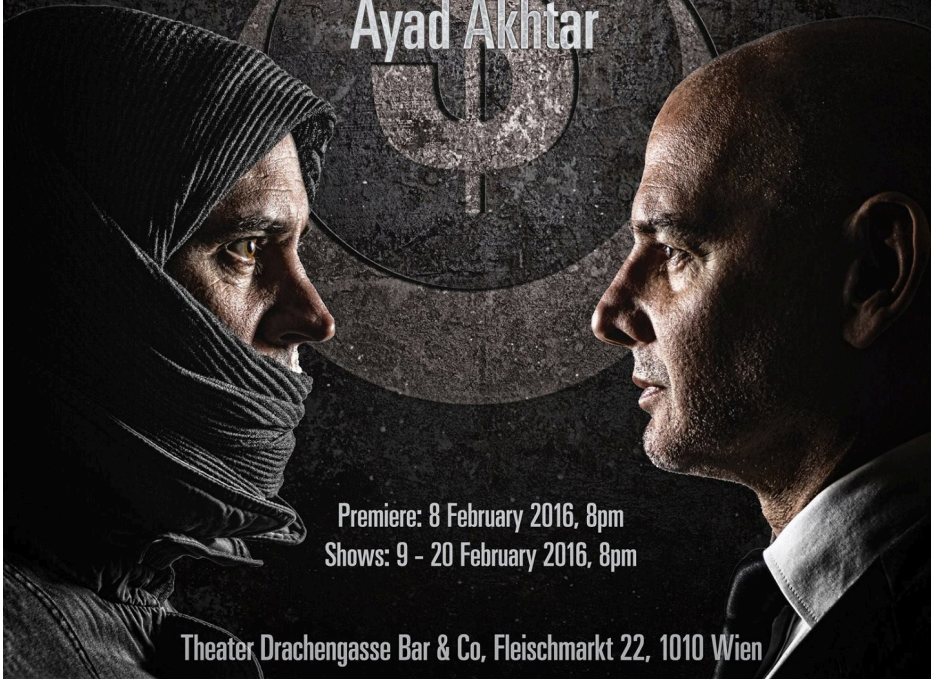
Produzent	vienna theatre project/Christina Köppl
Technik	Theater Drachengasse
Bühnenbild	Richard Panzenböck
Bühnenbau	Richard Panzenböck, Tzolt Kemenes, Johannes Stockinger
Poster/Flyer	Gernot Ottowitz
Fotos Poster/flyer	Tim Hüning
Fotos Stück	Ine Gundersveen & Thomas Schluet
Regie Assistenz	Kathrin Firlinger, Meli Hlavin
Stage Manager	Jimmy Irons
PR und Sponsoring	vienna theatre project/ Christina Köppl
Theater	Beate Platzgummer und Team
Kostüm	Andrea Bernd

Dave Moskin Michael Smulik David Rodriguez-Yanez Ihsan Othmann
Directed by: Joanna Godwin-Seidl

vienna theatre THE project presents

INVISIBLE HAND

Ayad Akhtar



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Shows: 9 - 20 February 2016, 8pm

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