

DUVTEATERN THEATRE COMPANY (Helsinki, Finland), STEFAN BREMER (Helsinki, Finland), INSTITUTO IBEROAMERICANO DE FINLANDIA (Madrid, Spain) and CENTRO CULTURAL GALILEO (Madrid, Spain)

Present the exhibition

VARIATIONS ON CARMEN

The Duva/Diva Project by the DuvTeatern Theatre Company and Stefan Bremer

25 September – 29 October 2015

Centro Cultural Galileo, Calle Fernando el Católico, 35, 28015 Madrid

VARIATIONS ON CARMEN, the Duva/Diva project, has been produced by the DuvTeatern Theatre Company and the famous Finnish photographer Stefan Bremer in 2011. The exhibition draws its inspiration from the beauty and the glamour of the world of opera, the proud and sensual flamenco dance, the dramatic story and music of Georges Bizet's opera *Carmen* and the characters developed by the performers of *Carmen, Bird of Prey*. The unconventional version of Bizet's opera, *Carmen, Bird of Prey*, was a collaboration between DuvTeatern, the Finnish National Opera and the Blue Flamenco School of Dance, and it premiered in January 2011 at the Finnish National Opera.

VARIATIONS ON CARMEN is now presented for the first time in Spain, the homeland of Carmen and the flamenco tradition. The exhibition comprises the photo series of Stefan Bremer, who has cooperated with DuvTeatern since 2003. Also, in connection with the exhibition, the screen version of the opera performance *Carmen, Bird of Prey* will be shown.

VARIATIONS ON CARMEN is a joint project of artists with and without disabilities.

"Bremer's photographs might make some viewers uncomfortable. The subjects don't fit customary standards of beauty, and the contrast between their unconventional faces and Bremer's high-gloss style is strong. But the pictures echo what Bremer says is the goal of the production. "It asks, 'Who has the right to take the center stage?' " If that question can be answered with a joyous grin or guffaw, the answer is clear: These performers do."

-Mark Jenkins, Washington Post, 9/3 2012

VARIATIONS ON CARMEN has previously been shown with great success at the Finnish National Opera in Helsinki (2011), Gallery Charles Krause/Reporting Fine Art in Washington (2012), and the Finnish Institutes in Paris (2012) and in Stockholm (2013) and at the Multimedia Art Museum in Moscow (2014). Some of the photographs have also been published in the European photography periodicals Eyemazing and Photo.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

How do we create space for artists with disabilities on the professional stages? How does the work of these artists effect society? Will we see more "variations on Carmen" in the future? An international seminar on how performing art, disability and society can meet is hold 23.9.2015 in connection with the opening of the exhibition VARIATIONS ON CARMEN. At the seminar the DuvTeatern Theatre Company presents its work on increasing diversity and accessibility in the field of theatre, alongside with art groups from the FEAPS MADRID association (la Frtisch Co., Polimetrías 21, Grupo Amás and Afanias) that will present the cultural programme "+Cultura=+Inclusión".

For more information about the seminar, please visit www.duvteatern.fi/seminario_2015

ABOUT DUVTEATERN

The DuvTeatern Theatre Company has worked in Helsinki, Finland, since 1999 within the framework of the DUV Vingen Association. DuvTeatern strives towards equality and accessibility within the arts and the community. By giving artists who have intellectual disabilities a professional platform from which to develop, DuvTeatern wants to awaken its environment to the artistic surprises and resources that exist outside the usual norms and conventions.

To learn more about the DuvTeatern Theatre Company please visit www.duvteatern.fi

For information and interviews, please contact Instituto Iberoamericano de Finlandia:
info@madrid.fi

Press photos: www.duvteatern.fi/press