

PRESS FILE



A PLAY FOR THE LIVING IN A TIME OF EXTINCTION

KATIE MITCHELL & THÉÂTRE VIDY-LAUSANNE /
MARTHA BALTHAZAR & NTGENT

premiere 08/10/22, Ghent (BE)

NTGent

A play about the climate disaster refuses to go on tour but is staged again in Ghent by local director Martha Balthazar and actor Lisah Adeaga.

The new production of the Belgian city theatre NTGent, [A Play for the Living in a Time of Extinction](#), rethinks the concept of international touring. The production is based on a concept developed by British director Katie Mitchell for Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne in Switzerland in early 2022. By 2024, the play – written by Miranda Rose Hall – will be performed in ten countries* but **without a single member of the original cast and crew crossing a border**, as [The New York Times](#) described in March. Only the script of the play goes on tour and ends up in Ghent in the hands of **Martha Balthazar** and **Lisah Adeaga**.

Besides the script, NTGent also received a handbook with production instructions. The electricity needed for the performance for example, is generated live by bicycles and cannot exceed 150 watts. The performance is played by only one actress and supported by amateur choir singers.

"The creation of this performance is an exercise in imagination," says director Martha Balthazar. "You have to let theatre evolve so that it can answer to the challenges of our time, but that is not just a limitation. It is also inspiring. Among other things, we are experimenting with two large megaphones that acoustically amplify the sound on stage."

How can theatre adapt to the climate disaster that is unfolding? Is sustainable theatre possible? How can we use imagination, so characteristic of the arts, to come up with solutions?

For *A Play for the Living in a Time of Extinction*, Balthazar and Adeaga connect their artistic vision with the key themes of the performance: What is man's impact on the world? And how do we remain human with this knowledge in mind? How can we restore our connection with the entire spectrum of living species in a time where total extinction is a real possibility?

For NTGent, this production is part of the STAGES project, an ambitious sustainability experiment in the cultural sector. Read more about this project [here](#).

* Before, there were performances in Lausanne, Milan, Zagreb, Amsterdam and Stockholm. Ghent, Liege, Taipei, Maribor, Vilnius and Lisbon will follow.



[WATCH
THE TRAILER
HERE](#)



[WATCH
THE INTERVIEW
WITH MARTHA
BALTHAZAR
HERE](#)

CREDITS:

CONCEPT Katie Mitchell, Jérôme Bel, Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne

DIRECTION NTGENT Martha Balthazar **CAST** Lisah Adeaga

MUSIC COMPOSITION Alan Van Rompuy (A z e r t y klavierwerke)

CONDUCTOR Valentina Toth

DATES (NTGent Minnemeers):

- ✓ 08/10/22 – premiere – 8pm
- ✓ 12/10 – 8pm
- ✓ 13/10 – 6:30pm
- ✓ 14/10, 15/10, 05/11 – 8pm
- ✓ 06/11 – 3pm

NTGent

NTGent
Sint Baafsplein 17
B-9000 Gent
www.ntgent.be

Jonas Mayeur
Press attaché
jonas.mayeur@ntgent.be
+32 (0) 498 62 02 30

BIO LISAH ADEAGA

Lisah Adeaga (°1994) is a Nigerian-Belgian actor, performer and maker in the performing arts. She graduated from the Kleinkunst department at the Conservatory in Antwerp in 2019. Adeaga's physicality is the anchor point within her artistic practice: she plays, dances, sings, writes and models.



Adeaga made her debut on the big stage with the company Bloet/Jan Decorte & Sigrid Vinks with the performances *Hamlet 0.2* (2018) and *Body a.k.a* (2019) and played in performances by Comp. Marius, ARSENAAL/LAZARUS and hetpaleis.

Since the 2021-2022 season, Adeaga has been part of the cast of *Red - The Sorrows of Belgium III: Holy War*, the final part of the trilogy which director Luk Perceval is making at NTGent.

BIO MARTHA BALTHAZAR

Martha Balthazar (°1997) is a theatre maker and writer. She graduated from KASK Drama in Ghent in 2021 with the performance *Boerenpsalm*, a modern farmer's drama based on a study of the agricultural sector. She also worked as a choreographer on the performance *Birds*, a co-production with Seppe Baeyens and Yassin Mrabtifi, in which a large group of performers reflected the diversity of the city. From the five-star review in De Morgen:



Balthazar is part of the dance community vzw Leon, which creates participatory performances in Brussels, focusing on the power of encounter and connection. She also worked as a theatre maker with the young people of Victoria Deluxe and created the performance *Our People*.

Balthazar won the Emile Zola Prize 2020 from the magazine Sampol and works as a columnist for the magazine Knack.