

Press Release Copenhagen, d. 15 Jan. 2017

Down the Rabbit Hole Theatre presents

## ***Venus in Fur***

**by David Ives**

### **Performances**

Premiere d. February 8th

Show dates d. February 8th - 24th

Tuesday-Saturday at 19:00 pm, and Sunday at 14:00 pm

Double performance February 25th at 12:00 and 19:00

The performance is in **English** and lasts 1:30 hours without an intermission

### **Tickets**

Ticket prices: 150 kr. for adults, 80 kr for students under 25. Group discounts are available.

Tickets are available through: [www.rabbithole.dk](http://www.rabbithole.dk) or [www.huset-kbh.dk](http://www.huset-kbh.dk)

### **Address**

House of International Theatre (HIT)

Huset-KBH's 4th floor - Stage

Rådhusstræde 13

1466 Copenhagen K

### **About the play**

*Venus in Fur* turns the classic power struggle between man and woman on its head. Thomas is a beleaguered playwright, looking for an actress to play the female lead in his adaptation of the classic sadomasochistic tale *Venus in Fur*. Vanda, who oddly enough has the same name as the play's leading role, is a desperate actress who shows up to audition for the role. Vanda arrives too late, she is vulgar and completely wrong for the role, but she turns out to have a strange command of the material. As the two work through the script, they blur the line between play and reality, entering into an increasingly serious game of submission and domination that only one of them can win. A mysterious, funny and erotic drama.

### *Several actors, multiple interpretations*

In our version, the two roles, Thomas and Vanda, are each played by two actors. Each evening the audience will see one of the four possible combinations, which will give the opportunity to experience the power struggle between man and woman from four different angles.

### **Starring**

The role of Vanda will be played by the Danish actress Vibeke Nielsen and the British actress Vanessa Poole.

Vibeke Nielsen studied at the William Esper Studio in New York, and has performed several roles in Denmark. She was last seen as Queen Gertrude in last summer's production of *Hamlet Live* at Kronborg Castle, and she has appeared in *Shakespeare Unplugged*, *In Afghanistan They Shoot Water Pistols*, and *Table Manners*.

Vanessa Poole lives in Sweden and is best known for her role as the mother in the Swedish television series "Max's Movie." In Denmark, she has played together with Jens Blegaa in *Elsie and Norm's 'Macbeth'*, *Pygmalion* and *The Dining Room*, where she received several great reviews. She has also played in *The City* (Why Not Theatre, 2013) and was named "# 3 English Language Trailblazer 2015" by the Copenhagen Post.

The role of Thomas will be played by the Danish actor Jens Blegaa and American actor Alex Lehman.

Jens Blegaa performed in *Elsie and Norm's 'Macbeth'*. Before that starred in *Pygmalion*, where he received great attention from reviewers for his portrayal of Henry Higgins. He has also been in the *Crazy Christmas Cabaret* and is a regular part of London Toast Theatre's murder mysteries.

Alex Lehman is new to the Danish theatre scene. He studied at London International School of Performing Arts (LISPA), where he specialized in Lecoq technique.

Directed by Jeremy Thomas-Poulsen

### **Down the Rabbit Hole and House of International Theatre (HIT)**

Down the Rabbit Hole (DTRH) is Copenhagen's newest English-speaking theatre company, and aims to produce professional theatre of the highest quality, working across styles and genres and with a focus on creating ambitious artistic performances.

Down the Rabbit Hole is joining together with the Hamburg-based theatre company ManusArts to create a new platform for international performing arts under the name the HIT - House of International Theatre. HIT is a new extended platform for performing arts, cultural activity and cultural exchange, promoting diverse artistic interpretations, brave ideas and multi-cultural dynamics within the area of international and English-language performance. It is an open house for cultural encounters presenting plays, performances, readings, festivals, workshops, special events and exhibitions for the English-speaking and international communities. Whether spoken word, music(al), dance, panto or improv - HIT presents international theatre that is unique, daring and engaging. Platforms, such as: the weekend Cultural Brunch, the afternoon Tea & Tales or the after work Happy Hour, present a variety of cultural activities in a pleasing and social surrounding.

HIT resides in Huset-KBH's fourth floor performance space Stage. *Venus in Fur* is DTRH's first artistic offering at HIT.

Director Jeremy Thomas-Poulsen says, "*Venus in Fur* is a great piece to begin our first year at the newly established House of International Theatre. With this play, we hope to bring something new and interesting to Copenhagen's international theatre scene. *Venus in Fur* is a challenging piece that is both bold and sexy, and we will present it with different combinations of actors on various evenings to show how unique and individual these characters can be. The audience will want to come back to see how the piece changes with the different players. "

For more info on Jeremy Thomas Poulsen: [www.jmthomaspoulsen.com](http://www.jmthomaspoulsen.com)

For more info on Down the Rabbit Hole Theatre: [www.rabbithole.dk](http://www.rabbithole.dk)

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