

Curie_Meitner_Lamarr_indivisible

A play about women and research

Information and trailer: www.portraittheater.net



Photos: Reinhard Werner

Radiation. Nuclear fission. Frequency hopping.

Three outstanding pioneers represent the achievements of women in the field of science and technology: Double Nobel Prize winner and discoverer of radioactivity **Marie Curie** (1867-1934), Austrian-Swedish nuclear physicist **Lise Meitner** (1878-1968) and Viennese Hollywood actress **Hedy Lamarr** (1914-2000) with her invention of frequency hopping. Anecdotes from their lives, achievements and obstacles as well as the contents of their research and the passion for their work are at the centre of the play „**Curie_Meitner_Lamarr_indivisible**“. Complemented by music and videos with three girls asking pertinent questions the play is an entertaining portrait of extraordinary women in history. Directed by Sandra Schüddekopf, with Anita Zieher impersonating the three women, the play is **available for bookings in English as of 2015**.

Reviews:

„Zieher delivers a brilliant performance in the roles... it is a theatre evening with many claims: it should be informative, amusing and encouraging – the team of portraittheater indeed succeeded in all of that.“ (European Cultural News)

„How often do you have the chance to acquaint you so hands-on with the biography of three extraordinary women and to learn something about radioactivity?... Zieher and her team manage it in an entertaining and vivid way to bring elementary questions like ‚what happens at the fission‘ or ‚who is the discoverer of it‘ closer to the audience....Conclusion: An informative and amusing evening with a wink.“ (Vienna International)

„Anita Zieher, who plays all three women, impresses with her performance...“ (Progress-online)

Three women in the field of science and technology

Marie Curie (1867-1934) left Poland to study mathematics and physics at the Sorbonne in Paris. Curie's efforts, achieved in collaboration with her husband Pierre Curie, led to the discovery of polonium and radium. Curie herself coined the word *radioactivity*. Marie Curie made history when she became the first woman to receive two Nobel Prizes. The reception of the latter was at risk when an affair became publicly known, resulting in a major scandal.

Lise Meitner (1878-1968) was born in Vienna, Austria. After obtaining her doctoral degree in physics, she moved to Berlin to work with Max Planck. She started to work with radio-chemist Otto Hahn, who would become her close research partner for the next thirty years. As a woman, her research was unpaid and initially she was only allowed to enter her laboratory through a back entrance of the building. 1938 she was forced to flee from Germany to Sweden. Meitner and her nephew Otto Robert Frisch delivered the first theoretical explanation for nuclear fission which was discovered by Otto Hahn and Fritz Straßmann. While Otto Hahn received the Nobel price for this work in 1946, Lise Meitner was left with the title „mother of the atomic bomb“.

Hedy Lamarr (1914-2000) was fascinated by technology all her life. At the age of 16 she dropped out of school to concentrate on becoming an actress. She garnered a degree of fame and notoriety after starring in the scandalous movie „Ecstase“. She married the munitions manufacturer Fritz Mandl, but eventually escaped from this marriage. She left for a career in Hollywood where she soon became known as „the most beautiful woman of the world“. During World War II she codeveloped the frequency-hopping spread-spectrum together with the avantgarde composer George Antheil as a means to control torpedos. The US military initially showed little interest in their invention. But with the advent of mobile telephony their technology is widely used in modern wireless data transfer today.

Cast

portraittheater focuses on extraordinary persons, especially women, and brings their life and work to the stage. Various programmes (since 2006) about Hannah Arendt, Simone de Beauvoir, Bertha von Suttner and George Sand. www.portraittheater.net

Sandra Schüddekopf lives as a freelance director in Vienna. Over the period from 2001-2005 she worked as an assistant director at Burgtheater, where she also staged plays herself. Further performances at Schauspielhaus Graz, Munich Kammerspiele, the Schauspielhaus Vienna and at the Mainz State Theatre, where she won the director's prize for her performance of „Larva“ of Natascha Gangl in 2009. A special focus of her work is new dramatic and adaptations of novels.

Anita Zieher lives as a freelance actress in Vienna. After studying politics and communication in Salzburg she attended an acting school in Vienna. In the previous productions of portraittheater she played Hannah Arendt, Simone de Beauvoir, Bertha von Suttner and George Sand. As chairwoman of the association she is also responsible for the production management. She won many prizes in theater as an improvisation player and comedian (Zieher&Leeb). www.anitazieher.at

portraittheater

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Information for guest performances

Duration:	app. 100 minutes
Language:	english (as of 2015) or german
Stage requirements:	in theatres or conference rooms: 4 x 4 m, heightened in a school or a University or College: lecture auditorium with a blackboard and a laboratory bench cloakroom (for costume change during the play) nearby the performance room
Technical requirements:	lighting system (with dimmer), sound system, audio wire, video projector (and wire), headset (> 100 guests)
Setting and soundcheck:	app. 3 hours before start, technical assistant required
Public relations material:	photos and press release can be provided
Crew:	2 persons (actress and tour assistant)

Full cast

Production:	portraittheater
Production management, concept:	Sandra Schüddekopf, Anita Zieher
Stage director:	Sandra Schüddekopf
Actress:	Anita Zieher
Text:	Sandra Schüddekopf and Anita Zieher with original quotations of Marie Curie, Lise Meitner, Hedy Lamarr
Idea, project management:	Anita Zieher
Costume:	Elke Gattinger
Stage concept:	Eva-Maria Schwenkel
Production assistant:	Susanne Lässig
Videos:	Maria Weber
Girls in the videos:	Johanna Braendle, Carla Götze, Marielies Willensdorfer
Music/video:	Rupert Derschmidt
Photos:	Reinhard Werner
Co-Production Partner:	Theater Drachengasse
Cooperation Partner:	Vienna University of Technology, Vienna University, St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences
Government-funded by:	Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology, Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, Vienna Business Agency, Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs, Department for Cultural Affairs of the City of Vienna

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