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AMERICAN WRITER

INTERVIEW Gail Kriegel: Activism is important in every art

Author: Kim Cuculić

Posted: 10th studenog 2013th at 11:52

It would be good that we are all activists when it comes to things in which we believe. Artists in theater, opera, music and visual arts are often ahead of their time and can be pioneers in finding new ways of mirroring social issues such as prejudice, corruption and violence

Gail Kriegel is one of the authors of the drama "Seven," which, after gained worldwide popularity, experience and Croatian Prime Minister 23rd November at the Museum of Contemporary Art. This is a documentary drama which depicts the lives of seven women from different parts of the world, and the utility is designed so that each state form a "cast" ensemble composed of influential public figures who read the text.

Croatian version

Drama "Seven" is produced and directed by Swedish director Hedda Krausz Sjögren, which will set the Croatian version. Who will be the seven participants in Croatia has not yet been officially confirmed. Project "Seven", besides the Croatian premiere drama, cover and accompanying activities that are the focus of the fight against violence against women and the protection of women's rights.

Regional tour »Seven 2013«, supported by the Swedish Institute, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia. Croatia's performance conducted association "Domino" and the Swedish Embassy in Zagreb.

All proceeds from the tickets will be donated to the Women's Safe houses in the project will involve members of the association "Open Kamensko" or brave workers of the former "Kamensko".

Kriegel is the famous American writer, playwright and composer, winner of numerous awards, the highest number for the drama "On the Home Front." The project "Seven" after joining the association "Vital Voices", founded by Hillary Clinton and Madeleine Albright, with the aim of helping women around the world to take advantage of their potential and become leaders in their environments. "Seven" is a revolutionary documentary that is



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PROJEKT TRSAT

VRHUNSKA NOVOGRADNJA

based on interviews with seven women's rights activists from different parts of the world, and whose difficult life story and struggle are an incredible source of inspiration: Ferid Azizi (Afghanistan), Inez McCormack (Northern Ireland), Marina Pisklakova-Parker (Russia), Annabella de Leon (Guatemala), Mukhtar Mai (Pakistan), Mu Sochua (Cambodia) and Hafsat Abiola (Nigeria). Women are represented in the drama with the success of the last major obstacles to change the lives of their countries.

Stage reading

Drama is a utility designed to take major roles influential individuals from the public life of the state where it is running, and everyone reading performed completely unique ensemble. The text has been read by more than 300 politicians, activists and actors around the world. Among them the Oscar-winning actress Meryl Streep and MEPs. The drama is written by the author of seven award-winning drama: Paula Cizmar, Catherine Filloux, Gail Kriegel, Carol K. Mack, Ruth Margraff, Anna Deveare-Smith and Susan Yankowitz.

Four staged readings of a play "Seven" was initiated and produced by award-winning playwright, actress and producer Hedda Krausz Sjögren, Sweden 2008th year. Drama has been performed in 13 countries and gathered about 20,000 people, from Sweden to Afghanistan.

Gail Kriegel recently visited Croatia, which started the conversation with her:

- I visited Croatia because my husband, as a representative of the Center for International Law, was invited to give a lecture about the U.S. law at the University of Rijeka. Then I of Hedda Krausz Sjögren, who is the "Seven" produced around the world, found out that this drama will be part of a conference on trafficking are in Zagreb. Although I knew that I would not be able to see the actual show, I wanted to meet with the people involved in the project and to assist them in promoting the project.

Number 7

Why is the performance of the drama "Seven" important for the country?

- It is important that this dokudrama be presented in each country, because everywhere, including my own country, we must work to change the lives of women. Through personal stories of women "Seven" shows how abuse, trafficking, domestic violence, oppression and corruption poisoned society. Since Croatia is at the very moment of change, it is an exciting time for women and men to move forward, together with the growth of their country. This is the time that people speak up and contribute to change. "Seven" should help them in terms of motivation and inspiration in the struggle for women's rights.

Why No. 7 in the title?

- This figure is taken for practical reasons. It is estimated that 7 monologues, each with approximately 15 minutes, with a break should last about two hours in the theater. However, "Seven" is not shown only in theaters but also in various other areas that require a shorter presentation. There are different versions of the play, depending on whether it is a special event or conference, representing universities, urban or commercial theaters. The published version contains all the features.

What theater can do against violence against women around the world?

- I think the theater is a very effective way to draw attention to the problem of oppression of women everywhere in the world. I am a member of the League of Professional Theatre Board of women and want to see more pieces that our playwrights, directors and producers set. According to my insights, a good percentage of plays written by women talking about issues such as violence in the bedroom. I believe that this distressing phenomenon experienced significant changes. Every time a live performance, with a live audience, point to these problems, there is a chance that at least one or two viewers to change their way of thinking.

What is your stance on activism in the theater?

- I think that activism is important in every art and in every aspect of society. It would be good that we are all activists when it comes to things in which we believe. Artists in theater, opera, music and visual arts are often ahead of their time and can be pioneers in finding new ways of mirroring social issues such as prejudice, corruption and violence. They can deal with social issues so personally affect humans.

Vivid Theatre

Why is the problems in society need speaking out from the stage?

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What? Where?

- Theater is alive. It's not like watching a movie or television program, which leave behind or off. The theater is always establishes a relationship between the audience and the actors, and between the viewer, the playwright and director. Theatre is happening at the moment. Theatre is alive!

When I met Anabella De Leon, a woman I interviewed, I immediately felt that I want to put on stage. When I realized that this woman risked his own life and the life of her son and mother, and that he has to walk with a few bodyguards, I thought I read about it somewhere or saw Anabella on film - it would not be the same. Only living actor who performed for a live audience can "catch" her dynamism, her courage, beauty and spirit.

Your drama "On the Home Front" tells about the war and racism. On the way you treat this topic?

- In the drama "On the Home Front," it's about a group of people from different classes and cultures, whose only shared experience from the war. Drama is created based on my experience lecturers on the program "Veterans Outreach" at Brooklyn College. I took as an example of the Vietnam War, his troops, as today those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, are never welcome home. Vietnam War was the last war in which soldiers were recruited - a large proportion of them were poor, black and white, while those who went to college, they were acquitted.

The action pieces takes place at the College, where a group of returnees from Vietnam - all men: African-Americans, Asians and Latinos - are rising against their white teacher whose husband died in the war. Students and professors are not only traumatized by the war, but in the classroom have to face significant prejudice: racism among Caribbean blacks and African-American blacks, between black and white students, with men against women ... That is what I am most interested in as a playwright - how different people transcend conflicts in relationships and closer to each other despite differences.

What can you tell us about the musical "Sweetie"?

- In writing the book, lyrics and music for "Sweetie," I thought to do this my whole life. The project I started to develop when I was a visiting artist at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center in New York. Since then he has held several workshops and would now, finally, "Sweetie" should be shown in February.

This is a dramatic musical that tells about people who go beyond the burden of poverty and racism to achieve their dreams. In a multi-ethnic division has 12 actors and 4 musicians, and as a band - the actors were required to know how to play. The story is set in 1935. year, in a small town in the south where the class and racial intolerance usual. The story follows a group of orphans, including Sweetie mixed race. This musical, among other things, talks about the power of music and how it can change people's lives.

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Facebook društveni dodatak

Gail Kriegel, američka spisateljica, dramaturginja i skladateljica, koautorica drame »Sedam«

AKTIVIZAM JE VAŽAN U SVAKOJ UMJETNOSTI



Gail Kriegel jedna je od autorica drame »Sedam« koja će, nakon stečene svjetske popularnosti, doživjeti i hrvatsku premijeru 23. studenoga u Muzeju suvremene umjetnosti Zagrebu. Riječ je o dokumentarnoj drami koja opisuje živote sedam žena iz različitih dijelova svijeta, a režijski je osmišljena tako da se u svakoj drži obimni »glumački« ansambl sastavljen od utjecajnih javnih ličnosti koje čitaju tekst.

Kriegel je poznata američka spisateljica, dramaturginja i skladateljica, dobitnica brojnih nagrada od čega najviše za dramu »On the Home Front«. U projekt »Sedam« uključila se preko udruge »Vital voices«, koju su osnovale Hillary Clinton i Madeleine Albright, s ciljem potpunoj ženama čitavog svijeta da iskoriste svoje potencijale i postanu liderice u svojim okolinama. »Sedam« je revolucionarna dokumentarna drama koja je bazirana na intervjui s sedam aktivistica za prava žena, iz različitih dijelova svijeta, a čije teške životne priče i borba predstavljaju nevjerojatan izvor inspiracije: Ferida Azizi (Afganistan), Inez McCormack (Sjeverna Irska), Marina Pisklakova-Parker (Italija), Anabella de Leon (Gvatemala), Muhtar Mai (Pakistan), Mu Sochnua (Kambodža) i Hafsat Abiola (Nigerija). Žene predstavljene u drami s uspjehom su prošle brojne prepreke tako bi promijenile živote u svojim zemljama.

Švedski čitanja

Drama je režijski osmišljena tako da glavne uloge preuzimaju utjecajni pojedinci iz javnog života države u kojoj se izvodi, pa svako čitanje izvodi potpuno jedinstveni ansambl, iako je dosad čitalo više od 300 političara, aktivista i glumaca diljem svijeta. Među njima i oskarska Meryl Streep te članovi Europskog parlamenta. Dramu je napisalo sedam nagradivanih dramskih autorica: Paula Cinnat, Catherine Filloux, Gail Kriegel, Carol K. Mack, Ruth Margraff, Anna Devvare-Smith i Susan Yankowitz.

Hrvatska verzija

Drama »Sedam« producirala je i režirala švedska redateljica Hedda Krausz Sjögren, koja će postaviti i hrvatsku verziju. Ona će biti sedam sudionika u Hrvatskoj, ali nije službeno potvrđeno. Projekt »Sedam« će, osim hrvatske premijere drame, obuhvatiti i popularne aktivnosti koje u Zagrebu imaju borbu protiv nasilja nad ženama te zaštitu prava žena.

Regionalna turneja »Sedam 2013«, koja podržava Švedski institut, obuhvaća Albanija, Bosna i Hercegovina, Hrvatska, Makedonija, Kosovo i Srbija. Hrvatsku izvedbu provode udruge »Domino« i »Vedepolitino Kraljevina Švedske« u Zagrebu.

Na put od ulaznica bit će doniran sigurnim ženskim kućama, a u projektu će biti uključene i članice udruge »Oraveno Kamensko«, odnosno braće radnice bivšeg »Kamenskog«.



Umjetnici se mogu suočiti s društvenim problemima tako da osobno utječu na ljude – Gail Kriegel

Turneju scenskih čitanja dramskog teksta »Sedam« inicirala je i producirala nagradivana dramska spisateljica, glumica i producentica Hedda Krausz Sjögren u Švedskoj 2008. godine. Drama je dosad izvedena u 13 zemalja i okupila je oko 20 tisuća ljudi, od Švedske do Afganistana.

Gail Kriegel redavno je boravila u Hrvatskoj, čime počinjemo razgovor s njom:

– Posjetila sam Hrvatsku jer je moj suprug, kao predstavnik Centra za međunarodno pravo, porvan da održi predavanje o američkom pravu na Sveučilištu u Rijeci. Onda sam od Hedde Krausz Sjögren, koja je »Sedam« producirala diljem svijeta, saznala da će ta drama biti dijelom konferencije o traffickingu u Zagrebu. Premda sam znala da neću moći vidjeti aktualnu predstavu, željela sam se susresti s ljudima koji sudjeluju u projektu i pomoći im u promoviranju projekta.

Broj 7

Zašto je izvođenje drame »Sedam« bitno za Hrvatsku?

– Važno je da ova dokudrama bude prikazana u svakoj zemlji, zato jer posvuda, uključujući i moju zemlju, moramo raditi na tome da promijenimo živote žena. Kroz osobne priče žena »Sedam« pokazuje kako zlostavljanje, trafficking, nasilje u obitelji, opsesija i korupcija truju društva. Budući da je Hrvatska upravo u trenutku promjene, to je uzbuđujuć vrijeme za žene i muškarce da krenu naprijed, zajedno s rastom svoje zemlje. Ovo je pravi trenutak da ljudi progovore i pridonose promjenama. »Sedam« bi im trebao pomoći u smislu motivacije i inspiracije u borbi za ženska prava.

Zašto broj 7 u naslovu?

– To je brojka uzeta iz praktičnih razloga. Procijenjeno je da bi 7 monologa, od kojih svaki ima otprilike 15 minuta, trebalo uz pauzu trajati oko dva sata u kazalištu. Medutim, »Sedam« se ne prikazuje samo u kazalištima, nego i u raznim drugim prostorima koji zahtijevaju kraće vrijeme

Bilo bi dobro da smo svi aktivisti kad su u pitanju stvari u koje vjerujemo. Umjetnici u kazalištu, operi, glazbi i vizualnim umjetnostima često su ispred svojeg vremena i mogu biti pioniri u pronalaženju novih puteva u zrcaljenju društvenih problema kao što su predrasude, korupcija i nasilje

me prezentacije. Postoje različite verzije predstave, ovisno o tome radi li se o specijalnom događanju ili konferenciji, predstavljanju na sveučilištima, u gradskim ili komercijalnim teatrima. Objavljena verzija sadrži sve te mogućnosti.

Što kazalište može učiniti protiv nasilja nad ženama diljem svijeta?

– Mislim da je kazalište vrlo učinkovit način da se ukaze na problem opsesije nad ženama posvuda u svijetu. Članica sam odbora Lige profesionalnog kazališta žena i želim vidjeti što više komada koje nali dramaturzi, redatelji i producenti postavljaju. Prema mojim uvidima, dobar postotak drama koje pišu žene govori o temama kao što je nasilje u spavaćoj sobi. Vjerujem da će ove uznemirujuće pojave doživjeti bitne promjene. Svaki put kad se u životu izvede, sa životom publikom, ukazuje na ove probleme, postoji šansa da će barem jedan ili dva gledatelja promijeniti svoj način razmišljanja.

Kakav je vaš stav o aktivizmu u teatru?

– Mislim da je aktivizam važan u svakoj umjetnosti i u svakom aspektu društva. Bilo bi dobro da smo svi aktivisti kad su u pitanju stvari u koje vjerujemo. Umjetnici u kazalištu, operi, glazbi i vizualnim umjetnostima često su ispred svojeg vremena i mogu biti

pioniri u pronalaženju novih puteva u zrcaljenju društvenih problema kao što su predrasude, korupcija i nasilje. Oni se mogu suočiti s društvenim problemima tako da osobno utječu na ljude.

Živo kazalište

Zašto je o problemima u društvu potrebno progovarati s pozornice?

– Kazalište je živo. To nije kao da gledate film ili televizijski program, koji ostavljate iza sebe ili ga gasite. U teatru se odnos uvijek uspostavlja između publike i glumaca, te između gledatelja, dramskog pisca i redatelja. Kazalište se događa u ovom trenutku. Kazalište je živo!

Kad sam sreća Anabella De Leon, ženu koju sam intervjuirala, odmah sam osjetila da je želim staviti na pozornicu. Kad sam shvatila da je ta žena riskirala vlastiti život i život svojega sina i majke, i da mora hodati s nekoliko tjelebraničara, pomislila sam da sam o tome negdje čitala ili vidjela Anabella na filmu – to ne bi bilo isto. Samo živi glumac koji izvodi za živu publiku može »uhvatiti« njenu dinamiku, njenu hrabrost, ljepotu i duh.

Vaša drama »On the Home Front« govori o ratu i rasizmu. Na koji način tretirate ove teme?

– U drami »On the Home Front« radi se o grupi ljudi iz različitih klasa i kultura, čije su jedino zajedničko iskustvo posljedice brutalnog rata. Drama je nastala na temelju tog iskustva predavačice na programu »Veterans Outreach« na Brooklyn Collegeu. Uzela sam kao primjer Vijetnamski rat, čiji vojnici, kao danas oni koji se vraćaju iz Iraka i Afganistana, nikad nisu došli kući. Vijetnamski rat bio je posljednji rat u kojemu su vojnici bili novačeni – velik postotak njih bili su siromašni crnci i bijelci, dok su oni koji su išli na fakultete bili oslobodeni.

Radnja komada odvija se na kolektivu, gdje grupa povratnika iz Vijetnama – sve muškarci: Afroamerikanci, Azijci i Latinoamerikanci – ustaju protiv njihove bijele profesorice čiji je suprug poginuo u ratu. Studenti i profesorica nisu traumatizirani samo ratom, nego se u učionici moraju suočiti i s velikim predrasudama: s rasizmom između karipskih crnaca i afroameričkih crnaca, između crnih i bijelih studenata, s muškarcima protiv žena... To je ono što me napuše zanimao kao dramatičarka – kako različiti ljudi nadilaze konflikte u odnosima i približavaju se jedni drugima unatoč razlikama.

Što nam možete reći o mjuziklu »Sweetie«?

– Pišući knjige, stihove i glazbu za »Sweetie«, učinilo mi se da na tome radim cijeli život. Projekt sam počela razvijati kad sam bila gostujuća umjetnica u Tribeca Performing Arts Center u New Yorku. Od tada je održano nekoliko radionica i sad bi, konačno, »Sweetie« trebao biti prikazan u veljači.

Riječ je o dramskom mjuziklu koji govori o ljudima koji nadilaze breme siromaštva i rasizma kako bi postigli svoje snove. U mladenačkoj podjeli je 12 glumaca i 4 glazbenika, a kako se radi o bendu – od glumaca se tražilo da znaju svirati. Radnja je smještena u 1935. godinu, u grad u jugu gdje su klase i rasne netrpeljivosti uobičajene. Priča prati skupinu siročadi, uključujući i Sweetie miješane rase. Ovaj mjuzikl, između ostalog, govori o moći glazbe i kako ona može promijeniti ljudske živote.

Kim CUCULIĆ



Hillary Clinton, Inez McCormack i Meryl Streep



Još se ne zna tko će biti u hrvatskoj izvedbi drame »Sedam« – s jedne od izvedbi