

6 SEPTEMBER - 15 OCTOBER, 2005

## XL L M SLOVENIA

a season of contemporary arts from Slovenia in the UK

[www.uvi.si/xllmslovenia](http://www.uvi.si/xllmslovenia)

'Arguably the most modern and progressive of the former Yugoslav countries' Guardian

The ICA is excited to be part of the UK-wide **XL L M SLOVENIA** season this Autumn, presenting a diverse and challenging selection of some of the most progressive new artists currently emerging from this increasingly championed cultural hot spot. Voted 'Favourite European Country' by the Guardian and Observer Travel Awards 2004, Slovenia this year also celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as host to the longest-running Biennial of Graphic Arts. The ICA season opens with **SLOVENSKA ELECTRONIKA**, a club night featuring some of the key musical players from Ljubljana's music scene. The programme also features three innovative **THEATRE** productions, which include interactive mobile phone technology, edgy electronic music, and a behind-the-scenes look at reality TV; an eclectic showcase of award-winning contemporary **CINEMA**; the first UK exhibition of celebrated net art pioneer **VUK ĆOSIĆ**; and a lecture by internationally renowned intellectual and theorist, **SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK**. All this, plus some quirky Slovene twists in the ICA bar - from an invasion of design classic **REX** chairs, to an online version of the Memory Game - situates Slovenia at the forefront of emerging creativity from New Europe.

### ONLINE ART

#### VUK ĆOSIĆ

6 September - 2 October, 12 - 7.30pm daily

'without Vuk Ćosić we would have less fun on the Net' *artnetweb*

Vuk Ćosić is a trailblazer whose innovative and challenging work online artwork resounds throughout the world of the web. The ICA's Digital Studio hosts the first solo exhibition in the UK of one of net art's pioneers, including a specially-created new piece, commissioned exclusively for this show. A lecturer, author and enthusiast, Ćosić's constantly changing oeuvre shows a mix of philosophical and conceptual web-related issues on one hand and a feel for contemporary urban and underground aesthetics on the other. [www.case-sensitive.si](http://www.case-sensitive.si)

### CLUBNIGHT

**SLOVENSKA ELECTRONIKA: RANDOM LOGIC, DOJAJA, TORUL + more**

22 September, 9pm

Celebrating the launch of XL X M Slovenia, leading names on the Slovenian music circuit gather together and bring the party to London, at this ICA club night. The Slovene club and party scene is one of the most vibrant in Europe: electronic musicians and sound designers **Random Logic** are stars of the ambient techno scene, whose electro-acoustic explorations are on the play-lists of many leading international DJs. They collaborate with artists in a variety of disciplines to generate new sound concepts and compositional techniques. The team won a 2000 Boomerang Award and another from the French national station, Radio France, for best electronic music in 2002. **DJ Dojaja** works with Laibach - probably Slovenia's most notorious musical export - and here showcases his electro-knarz form. **Ironic Tronic's** four turntables result in a hectic scratch fest of hip hop. DJ/producer **Torul's** sets are deep, dark and irresistibly danceable. The scene's visuals are by **Code.Sign** Artworks, designers and concept creators for hosts of electronic music, clubs, live shows and festivals. [www.matrixmusik.com](http://www.matrixmusik.com)

### LECTURE

**SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK on Sexual Harassment**

24 September, 6.45pm

In the last thirty years, the idea of sexual politics has slowly morphed into the politics of sexual harassment. Among feminists, employers and the law, men are singled out as its main perpetrators and women its main victims. In this highly controversial lecture, the Slovenian philosopher, argues that the politics of harassment and sexual harassment are more important than have been hitherto recognised. Hidden within the demand to be free from harassment, he argues, is a politically conservative fear of proximity which we should seek to explode. Slavoj Žižek will conclude by arguing in favour of harassment within the limits of reason. One of the most popular, thought provoking and challenging public intellectuals in the world, Žižek needs little introduction, as a prolific author of books and articles, and professor at the University of Ljubljana.

CINEMA

**SLOVENE FILM SEASON: 22 September - 4 October, various times.**

Slovene films are building a strong reputation at the international film festivals. The season at the ICA presents the best of contemporary releases. All films screened with English subtitles.

**BREAD AND MILK (*Kruh in Mleko*)**

Dir. Jan Cvitkovič, 2001

Winner of the 'Lion of the Future' award for Best First Feature, Venice Film Festival, 2001

*Bread and Milk* reveals complex relationships in a small-town family, between a recovering alcoholic father, mother and their teenaged son. A loving family, yet everything they do sets the odds against them. Set in a socio-realist Slovenian tradition, and inspired by real moment of experience, *Bread and Milk* is a by turns tender and rough, yet emotionally charged film, about people desperately looking for love, living somewhere between heaven and hell.

**SPARE PARTS (*Reservni Deli*)**

Dir. Damjan Kozole, 2003 (There will be a post-screening Q&A with the director on Thursday 22 September)

Set in the world of human trafficking and illegal immigrants, *Spare Parts* stands out with its realistic treatment of this topical issue. The film explores the complex relationship between perpetrators and victims, by focusing on two losers played by Peter Musevski (Ludvik) and Aljoša Kovačič (Rudi). Ludvik is a former speedway champion dying from cancer. Rudi is the novice seeking to take over Ludviks' role. Set in a small industrial town near the southern Slovenian border with Croatia, this is a bleak film, but one which brings to the fore the grim emotional reality of a sordid trade.

**BENEATH HER WINDOW (*Pod njenim oknom*)**

Dir. Metod Pevec, 2003

'Strong performances and attractive photography give the film mainstream values but it remains disarmingly offbeat'. *London Film Festival 2004*

Dusha is a thirty-something dancer about to experience that thirty-something sense of life. Her life revolves around her dominant, toy boy-seeking mother, an absent father and her married lover: and frequent phone calls to her astrologer. As if that wasn't enough to cope with, a stranger brings along the story of two storks, which continues to unsettle her. The film centres around a sensitive and fragile performance by Polona Juh.

**GUARDIANS OF THE FRONTIER (*Varuh meje*)**

Dir. Maja Weiss, 2002

A voyage of sexual discovery with strong echoes of *Deliverance*. Three students take a canoe journey on the captivating river Kolpa along the border of Slovenia and Croatia. The three women's encounters with villagers and refugees, with crossing borders, interrupt the personal journeys of discovery for each of them. The film, exquisitely filmed by Boris Kastelic, turns to dream sequences as the sexually charged atmosphere delves into layers of ambiguity. A remarkable and refreshingly unusual first feature film by Maja Weiss.

**SWEET DREAMS (*Sladke sanje*)**

Dir. Saša Podgoršek, 2001

Egon is 13, skinny and getting into rock and roll. It is early 1970s Yugoslavia. His grandmother says she communicates with angels; his mother force-feeds him canned meat. Growing up is the toughest battle of all. Hinged around Egon's desire for a record player, nostalgia and warmth permeate this delightful, realist, coming-of-age story, which remains optimistic despite the impact of wider social circumstances. A lovingly and minutely detailed recreation of a moment of recent history.

**CHEESE AND JAM (*Kajmak in marmelada*)**

Dir. Branko Đurić, 2003

'A lively, cross-cultural film with a taste of bittersweet black chocolate.' *Variety*

Director Đurić is one of the most recognizable faces in the regional cinema. Already known as the lead actor in the Academy Award-winning *No Man's Land*, Đurić makes his directorial debut with *Cheese and Jam*, which explores notions of race, immigration, prosperity and happiness, in contemporary Slovenia: 'I was born in Sarajevo. My mother was a Muslim, my father a Serb. I came to Slovenia as a refugee. My film is a collection of experiences lived by my friends, and of my own (also mixed) marriage. I don't divide people by nationality, but rather (if I really must) as the Beatles and Stones fans, or ultimately as good and bad. It's a film about those who are mixed - my parents, myself, and my children. Although it shows the dark side of life, it is still a love story.'

## THEATRE

### SLOVENE THEATRE SEASON: 26 September - 15 October

#### ...SHE SAID

26 September - 1 October, 8pm

A MiniTheater Ljubljana/Cankarjev Dom/Wax Factory New York co-production

Directed by Ivan Talijančič, the New York-based founder of acclaimed multi-disciplinary theatre group WaxFactory, ...*She Said* is a truly multi-media production, based on *Détruire... dit-elle (Destroy, She Said)*, by Marguerite Duras. Focussing on the concept of intervening space, its content and form explore notions of 'in between' - from relationships between the audience and the stage, movement and voice, to video and theatre, electronics and acoustics. Drifting between absolute artistic freedom and mind-numbing terror, in the amnesiac void between reality and imagination, the narrative follows a writer who eventually succumbs to the will of her creation. As fiction becomes stronger than reality, she yields her personal authority to that of the characters she has brought into being.

Combining a modern architectural structure, integrated lighting units (which innovatively create the perfect illusion of the set 'floating' in the air), industrially designed costumes, mercurial surround-sound environments (by Random Logic, key players on Slovenia's music scene) and live video projections, which turn the stage set into a vast projection surface, this is a highly contemporary production, in which an elusive world unfolds in front of the audience. Beneath the electronic hum and the restless pixels lies the pain of lost time and unfulfilled desire. ...*She Said* premiered in February 2005 at Cankarjev Dom in Slovenia, and will appear in the renowned ACT FRENCH festival in New York this November, following its ICA run.

[www.mini-teater.si](http://www.mini-teater.si) / [www.waxfactory.org](http://www.waxfactory.org)

#### MISS MOBILE

6 - 8 October, 8pm

A Maska production

"Call friends, lovers, parents, brothers, sisters, ex-lovers, and ask them to stay on line..." *Emil Hrvatin*

Bring your mobile phone to the theatre. Usually asked to make sure it's switched off, this unusual request is from Emil Hrvatin, for his utterly interactive, internationally acclaimed one-person (and 8 mobile phones), performance of *Miss Mobile*.

A cross between a talk show, quiz, multimedia art and visual installation, this is a reflection on public and private relations, which engages the artist and the audience and those outside the auditorium. How do you cross the border between private and public spheres? When does manipulation take over from conversation? Asking probing and pertinent, personal and political questions to audience members and those on the other end of the line, *Miss Mobile* is a truly innovative and imaginative performance, which questions contemporary constructions of media reality.

Maska Publications has recently published a collection of theoretical texts by Emil Hrvatin called *Memory, Privacy, Spectatorship*. Studying sociology and theatre directing at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and performance theory at the University of Antwerp, Belgium, Hrvatin's cross-disciplined work as performance artist, theorist and critic regularly explores notions of public and private space and the modern media.

[www.maska.si/eng/siVizualna](http://www.maska.si/eng/siVizualna)

#### THE CORRIDOR

10 - 15 October, 8pm

A DRAMA/National Theatre of Slovenia production

Winner of the Grum Award for Play of the Year, Slovenia

Time to go behind the scenes of reality television. Leading Slovenian playwright Matjaž Zupančič's *The Corridor* depicts the back room antics of a 'Big Brother'-style show. 'The Corridor' is the only space unseen and unheard by viewers, where seven competitors vent their true feelings, and struggle with the pressures brought on by the incessant exposure of the camera. The ratings-obsessed producer, Max, adds to the stress levels. Writer and director Zupančič packs fluent dialogue, a witty story and unexpected changes into this incisive world of modern-day gladiators. In a situation of extreme exposure and aspiration for success, the competitors become more and more dehumanised, yet gradually realise that they are merely victims of the TV show's skilful manipulation. This production offers a sharp insight into the bizarre, perverse experience of reality TV, a space of collective voyeurism and naïve expectation.

Cont./

A prolific director and writer, Matjaž Zupančič is three-times winner of the Grum Award for Play of the Year in Slovenia (since 1998), won the Slovene Writers' Association Award (1993) for his collection of plays, *The Exorcists*, and his novel *The Shadows in the Eye* was nominated for the Kresnik Award (best Slovene novel) in 2000. Zupančič is Professor of Theatre Directing at the Academy for Theatre, Radio, Film and Television in Ljubljana. He regularly directs for the National Theatre of Slovenia, most recently David Mamet's *Oleanna* and *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, Brecht's *The Threepenny Opera*, and another of his own plays, *Vladimir*.

A reading of *The Corridor* also takes place on Wed 12 October, at the Soho Theatre. This is one of three readings, in English, directed by Edinburgh Fringe winner Sladjana Vujovic, of plays that have either won or been nominated for Best Play of the Year Award, Slovenia. More info at: [www.sohotheatre.com](http://www.sohotheatre.com)

## OTHER EVENTS

### MEMORYPLAY

**22 September - 15 October**

Do you remember playing Concentration? Testing your memory by matching pairs of cards? Frustrating or a breeze? Martin Bricelj has updated the simple game and brought it into the games age. No longer based on playing cards Bricelj uses designs highlighting the best of Slovene graphic design and an inter-active installation. Enjoy the surroundings of the ICA bar and play this simple yet addictive game. Get your practice in before by playing online at [www.memoryplay.com](http://www.memoryplay.com).

### REX CHAIRS

**22 September - 15 October**

The ICA's bar is transformed with an icon of Slovene furniture design. Niko Kralj designed the Rex Chair over 50 years ago and it has remained a best selling product ever since. It deservedly features in the collections of 20<sup>th</sup> century furniture. Kralj's design ethos was to make good design accessible in price to those who otherwise would not be able to afford it. Sounds familiar enough today but a radical theory in the early 1950s. The wooden folding chair is now in production by the Impakta in Slovenia with an updated range.

#### Further Information:

ICA, The Mall, London SW1

Tickets & Information: 020 7930 3647 / [www.ica.org.uk](http://www.ica.org.uk) / [www.uvi.si/xllmslovenia](http://www.uvi.si/xllmslovenia)

Nearest tubes: Piccadilly / Charing Cross

#### Ticket prices:

##### Vuk Ćosić exhibition

Mon-Fri £1.50, £1.00 Concs, Free with ICA membership; Sat & Sun £2.50, £1.50 Concs, Free with ICA membership

##### Slovenska Elektronika clubnight

£5, £4 Concs, £3 ICA members

##### Slavoj Žižek Lecture

£8, £7 Concs, £6 ICA members

##### Cinema screenings

£6.50, £5.50 Concs, £4.50 ICA members (no Concs at weekends)

Before 5pm, Mon - Fri: £5.50, £4.50 Concs, £3.50 ICA members

##### Theatre performances

*She Said* - £8, £7 Concs, £6 ICA members

*Miss Mobile* - £8, £7 Concs, £6 ICA members

*The Corridor* - £8, £7 Concs, £6 ICA members

##### Bar events

Mon-Fri £1.50, £1.00 Concs, Free with ICA membership; Sat & Sun £2.50, £1.50 Concs, Free with ICA membership

For further information on XL L M Slovenia events across the country (non-ICA events), please contact Steve Green: [sgreenslo@hotmail.com](mailto:sgreenslo@hotmail.com) / 07795 017 543

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