

The Festival TransAmériques presents a Canadian exclusive engagement

## Kings of War

**William Shakespeare + Ivo van Hove**

Toneelgroep Amsterdam

Eight years after the sensational *Roman Tragedies*, Ivo van Hove returns to FTA with his incredible theatrical machine to present another Shakespearian trilogy. The Belgian master injects fury and flash into Henry V, Henry VI and Richard III, three sovereigns caught in the turmoil of power, part of the same dynasty as the current sovereign Queen Elizabeth II, our official head of state. An impressive event presented during the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of Festival TransAmériques that will take place from May 23 to June 7, 2018.

Three eras, three reigns. The transformation of Henry V, the bigotry of Henry VI, the thirst for power of Richard III. A gripping saga set against a backdrop of war, Shakespeare's history plays are admirably condensed and focused on the fundamental question of how to govern. Ensnared in a war room, the monarchs engage in intrigue and backroom dealings, subterfuge and assassinations, until their downfall. Performed on a vast labyrinthine stage where video screens broadcast live war footage, these classics are more than ever strongly rooted in our times. Thrilling theatre presented by fourteen dazzling actors and five musicians playing live. Truly great art.



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May 24 to 27

Théâtre  
Denise-Pelletier

4 h 30 with  
intermission

In Dutch with  
English and  
French surtitles

### Ivo van Hove / Toneelgroep Amsterdam

As the head of Toneelgroep Amsterdam since 2001, the Belgian director Ivo van Hove has enjoyed a spectacular career. With complex stagings imbued with piercing clarity, choices of works that reflect our current world order and his brilliant way of breathing new life into the classics, he has won over audiences in both Europe and America. He turns upside down our perceptions of writers as diverse as Duras, Schiller and Chekhov, and is very much at ease in blending together cinema and theatre. His innovative theatrical vision is rich in symbolism, with a strong predilection for Shakespeare (*Macbeth*, *Richard II*, *Hamlet*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Othello*, *Coriolanus*, *Julius Caesar*, *Anthony and Cleopatra*).

Ivo van Hove opened the 2016 Avignon Festival with a phenomenal stage presentation, his ruthless vision of Visconti's 1969 film *The Damned*, performed by the Comédie Française. He also shows up where least expected, namely the opera: *Lulu* by Alban Berg and Wagner's four-opera Ring cycle. His recent presentation of Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge* marked his extraordinary Broadway debut, and was rewarded with two Tony Awards in 2016. He works closely with the New York Theatre Workshop, where he has directed nine plays over the past sixteen years. Reworking classics of both theatre and cinema, he has made theatrical adaptations of films by Bergman, Cassavetes, Pasolini and Antonioni. He also directed the stage musical of *Lazarus*, one of David Bowie's last works.

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**Théâtre Denise-Pelletier**  
4353, Sainte-Catherine East  
Métro Pie-IX

**May 24 + 25 at 7 p.m. + May 26\* + 27 at 2 p.m.**

\* Meet the artists after the performance

**Special offer**  
**2 tickets for \$149\***

\*Promotion available until December 31, 2017

Limited quantities

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514 844 3822 / 1 866 984 3822  
fta.ca

**PRESS QUOTES**

“The first great theatrical work of the Trump era.”

Rebecca Mead, *The New Yorker*, 2016-11-11

“*Kings of War* takes the home-viewing pleasures associated with serial television portraits of cutthroat schemers, like those in *House of Cards* and *The Sopranos*, and magnifies them to the proportions of grand opera.”

Ben Brantley, *New York Times*, 2016-11-04

“A wonderful study of the modern ruling class”

Susannah Clapp, *The Guardian*, 2016-05-01

« Un condensé explosif de Shakespeare, interprété par des acteurs magnifiques de tenue et de rigueur. »

Didier Méreuze, *La Croix*, 2016-01-28

« Bijou d’intelligence dramaturgique et scénique. [...] Du haut (de gamme), du beau, du fabuleusement costaud. »

Jean-Pierre Thibaudat, *Médiapart*, 2016-01-26

« Les grands rois de Shakespeare en une fulgurante ellipse. [...] Tout est frappant, puissant, âpre, millimétré. [...] On pense autant à la fureur de l’histoire qu’aux troubles du présent. »

Philippe Chevilley, *Les Échos*, 2016-01-26

“This marathon production is both mordant and mesmeric.”

Paul Taylor, *The Independent*, 2016-04-25

“This is Shakespeare for the 21<sup>st</sup> century (...) It’s realised with ingenuity, intelligence and verve: a hurtling history play for today.”

Sam Marlowe, *The Times*, 2016-04-25

« Une mise en scène inventive et captivante portée par des comédiens d’exception. Du grand art ! »

Stéphane Capron, *Sceneweb.fr*, 2016-01-25

« Une réflexion vertigineuse sur le pouvoir. [...] Une vraie leçon de politique. »

Fabienne Darge, *Le Monde*, 2016-01-21

**Credits**

Produced by **Toneelgroep Amsterdam**

Written by **William Shakespeare**

Directed by **Ivo van Hove**

Performed by **Hélène Devos + Jip van den Dool + Fred Goessens + Janni Goslinga + Aus Greidanus jr. + Marieke Heebink + Robert de Hoog + Hans Kesting + Ramsey Nasr + Chris Nietvelt + Harm Duco Schut + Bart Slegers + Eelco Smits + Leon Voorberg**

Translated by **Rob Klinkenberg**

Adaptation and Dramaturgy **Peter Van Kraaij**

Adaptation **Bart Van den Eynde**

Set and Lighting Design **Jan Versweyveld**

Composer **Eric Sleichim**

Contraténor **Steve Dugardin**

Musicians **BL!NDMAN [brass] : Konstantin Koev + Charlotte van Passen + Daniel Quiles**

**Cascant + Daniel Ruibal Ortigueira**

Costume Design **An D’Huys**

Video **Tal Yarden**

Co-commissioners **Barbican (London) + Théâtre National de Chaillot (Paris), Wiener Festwochen (Wien)**

Co-produced by **BL!NDMAN (Brussels) + Holland Festival (Amsterdam) + Muziektheater Transparant (Antwerp)**

Supported by **Rabobank Amsterdam**

Private producer **Harry and Marijke van den Bergh**

Premiered at Wiener Festwochen, Wien, on June 5, 2015