

FTA Ticket Sales Start For Extraordinary First Show

## ***Catarina and the Beauty of Killing Fascists,* by Portuguese Director Tiago Rodrigues**

*For immediate  
release*

Montreal, November 20, 2023 — From **May 26 to 28, 2024**, the 18th edition of Festival TransAmériques will host the North American premiere of an exceptional show by Portuguese director **Tiago Rodrigues**. After winning over European audiences in 11 countries, the strikingly powerful ***Catarina and the Beauty of Killing Fascists*** will be presented at Place des Arts' Théâtre Jean-Duceppe for three performances only.

In this extraordinary play, Rodrigues, who just pulled off a hugely successful season as the first ever non-French artistic director of Festival d'Avignon, plunges his audiences into an unsettling political fable, with eight superb actors portraying a family that kills fascists as payback for the dictatorship. Each year, a member of the Catarina clan kidnaps a fascist, who is then murdered on the appointed day of the ritual. The youngest member of the family, however, starts to doubt herself just before she carries out this fundamental rite of passage. Is it really necessary to violate the rules of democracy in order to defend it?

Through the power of drama, Rodrigues delivers a remarkable theatrical experience, using the poetry and vigour of language to grapple with searing moral dilemmas. Following his previous visits to Montreal with the unforgettable *By Heart* (presented at FTA 2015) and the sublime two-hander *Antony and Cleopatra* (FTA 2017), Rodrigues returns to the Festival for a third time with this monumental show about the clash of ideologies and worldviews.

**“Rodrigues isn’t a showy director: He is a humanist at heart, preoccupied with empathy and the ways in which today’s world undermines it. (...) Complexity is always the answer in Rodrigues’s work — and it is one of the best ways to the audience’s heart.”**

— Laura Capelle, *The New York Times* (United States), 20-10-2022

**“Brought to life by actors of the highest calibre, the play elicited strong reactions from audiences.”**

— Fabienne Pascaud, *Télérama* (France), 26-10-2022

**“With the hijacking of utopia, what is left for youth except rage and despair? A playwright tackling such questions forces us to face our own doubts, addressing us without avoiding subjects we may find disturbing. Tiago Rodrigues touches us where it hurts—where politicians, for the most part, have given up.”**

— Marie-José Sirach, *L'Humanité* (France), 17-10-2022



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## Tiago Rodrigues (Lisbon + Avignon)

Tiago Rodrigues has been a prolific initiator of major projects since the very start of his career—not just in his home of Portugal but across Europe, where he has pursued numerous collaborations and received many honours and awards. In 2003, he and his partner Magda Bizarro founded the company Mundo Perfeito, with which he created around 30 shows. These have been performed in over 20 countries, including two appearances in Montreal at the invitation of Festival TransAmériques. After his tenure as artistic director of the Teatro Nacional D. Maria II in Lisbon from 2015 to 2021, Rodrigues took over the reins of the Festival d'Avignon in September 2022, becoming the first foreign artist to helm the prestigious French institution.

A charismatic actor, director, scriptwriter, instructor, and—perhaps first and foremost—author, Rodrigues has an open, contemporary view of writing, which involves shaping the work in collaboration with the performers and leads him to revisit classics, adapt novels, delve into myths, and mix fiction with reality. At the heart of Rodrigues's approach is a vision of theatre as a gathering of people. With each work, he aims to rediscover what is truly vital in a particular story and its staging, producing shows stripped of artifice that use the poetry of the world as their raw material.



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### Catarina and the Beauty of Killing Fascists

May 26 to 28, 2024 at 19 p.m.

Place des Arts - Théâtre Jean-Duceppe

Length: 2 h 30

In Portuguese with English and French surtitles

Presented by **La Presse** in association with **Place des Arts**

**Tickets on sale now**

**Special offer: Two tickets for \$120**

Promotion available for a limited number of tickets only.

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