



# THEATER DER KLÄNGE **THE SILVER PRINCE**

When history is told through nine pairs of eyes

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9 Perspectives on Walter Gropius and the Bauhaus  
A theater project by THEATER DER KLÄNGE



## THE PROJECT

Walter Gropius – visionary or opportunist? Artist or manager? Hero or tragic figure? The Silver Prince (Der Silberprinz) shows the Bauhaus founder through the eyes of his contemporaries and paints a multi-layered portrait of the legendary institution in the Weimar Republic.

Nine years of Bauhaus under Gropius' leadership are recounted not chronologically, but in a mosaic-like 30 dense scenes. Opponents, loyal colleagues, wives, politicians and successors have their say: Max Thedy, Hans Groß, Johannes Itten, Alma Mahler, Ise Gropius, Oskar Schlemmer, László Moholy-Nagy, Fritz Hesse and Hannes Meyer – each with their own view of the "Silver Prince".

The play is based on intensive research in the archives of Berlin, Weimar and Dessau. Minutes from the Council meetings, speeches and biographical documents have been used to create an epic dialogue theatre piece that celebrates less the portrait of a visionary and controversial institution.



## WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT IT

### **Multi-perspective storytelling**

Two actresses and four actors embody main and supporting roles in rapid succession. The video scenography structures the mosaic with logo information, typographic animations and specially produced film sequences.

### **Historical authenticity**

Author and director J.U. Lensing conducted intensive research in the Bauhaus Archive in Berlin and the libraries of the University of Weimar and the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation. The result: a historically accurate yet surprisingly contemporary theatre experience.

### **Diversity of content**

Social and artistic vision, political struggle, intrigue, love, passion and burnout – all these themes are present in the reflections on Walter Gropius and bring the "wild" 1920s to life.



## ARTISTIC TEAM & CAST

**Director & screenplay:** J.U. Lensing

**Video scenography:** Projections created especially for the play

**Ensemble:** 6 performers, 1 lighting and video technician, 1 director + music recordings

Duration: 120 minutes plus pause



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The nine years of the Bauhaus under Walter Gropius (1919–1928) were marked by artistic visions and political struggles. Founded in Weimar, moved to Dessau, always controversial – the Bauhaus became a symbol of modernism. Gropius navigated between artistic aspirations and political realities, between avant-garde dreams and economic constraints.



## WHY THE SILVER PRINCE?

This production offers a compact lesson on the Bauhaus movement that goes far beyond the myths of art and architecture. The multi-perspective narrative brings history to life and shows how contemporary the conflicts in the 1920s are: visions versus reality, art versus politics, the individual versus the institution.

For event organizers, "The Silver Prince" (Der Silberprinz) is a safe choice for the Bauhaus anniversary and beyond – a sophisticated theatre experience that combines historical education with gripping entertainment.



## PRESS REVIEWS

*"Director Lensing has created a historical-based work from the Master Council meetings transcripts, speeches and general biographical notes, that not only challenges the audience but provides them with an unforgettable insight into the life of this very special person, Walter Gropius. In nine perspectives and 30 scenes, six actors in countless roles paint a portrait of a rare intensity."*

**O-Ton Kulturmagazin**

*"Even in wordless dialogues – such as the encounters between Gropius and his wives – the actors manage to create tension between the characters. It is hard to imagine that there are only six actors bringing the ten main roles and numerous supporting roles to life."*

**Rheinische Post**

## THE NINE PERSPECTIVES

**Max Thedy** – The conservative opponent Hans Groß – The pragmatic politician

**Johannes Itten** – The spiritual master

**Alma Mahler** – The Passionate Wife

**Ise Gropius** – The loyal partner

**Oskar Schlemmer** – The artistic companion

**László Moholy-Nagy** – The Modern Visionary

**Fritz Hesse** – The Dessau patron

**Hannes Meyer** – The critical successor



## GUEST PERFORMANCE FORMATS

**Full version:** 2.5 hours including intermission – the complete Bauhaus saga

**Focus version:** Selected perspectives available for shorter formats

**With supporting programme:** introductions to Bauhaus history, post-performance discussions with historical context

## TECHNISCHE ANFORDERUNGEN

**Bühne:** Mind. 8m x 5m, schwarz ausgehangen

**Licht:** 8 PCs, 2 Zoom-Profiler, 2 PARs, 1 Verfolger

**Ton:** CD-Player oder Laptop-Audiozuspieler Stereo

**Video:** Hängemöglichkeit für Beamer in der Bühnendecke

**Aufbau:** 6 Stunden | Abbau: 3 Stunden



## **Contact**

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