

**Théâtre National de Strasbourg and the TJP - Centre Dramatique National de Strasbourg Grand-Est present *Assange Odysseia* created by Sahra Datoussaid and Sarah Siré on 24 January 2023 at the TNS in Strasbourg, France.**

*Assange Odysseia* is a theatrical and people's forum around the figure of Julian Assange which will take place on 24 January 2023 at the Théâtre National de Strasbourg. Inspired by the narrative form of Homer's *Odyssey*, ***Assange Odysseia* tells the story of Julian Assange and WikiLeaks and, with the help of witnesses, experts as well as political and cultural figures, sheds light on facts and events that are little known by the general public.** To ask «Who is Julian Assange?» is to ask «What is he the name of?» This theatrical forum is part academic conference, part performance art.

Julian Assange, editor of the Wikileaks platform, is in arbitrary detention according to international bodies such as the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and Amnesty International. He is currently being held in London's high-security Belmarsh prison and could be extradited to the US at any time.

Echoing the urgency of his situation, *Assange Odysseia* wishes to share the narrative that is forming around the new Prometheus - Wikileaks, publisher Julian Assange and whistleblowers. This theatrical forum reconstructs the journey of the last twelve years: from the journalistic and political project of Wikileaks with *Collateral Murder*, to the political and judicial persecution of Julian Assange, via the denunciation of the psychological torture of Assange by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Nils Melzer, to the observation of a malaise at the heart of the democratic system.

This project is led by two Brussels artists: **Sahra Datoussaid**, actress and **Sarah Siré**, playwright. Following their research on Anna Politkovskaya, based on Stefano Massini's play *Femme non rééducable* and Nikolai Gogol's *Revizor*, the two project leaders made the connection with the political and judicial situation of Julian Assange. They then realised the urgency of his current situation and the need to fight against his oblivion.

*Assange Odysseia* tells the story of the links between transparency, human rights violations and freedom of knowledge. **Stanislas Nordey, director of the TNS and Renaud Herbin, director of the TJP, Centre Dramatique National de Strasbourg Grand-Est, decided to include this this theatrical forum in their program, at the crossroads of documentary theatre and a public debate.**

To make this Theatre forum possible, they have surrounded themselves with witnesses and experts in Julian's story, in order to get as close as possible to the facts, and to construct the narrative from their point of view: **Stella Morris-Assange**, lawyer and wife of Julian Assange, **Françoise Tulkens**, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights from 1998 to 2012, **Rafael Correa**, former President of Ecuador, who granted Assange political asylum in 2012, **Geoffroy de Lagasnerie**, philosopher and sociologist, **Stefania Maurizi**, investigative journalist, **Jennifer Robinson**, Julian Assange's lawyer, **Nancy Hollander**, American criminal lawyer who has defended **Chelsea Manning** and Guantanamo detainees, and **Mohamedou Ould Slahi**, author of the *Guantanamo Diaries*, as well as other journalists, jurists and legal experts and philosophers...

**The list of political, legal, media and cultural guests is being compiled right now to offer *Assange Odysseia*'s audience a panel of sensitive speakers from all political backgrounds and different points of view.**

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