

Press release November 2017

It's 2.5 minutes to midnight. The Doomsday Clock is counting down.

WHAT IF WOMEN RULED THE WORLD?

Arriving at a moment of unprecedented worldwide flux, internationally acclaimed artist, Yael Bartana brings some of the world's best strategic minds together to help avert impending disaster – in European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017. Experience a stunning line up of female experts like Birgitta Jónsdóttir (the co-founder of the Icelandic Pirate Party), Anat Saragusti (peace activist), Anja Dalgaard-Nielsen (Director of the Institute for Strategy at the Royal Danish Defence College) and many more.

Bartana uses a fictional scenario to examine real life issues. Each night, from November 23 -25 at Aarhus Theatre, she brings together actors with a group of international women in Dr. Strangelove's war room: Defence advisers, soldiers, peace activists, humanitarians, politicians and leading thinkers. Together they will spend the evening responding to the global emergency, and stop the Doomsday Clock from reaching midnight.

"WHAT IF WOMEN RULED THE WORLD will look at how a female-dominated society would tackle world problems, such as climate change, military escalation and mass migration. With this work, we again uses art and culture to rethink the challenges of today and tomorrow." Says Rebecca Matthews, Chief Executive Officer of European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017. (NOT confirmed yet!)

Join us in the war room

'This engrossing information experience becomes electric with thought. Topical, urgent and essential in these days of wild political cataclysms. Bringing together some of the best minds in their field, this gathering of expert women dares to explore the ramifications of decisions taken by men and bring issues and proposals into sharp focus for a real world in which women are frequently at the front line and the targets of terror, abuse, mind control and ideology. Yael Bartana brings her unique interest in phantasmic histories into play in this extraordinary new work that blends and bends art and real life in the re-invented, inverted space of Dr Strangelove's post nuclear tomb. Juliana Engberg, Programme Director European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017

'Yael Bartana is an artist whose work sits at the vital edge of politics and the imagination. Her capacity to lift us out of our daily lives, while landing us firmly in the big questions of our time, has resonated throughout her work. In What if Women... she achieves one of the most essential feats for an artist today – she helps us rethink the future. MIF is delighted to have collaborated with European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017 on this resonant work.' John McGrath, Artistic Director and CEO of Manchester International Festival.

Read more at whatifwomenruledtheworld.org and aarhus2017.dk/eng

Commissioned and produced by Manchester International Festival, European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017 and Volksbühne Berlin.

Photo: Birgit Kaufuss

The stunning lineup of experts and actors:

- ANAT SARAGUSTI (CHAIR)
- ALIX WILTON REGAN (ACTOR)
- ANJA DALGAARD-NIELSEN
- ANJA VAN DER HULST
- BANA GORA
- BEYZA UNAL

- BIRGITTA JÓNSDÓTTIR
- CAMILLA TENNA NØRUP SØRENSEN
- CARINA ANN MEYN
- JELIA SANE
- JO MARTIN (ACTOR)
- KARIN VON HIPPEL
- LEYLA HUSSEIN
- LONE TRÆHOLT
- NOURA ALBITAR
- OLA SALEH
- OLWEN FOUÉRE (ACTOR)
- OR (ORI) RABINOWITZ
- SAMIRA SARAYA (ACTOR)
- SEIDA SARIC
- TARJA KRONBERG