

Press release

September 2017

## **Maria Hassabi: Live installation in iconic city hall**

From 25 - 30 September a special commission for Aarhus 2017 will occupy time and space in the iconic Aarhus City Hall designed by renowned architect, Arne Jacobsen.

Internationally acclaimed artist Maria Hassabi presents *STAGING* (2017) – *undressed*, at Aarhus' iconic city hall, along with 6 dancers. The work, an accumulation of bodies, colors, and a sound score by composer Marina Rosenfeld, features performers moving at a measured pace, executing choreography that loops in relation to space and procedural logic, creating a recurrent form that endlessly stages and re-stages itself.

*-Maria Hassabi's works address the separation between the spectacular and the everyday, between subject and object, between performer and audience. Her extended-length choreographies often require dancers to move slowly, sustain positions, and hold poses while performing in a variety of contexts. Hassabi will extend and explore her themes of slowness, stillness and sustained movement, says Juliana Engberg, Programme director of Aarhus 2017.*

Maria Hassabi's performances and installations have been presented internationally in theaters, museums, galleries, and public spaces, including: documenta14, Kassel (2017); Stegi OCC, Athens (2017); Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2017); Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels (2017, 2014); Museum of Modern Art, New York (2016); The Kitchen, New York (2016, 2013, 2011, 2006); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2015); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2015); ArtSonje, Seoul (2015); Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (2014); steirischer herbst, Graz (2014); The 55th Venice Biennale, Venice (2013); Performa, New York (2013, 2009); Centre d'Art Contemporain Geneva, Switzerland (2012); Performance Space 122, New York (2009, 2007); amongst others. Hassabi's received a 2016 New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award for Outstanding Production for her work *PLASTIC*; the 2015 Herb Alpert Award; the 2012 President's Award for Performing Arts from Lower Manhattan Cultural Council; a 2011 Guggenheim Fellowship; and a 2009 Grants to Artists Award from Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

*STAGING* (2017) – *undressed* is an Aarhus 2017 Commission and Part of Coast to Coast, supported by The Obel Family Foundation, Kvadrat and 15 Juni Foundation.

Photo: File name: 4\_ MariaHassabi \_ STAGING 2017 \_ pc Thomas Poravas

Maria Hassabi: *STAGING*: quartet (2017)

Installation view at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. February 8-19, 2017. Performers: Hristoula Harakas, Oisín Monaghan. Courtesy the artist; Koenig & Clinton, New York; The Breeder, Athens. Photo: Thomas Poravas.

Photo: file name: 9\_ MariaHassabi \_ STAGING 2017 \_ photo Thomas Poravas

Maria Hassabi: *STAGING*: quartet (2017)

Installation view at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. February 8-19, 2017. Performer: Jessie Gold. Courtesy the artist; Koenig & Clinton, New York; The Breeder, Athens. Photo: Thomas Poravas.

*Further information: Peter Vestergaard, European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017, tel +45 2013 1090*

Performers: Jessie Gold, Hristoula Harakas, Maria Hassabi, Mickey Mahar, Paige Martin, Oisín Monaghan and Nancy Stamatopoulou.

Outfits: Victoria Bartlett

Composer: Marina Rosenfeld



Sound Design: Stavros Gasparatos  
Management: Alexandra Rosenberg  
Production Assistant: Kate Scherer

*STAGING* (2017) is a co-commission of Aarhus 2017 (Denmark); documenta 14 (Kassel, Germany); Evergreen/Don River Valley Park (Toronto, Canada); the Keir Foundation, with support from Dancehouse Melbourne (Australia); and the Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN) with support provided by the William and Nadine McGuire Commissioning Fund, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. *STAGING* was developed in part during a residency at Baryshnikov Arts Center (New York, NY).

*STAGING* is the second part of a diptych, along with *STAGED?* (2016), a work made for theater spaces.