



Following his acclaimed production of *La Clémence de Titus*, Swiss stage director Milo Rau is set to captivate audiences once again at the Grand Théâtre with the compelling world premiere of *Justice* by composer Hèctor Parra. Leading the musical direction is Titus Engel, who already showcased his brilliance conducting *Einstein on the Beach* in Geneva in 2019

Having successfully staged *Clémence de Titus* at the De Vlaamse Opera, a performance GTG streamed during the pandemic, Milo Rau now unveils *Justice*, his second foray into opera, eagerly anticipated at the Grand Théâtre. Rooted in socio-historical and documentary investigations, Rau's narrative takes us to the Democratic Republic of Congo, revisiting territory he explored in 2015 with *Tribunal au Congo*. This ambitious political theatre project delves into a real news story involving a Swiss multinational. The year is 2019. A tanker truck carrying acid collides with a bus on a road in Kolwezi resulting in over twenty deaths.

A choral and elegiac composition, featuring a libretto by Congolese writer Fiston Mwanza Mujila, *Justice* brings together Milo Rau and Spanish composer Hèctor Parra, recognised for his operatic adaptation of Jonathan Littell's novel *Les Bienveillantes* premiered in Antwerp in 2019. The duo explores the interests of all sides in a developing country where myths, legends intertwine with collective and individual destinies. To authentically capture the essence of this production, Milo Rau, Hèctor Parra and their teams ventured to the village Kolwezi in the DRC, last November.

Leading specialist in contemporary music Titus Engel from Zurich, and the new musical director of the Basel Sinfonietta, will conduct the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. The ensemble will be enriched by musicians steeped in Congolese tradition, including jazz musician Kojack, infusing the score with vibrant Congolese accents.

The cast of soloists, hand-picked for this production, includes American tenor Peter Tantsits, who previously sang the role of Max Aue in Hèctor Parra's *Les Bienveillantes*, the legendary Willard White, young Congolese countertenor Serge Kakudji, a native of Kolwezi, French soprano Axelle Fanyo, and mezzo-soprano Katarina Bradić, a distinguished performer of contemporary operatic repertoire.

This joint commission and production is scheduled to grace the stage at the new *Tangente* Festival in Sankt Pölten, Austria, in April 2024.

Premiere: 22 January 2024 – 8PM

26 January 2024 — 8PM

24 January 2024 — 7PM

28 January 2024 — 3PM

Please submit your requests for interviews and performance attendance to:

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