

ROARING

by Dekker / Middleton / Bieri

Berlin-Premiere / Guest Performance Schlachthaus Theater Bern

OCT 12* / 13 / 14, 2023 → 8 PM

German with English Surtitles

*** Audience Discussion**

"I am more than all that! / There is no either or / There is only and / And and." So says Mary Frith, a character unlike any other in European theater: born in 1584, queer, trans*, nonbinary, and a star on show stages as well as London's demimonde. Convicted of cross-dressing and gross immorality, remembered as a person who lived freely.

In 1610 Thomas Dekker and Thomas Middleton created a dramatic monument to Mary Frith. In Martin Bieri's first translation into German, the historical play "Roaring Girl" becomes "Roaring", a many-voiced monologue about gender, identity, desire and resistance, which the main character, 400 years after the wild and glamorous first appearance, furiously reappropriates.

The lewd story about anti-hero Mary Frith raises topical questions about the relationship between the sexes, about love and economics, about language as poison. What at first glance looks like a comedy of errors leads deep into a dark room of subliminal lust. The comedy is bitter. People are missing something, they cannot satisfy their desire. They consume bodies like commodities, of which there is always more to buy.

In Mary Frith, historical and fictional persona overlap to create a phantasm of admiration, fear, and desire. Unlike the original, which has over 30 roles, the edited translation is a solo. All roles are played by Jules* Elting. The text about Moll Cutpurse has become one in which Mary Frith takes the floor: "Roaring," a play about theater, about social performance and self-expression, is a discovery.

Content note: Explicitly trans-hostile remarks occur in the piece

Concept Martin Bieri **Acting** Jules* Elting **Director** Antje Schupp **Costume Design** Valerie Reding **Stage Design** Christoph Rufer **Music** Christine Hasler **Text** Martin Bieri / Thomas Dekker / Thomas Middleton **Dramaturgy** Martin Bieri
Technical Director/Lighting Valerio Rodelli **Assistant Director** Teo Petruzzi **Public Relations** Samara Leite **Visuals** Lukas Beyeler / Patrick Mettraux / Valerie Reding **Text Excerpt** Althea: „It is not about pronouns“ **Production Manager** Ramun Bernetta **Translation Surtitles** Anna Galt **Performance Rights** rua. Kooperative für Text und Regie **Co-production** Schlachthaus Theater Bern **Partners** ROXY Birsfelden / Theater Winkelwiese Zürich **Support** Kultur Stadt Bern / Swisslos – Kultur Kanton Bern / Pro Helvetia – Schweizer Kulturstiftung / Ernst Göhner Stiftung / Stanley Thomas Johnson Stiftung / Bürgergemeinde Bern / Migros-Kulturprozent