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**THEATER DER ÜBERFORDERUNG**  
**DIRECTED BY BARBARA WEBER**  
**FEBRUARY 21 – MAY 17, 2015**  
**PRESS INFORMATION: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 10 AM**

According to plans, Zurich theatre director Barbara Weber will open her four-theme theatrical venue "Theater der Überforderung" at Kunsthalle Zurich on April 14, 2015. This will-o'-the-wisp project shows an interest in the work of the Japanese dramatist, poet, photographer and filmmaker Shuji Terayama (1935 – 1983).

Like others in the seventies of last century, Terayama chose paths outside established ideas and demanded that life, art and the theater be thought of as a unity. For example, he claimed that it was possible to learn more from boxing and horse-racing than in school and study, and he underlined this with such films as *Throw Away Your Books, Run into the Streets!* (書を捨てよ、町へ出よう). In 1967 Terayama founded the Tenjo Sajiki (天井棧敷) theatre troupe, with whom he outspokenly took up such controversial themes as incest and polysexuality.

Going beyond the failure of the social aspirations of the 1968 revolts, Terayama insisted on cross-border critical action. While doing so, he was nonetheless notable for an undogmatic attitude. In his stories, like feverish dreams, he mixed fact and fantasies. In this way he made space for internal conflicts no less than apparently insurmountable oppositions, through collage, coloration and citation, without dissolving them or rendering them harmless. To demonstrate the inconstancy and self-will of people in their interactions, neither his (amateur) ensemble nor he avoided kitsch, camp and porno. In the serial breach of norms and conventions a brilliant body of work was made, reflecting the times and society as if in a broken mirror – sometimes surreally, sometimes unemotionally, sometimes passionately or with laughter.

Terayama's work is scarcely known in Europe. As a first step, we are introducing it through a film and some texts. And yet we wondered what might be done with it today: can it be taken as a kind of guide? Under the direction of Barbara Weber we decided to make theatre out of this questioning uncertainty, our discussions and contradictions. It will begin at the latest on April 14 and go on until May 17, 2015. There will be rehearsals every day, always in public and during the opening hours from 11 am to 6 pm. Discussions, talks and performances will be announced on our website. Premieres take place at 5.30 pm on Friday April 24, Thursday April 30, Friday May 8 as well as on Wednesday May 13. The theater, the exhibition, the costumes, the stage set and the bar might exchange roles. Or actors make fun of artists. Or artists turn into actors – always with an uncertain outcome. In the time and place we shall see how things come together from moment to moment – or not. With the participation of Carl Hegemann, Matthew Lutz-Kinoy, Lily Koper, Tobias Madison, Madlaina Peer, Gabrielle Schaad, Elia Schwaller, Thomas Strässle and others.

**Press information: Friday, February 20, 10 am**

We are happy to provide additional information and digital visual material:  
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**Theory & Programs:**

**Guided Tours**

Wednesdays, 12.30 - 1.30 pm, with Daniel Baumann (Director Kunsthalle Zürich): February 25 / April 15

Thursdays, 6 - 7 pm, with Arthur Fink (Curator and Art Historian): March 12 / April 20

Sundays, 2 - 3 pm, with Yannic Joray (Artist and Curator): March 22 / May 17

**Book TV**

Books presentation and public TV-recording (English), a project by Géraldine Beck

#04 Vincent de Roquin: *Illisibilismes – Observations on Esoteric Christianity, Hair Metal and War Propaganda*

#05 Luca Beeler: *Children's Books*

Friday, April 10 2015, 5 - 6 pm

Book TV is a web project recorded in public, which aims to present selected printed matter. This first event at Kunsthalle Zürich introduces episodes #04 and #05. Vincent de Roquin is an artist based in Geneva and will speak about the migration of selected ideas and symbols, connecting Christian hermeticism, underground music and war propaganda iconography. After a short break Zurich based art historian and curator Luca Beeler will look at artist publications catered to future generations - such as the ones by El Lissitzky, Andy Warhol, John Armleder, and Tana Hoban, among others.

**Opening Hours**

Tue/Wed/Fri 11 am - 6 pm, Thur 11 am - 8 pm, Sat/Sun 10 am - 5 pm, Mo closed

Holidays April 3, April 5, May 5 & 14, 10 am - 5 pm

Please consult the up-to-date information on our website: [www.kunsthallezurich.ch](http://www.kunsthallezurich.ch)

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