

**Brand-new Danish playwriting comes to
Copenhagen from Germany**

VODKA TALKS - When secrets surface from the bottle up



Danish premiere of guest production at **Teatret ved Sorte Hest**. From April 20-22 the international cross-border-festival [MOVE THE NORTH](#) presents the first-time ever English translation of Hamburg-based Danish cult author **Arne Nielsen**'s debut play **VODKA TALKS** – a political and contemporary tragicomedy, directed by Danish theatre veteran **Lars Junggreen**.

Family secrets and politics

The story follows two sisters' conversation as they sort through their late father's estate after his funeral. To their horror and surprise, Papa has left all his money not to them but to the extreme German right-wing political party AFD. The only possession he passes on to his daughters is the family villa, tying them to a past they both desperately try to escape. Digging up the family secrets of their childhood requires a shot of vodka – or two ... as hidden mysteries in the house unfold.

Theatre reflects life

German events made global headlines in December 2022, describing an attempted radical far-right political coup planned to bring down the German government and democracy, traced to headquarters by a German lake. Which is precisely the premise of the play **VODKA TALKS**. The plot tackles the unsettling political waves of extreme right-wing power and change, spreading through Europe in 2022/23. While vodka flows, the sisters spend the night discussing politics, religion and life and find themselves confronted with their own beliefs and the ideals that shape contemporary society as we know it, in the complex European melting pot we all share today.

Danish Writing coming home

Danish playwright and author Arne Nielsen grew up in Denmark. Now based in Hamburg, he has been widely acclaimed for his best-selling prose and poetry in Germany since 2003. His debut play "Die Vodkagespräche" is currently performing in renowned theatre venues in Germany. Copenhagen based theatre brand **HIT INTERNATIONAL THEATRE ARTS** has translated the original script into English. The April performances at **Teatret ved Sorte Hest** will mark the coming home of Arne's work to his home country Denmark.

*"It is an exciting fact that this in Germany widely celebrated Danish-born writer yet has to be discovered in his original home country. We are most delighted to collaborate with **Teatret ved Sorte Hest** to introduce his work to Danish audiences for the first time," says **HIT** brand founder **Jana Pulkrabek**.*

An international collaboration

As a Danish-German co-production the play is uniting artists from Germany and Scandinavia on stage and off with performances in all three countries. As part of the international cross-border-festival **MOVE THE NORTH**, the project follows the mission to develop closer cultural ties between the regions of Hamburg, Copenhagen and Malmö and to culturally connect Scandinavia with continental Europe. Produced by CPH's recently founded new international theatre brand: [HIT INTERNATIONAL THEATRE ARTS](#).

VODKA TALKS, Guest production at Teatret ved Sorte Hest, Vesterbrogade 150, Kbh V.

Playing: 20-22 April 2023, Thu and Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm

Tickets: teaterbilletter.dk / billet@sortehest.com

More information: www.sortehest.com/selskaber/det-internationale-selskab/vodka-talks-2023/

Contact PR: Jana Pulkrabek, jana@movethenorth.com / Tel. +49 177 3402932

Performed by: Vanessa Poole, Jana Pulkrabek
And with the voices of: Katrin Weisser, Kevin Benn
Written by: Arne Nielsen

Directed by: Lars Junggreen
Set & Light design: Lars Junggreen
Scenography: Mikkel Bundgaard

Produced by: HIT INTERNATIONAL THEATRE ARTS
Presented as part of the official 2023 Move the North festival program

Director

An impressive acting career, spanning more than 40 years, has given Lars Junggreen numerous leading acting roles in theatre, film and tv. As stage director Lars has directed more than 35 productions. He has been the artistic director of Aarhus Theater, the principal director of Aarhus drama school, associate professor at the Danish School of Performing Arts, and member of the State Performing Arts Committee. <https://www.hit-theatre.com/larsjunggreen>



Playwright

Arne Nielsen's 2022 playwrighting debut "Die Vokagesprache" recently performed at the Kammerspiele Hamburg and Renaissance Theater Berlin, currently also touring Austria and Switzerland. Arne lives in Hamburg, where he has been widely acclaimed for his best-selling writing since 2003: "Der Elefantenbäcker", "Buddeln", "Donny hat ein neues Auto und fährt etwas zu schnell". <https://www.hit-theatre.com/arne-nielsen>



Producers / Cast

HIT INTERNATIONAL THEATRE ARTS, run by international lead actresses Jana Pulkrabek (brand owner) and Vanessa Poole (brand associate) is based in Copenhagen and focuses on contemporary English-language theatre projects. The brand creates international cultural ties in Europe with an extra focus (yet not exclusively so) on the regions of Malmö, Copenhagen and Hamburg.

www.hit-theatre.com <https://www.hit-theatre.com/vanessa-poole> <https://www.hit-theatre.com/jana-pulkrabek>



The festival

MOVE THE NORTH was founded in 2019 as a joint strategy project where partners from Germany, Denmark and Sweden cooperate to create a vibrant and dynamic cultural bridge across the Baltic Sea. The cross-border festival brings together artists of all disciplines and features cultural events in all three countries. In 2021 and 2022 Move the North hosted an annual summer festival in Hamburg (Nordic Summer Vibes) presenting Scandinavian artists, mainly from Copenhagen and Malmö.