

After acclaimed performances in New York, Paris, Stockholm, *The Fever* comes to Bucharest.

This powerful dramatic monologue, written between 1985 and 1990 but more relevant now than ever, is a fierce, forensic examination of social inequality and the links between the affluence many take for granted and the poverty and suffering that haunt the lives of millions.

A wealthy woman from New York travels abroad haunted by the endless paradox of economics. Some people get all while others get nothing, not even enough to survive. This *Candide* of our time is torn between two worlds, two realities: her own comfortable life, the values she was taught and everything she discovers within each poor country. She wanders and wonders, frightened by the simple questions she poses. The humour is quirky and the questions – upsetting, no doubt. They make us all uneasy as they are removed from any leftist certainty, far removed from any doctrine, and yet so close to the daily landscape that we don't wish to see anymore. Our trip through her memories and questions is *The Fever*.

The American actor **Wallace Shawn** was born in New York City. He has excelled on stage, TV and film, garnering international recognition from his brilliant collaborations with directors as Woody Allen and André Gregory. He has pursued a parallel career as a playwright and scriptwriter. His most well known works are *My Dinner With André, Aunt Dan and Lemon, The Designated Mourner.* Wallace Shawn received his second OBIE Award for **The Fever.**

Lars Norén, born in Stockholm, is regarded by many as Sweden's greatest playwright since Strindberg. His work is widely produced and celebrated in Europe. Since 1993 he has directed for the theater, staging plays by Shakespeare, Aeschylus, Ibsen, and Chekhov, as well as his own texts. With *The Fever* Lars Norén directs for the first time a contemporary piece other than his own.

Simona Maicanescu was born in Romania where she performed under the direction of Silviu Purcarete, Lucian Pintilie, Tompa Gabor, and Andrei Serban. After being involved in a French-Romanian production presented at the Avignon Festival, she was invited to perform in 1994 at Odéon Theatre in Paris. She then decided to move to France to continue acting. She has since performed in both French and English. *The Fever* marks Maicanescu's first one-woman show.

The Fever is an attempt to state the obvious so that the obvious can finally be seen. In my view, injustice, and particularly economical injustice, still is the root cause of the rage which everyone feels all around them. The injustice is brutal, it's astounding, and it's everywhere, and it's not hidden at all, but it's still so upsetting that even the most enlightened of us can only glimpse it for moments at a time.

Wallace Shawn

Simona Măicănescu is a champion and treats her role perfectly brilliant in Norens directing. She stands straight up on the stage, accompanied only by a bottle of water, her anxiety and self-deception. The voice is relentless, sucking. Wallace Shawn's monologue is sometimes desperate, sometimes sad, resigned at the end. How can all of us defend our privileged lifes?...

Lena Kvist – *Boras Tidning*, August 27, 2010

