

## The Maids

### Aarhus International Theatre Company

Plays: 21. November – 30. November at 19:00 (only ten days)



### The Maids

Jean Genet's absurdist play *The Maids* is a deep and violent exploration of the degrading and enslaving nature of poverty and of the love-hate relationship between the powerful and the unworthy. It is also based on a high profile murder case involving two young sisters working as maids and their mistresses in 1930s France.

Genet portrays a ritualistic game of two maids who take turns acting as "Madame," abusing each other as either servant or employer. The ceremony reveals not only the maids' hatred of the Madame's authority, but also their hatred of themselves for participating in the hierarchy that oppresses them.

Within the mirror of the game there is yet another mirror, and another one... Images reflect and distort one another and masks are piled on top of each other. Imaginary realities intertwine creating finally a net of a surreal truth, which the players can't escape any more. As Sartre said about Claire and Solange, "Their minds are inside out, and they

are always other than themselves." At any single moment, one is not sure who is representing whom. When one maid strikes the other, it is not clear in which of several persona each is operating.

Because of the complex levels of perception, the play is a hazardous environment for actors. They must both present a role and represent an illusion - and an illusion within an illusion.

It was Genet's intention that the characters be played by men, so as to deepen the illusory nature of the experience.

Jean Genet (1910 – 1986), was a prominent, sometimes infamous, French writer and later political activist. Early in his life he was a vagabond and petty criminal; later in life, Genet wrote novels, plays, poems, and essays.

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**Director:** Vladimir Koifman (nl/ru)

### Cast:

Matias Kuoppala, Richard Olsen, Daniel A. Fjellgaard and Marius Havik.

**Light design:** Vladimir Koifman  
**Set** Vladimir Korshunov  
**Producer:** Thomas Biehl

**Tickets:** 100 kr./ students 70 kr./ Group 50 kr. **FREE TICKETS** This season all foreign guests in Aarhus will get a free ticket to all performances! (not guest plays) Just show your passport at the door.

Tickets on phone: 86760073

The performance is in English.

**PERFORMS AT**

AAITC

Jægergårdsgade 152, 3C [www.aaitc.dk](http://www.aaitc.dk)  
8000 Århus C.



**Coming up in December: Miss Julie and Alice in Wonderland**

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