

SAPIENTIA Information Sheet
Scapegoat Carnivale Theatre
Montreal, Qc



(l-r) P. Van Dyck, R. Leveroos, A. Darcy, A. Petrachuck- photo credit: P.A. Boivin

PRESS

"One of the most wickedly funny and strangely powerful productions of the year."
- Theatrefunhouse

"The masterful team behind this production take Hrosvitha's blunt narrative and work magic to make it compelling... The words selected, the intent of every scene, and the overall conception of the production is perfectly crafted art... it absolutely must be seen." "
- Rachel Levine, Montreal Rampage

"Scapegoat Carnivale enthralls once again with a striking creation bearing its trademark eccentricity."
- Camila Fitzgibbon, Montreal Theatre Hub

"Scapegoat Carnivale's production of Sapiientia is what all open-minded, passionate theatergoers live for: smart, irreverent, imaginative works born out of creative teamwork and contagious passion. This show deserves to play to full houses and tour so that more people can discover humanity's first known female playwright and this theatre company's original, rallying projects."

- ZoneCulture

"Hyper bon! Hyper bon!"

CIBL on Au Pied du Lit (go to the 9:00 minute mark)

"Une scène qui accuse de brillante manière l'appétit sanguinaire."

- Marie Labrecque, Le Devoir

"Hilarious, powerful, evocative and endlessly entertaining... Tickets are selling fast. See it!"

"One of the most striking and unexpectedly enjoyable productions of the year."

-Montreal Gazette's Jim Burke (Tweet, and META awards article)

"Hard core theatre enthusiasts should hope for a remount of this historic and innovative show."

-Byron Toben, Westmount Magazine

*** TWO TIME 2018 META WINNER***

(Montreal English Theatre Award) Outstanding Independent Production, Outstanding Theatrical Contribution (Evan Stepanian - Live musician)

(Nominations for Outstanding Direction, Ensemble, and Sound Design)

PROJECT HISTORY AND TEAM

Scapegoat Carnivale's new adaptation of this 10th century classic was first presented by MainLine Theatre, Montreal, QC August 16-26, 2018 and remounted at Centaur Theatre's Wildside Festival, Montreal, QC from Jan 17-19, 2019.

The production was performed as object theatre, a style where performers animate found materials (e.g., a shoe, a toilet paper roll, a ketchup bottle) rather than puppets and marionettes.

By Hroswitha of Gandersheim, Adapted by Joseph Shragge from a literal translation by Lynn Kozak, Directed and Conceptual Adaptation by Mia van Leeuwen, Dramaturged by Anthony Kennedy.

Stage Managed by David Epstein, Set Design and scenography by Robert Leveroos, Lighting and Costume Design by Bruno-Pierre Houle, and Sound Design by Joseph Browne and Evan Stepanian.

Cast: Alison Darcy, Robert Leveroos, Alexandra Petrachuk and Paul Van Dyck.

Early development of this production was done with Joseph Browne, Alison Darcy, Anthony Kennedy, Robert Leveroos, Joseph Shragge, Mia van Leeuwen and Lar Vi. Previous productions of a similar text with the same director have been seen at the 2014 Canoe Fest in Edmonton, and in Winnipeg in 2015, produced by Aztec Theatre & Theatre Incarnate. Another interpretation of the text has been done again by director Mia van Leeuwen with Theatre Outre in Winnipeg in October, 2018

This production is made possible due to support from Conseil des arts de Montréal and Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

THE PLAY

We are proud to present history's first western female playwright, Hroswitha of Gandersheim's 10th century play *Sapientia*, where a Christian queen martyrs her three children in the face of the Roman Emperor's religious persecution. Its uniquely bizarre narrative about the clash of irreconcilable religions introduces us to the formidable *Sapientia* pitted against a paternalistic but ineffectual Hadrian. The result of their conflict is a display of lurid violence toward children who, through divine intervention, become immune to physical pain and undergo bodily transformations.

THE PLAYWRIGHT

Hroswitha of Gandersheim (c. 935 – c. 1002) was a 10th-century German secular canoness, and a dramatist and poet who lived and worked in Gandersheim Abbey in north-central Germany. She wrote six plays and is considered to be the first person since antiquity to compose drama in the Latin West. The fact that she is so rarely performed prompted the American feminist drama group the Guerrilla Girls to issue the "First Annual Hroswitha Challenge" on their website, announcing that they would bestow the First Annual Hroswitha Award on whichever professional theatre decides "to scrap their plans of producing yet another production of a Greek tragedy and instead produce a play by Hroswitha, the first female playwright".

THE COMPANY

Scapegoat Carnivale is an award-winning multidisciplinary theatre company based in Montreal. Our aesthetic interest is in the carnivalesque, and the highly theatrical. Whether producing new works or adaptations from the classical repertoire, we strive for theatre to be an unruly, visceral and authentic shared experience.

CONTACT

Alison Darcy
Co-Artistic Director
Scapegoat Carnivale
general@scapegoatcarnivale.com

Website: scapegoatcarnivale.com