**Athens Epidaurus Festival 2021 – THEATRE**

**TR Warszawa – Kornél Mundruczó**

**Pieces of a Woman**

**2 - 3 - 4 September, 21:00**

**Peiraios 260 (Hall Η)**

A traumatic experience marks the beginning of a complete turnaround. Thirty-year-old Maja loses her baby. Will she find the motivation necessary to fight for herself and her loved ones? Will she be able to reclaim her personal freedom and self-fulfilment?

Following his captivating *Imitation of Life*, presented at the 2018 Athens Epidaurus Festival, internationally acclaimed film and theatre director Kornél Mundruczó, creator of the much-discussed theatrical performance *The Bat* and the award-winning movie *White God* (Prize Un Certain Regard at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival), returns to the Athens Epidaurus Festival with his newest production, commissioned by the TR Warszawa, one of the most celebrated Polish theatre ensembles.

*Pieces of a Woman*, written by Kata Wéber, Mundruczó’s regular collaborator, screenwriter of *White God* and dramaturg of *Imitation of Life*, is an absorbing family drama, centred around a woman in modern-day Warsaw.

According to the director, “the path taken by Maja is everywoman’s path. Maja experiences what all women experience when their longings are squashed and hurt dominates them until they can unfurl and re-open, ready for life with greater awareness, depth, and, of course, joy”.

*A mature mother, the “strong” Magdalena, and her grown-up daughters, Maja and Monica, star in a drama set in Warsaw. The drama, however, is called* Pieces of a Woman *and seemingly focuses on one of the daughters, Maja. The plot starts with Maja’s decision to give birth at home, with the help of a midwife. The baby girl, who would continue the female lineage in the family, dies shortly after birth…*

*The play* Pieces of a Woman*, a fruit of the collaboration between Kornél Mundruczό and Kata Wéber, subverts expectations until the very end, as the story of the tragic loss of a new life competes on an underground level with a future, inevitable loss: that of the strong, aging mother. Female relationships in this contemporary intergenerational family are portrayed through desperately familiar conflicts. Are these conflicts actually insignificant? They often occur for financial reasons – but what other demands, pent-up feelings, dreams of self-determination, and existential quests are concealed in the mundane conversations among women, each of whom constitutes a lost piece of the other?*

*Mother-daughter relationships have been a highly charged feminist issue already since the 20th century. Patriarchal language always falls short of the tension running through these relationships and the emotive pulse that holds them together.* Pieces of a Woman *delivers a nuanced narrative on human bonds, taking its cue not only from the event of a devastating loss but also from the failure to rise above hidden aspects of the mother-daughter roles – a failure of the psyche that is nevertheless compensated by the established daily practice of love that connects the women. Every woman is, in her relationships with other women, a site where solidarity and control are led towards full-scale conflict – although maternal subjectivity is the topos where the waters close over our heads, the point where we sink. The daughter Maja, however, will not sink. She will survive.*

Excerpt about the play from Angela Dimitrakaki’s text

*Rhythms of a Revolution: Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Art*,

published in the Athens Epidaurus Festival 2021 Catalogue.

*Strobe lights are used in the performance.*

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**Peiraios 260 (Hall H)**

**Directed by Kornél Mundruczó
Text - Adaptation Kata Wéber
Assistant playwright Soma Boronkay
Set and costume design Monika Pormale
Music Asher Goldschmidt
Assistant director Karolina Gębska
Lighting director Paulina Góral
Stage manager Katarzyna Gawryś-Rodriguez
Simultaneous and written translation Dr Patrycja Paszt
Translated by Jolanta Jarmołowicz
Set designer assistant - Production manager Karolina Pająk-Sieczkowska
Assistant to the costume designer Małgorzata Nowakowska
Language consultations Andreas Jönsson, Sindre Sandemo
Camera - Sound on stage Łukasz Jara, Łukasz Winkowski
Cast Dobromir Dymecki, Monika Frajczyk, Magdalena Kuta, Sebastian Pawlak, Marta Ścisłowicz, Justyna Wasilewska, Agnieszka Żulewska
Partner Hungarian Cultural Institute in Warsaw
Production TR Warszawa**

**Tickets**: **VIP** 40€ **• ZONE Α 30€ – STUDENTS / 65+ / ARTIST UNIONS 24€ • ZONE B 20€ – STUDENTS / 65+ / ARTIST UNIONS 16€ • PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES / UNEMPLOYMENT CONCESSIONS / ART SCHOOL STUDENTS 5€**

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