

'*Nieuw Loevestein*' becomes "**New Crusoe**"

The publication of *Mare Liberum* (Free Sea) in 1609 by the Dutch jurist and philosopher Hugo Grotius has been of paramount importance to the development of international law. Some even attribute Grotius' new principle of the sea as international territory as the starting point for international law.

So it shouldn't come as a surprise that The Hague-based Drang theatre company searched around for an international partner to perform Ton Theo Smit's poignant play *Nieuw Loevestein* in English as well, with the English title *New Crusoe*.

Since 2006 The Hague has been home to Stichting The English Theatre (STET). STET produces and promotes English-language theatre productions and was the perfect partner to join in on this worthwhile project. In the past STET has produced three plays with the Hague-based TUSK international Theatre Company (*Summit Conference*, *Play Strindberg* and *Chekhov times three*). To continue this energetic and inspiring co-operation, TUSK has been commissioned to put its name to the performance of *New Crusoe*.

The poetic but at times hard hitting play makes for an event not to be missed. Rupert Farley, the well-known British actor who performed with TUSK in 2008 in *Chekhov times three*, has been asked to take on the role of *Hugo Robinson*. The English language performances will take place after Drang's initial run of Dutch performances in November. (Dates and locations can be found on our website)

The English language performances will deepen the international context of the commemorations of the publication of *Mare Liberum*. The Hague, also known as the International City of Peace and Justice, has a large international community working in the various international organisations and tribunals like the International Court of Justice, International Criminal Court and International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. TUSK's performances contribute to forming a bridge between the Dutch and the international community of The Hague.

From an artistic point of view, it will also create a hugely interesting situation as the very same play will be performed by two casts, one Dutch and the other an international -partly British- theatre company. Different theatrical traditions will enhance the idea of internationalism which is so important in this play. Well-known Dutch director Jaap Postma will direct the Drang performance of *Nieuw Loevestein*. Ellis Van Maarseveen, founder of TUSK, will direct *New Crusoe* with an international cast.

Some interesting theatre locations are planned for these performances and will be made known a.s.a.p. on the TUSK, STET and Drang websites.

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