

Press release

# **7:00 – 8:30 PM 05.31.2007, BERLIN STATE OPERA MAGAZIN, BY GREGOR SCHNEIDER**

A work commissioned by the Berlin Staatsoper Unter den Linden and Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna. Supported by Bundeskulturstiftung / German Federal Cultural Foundation

Performance:

Thursday, May 31, 2007, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Magazin, Staatsoper Berlin, Unter den Linden, 7, 10117 Berlin

Gregor Schneider's new project for the Magazin of the Berlin State Opera engages the audience in the disturbing experience of uncertainty. Its title, »7:00–8:30 PM, 05.31.2007«, refers to the exact time frame of an event, an occurrence whose nature remains unknown. Through subtle interventions Schneider creates awareness of fundamental questions with regard to space and public and puts the spectators' heightened sensations, memories, and fears at the center of their experience.

Schneider's one-time performance is part of an ongoing collaboration between Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary and the Berlin State Opera initiated in 2005 to support the creation of performative works by contemporary artists. Following »Jonathan Meese ist Mutter Parzival« (March 2005), »Don't Trust Anyone over Thirty« (June 2005), and »John Bock's Maltreated Frigate« (September 2006), »7:00–8:30 PM, 05.31.2007« is the fourth in a multidisciplinary program series in which artists experiment and investigate new boundaries within performance, theater, and musical theater.

Schneider's project is the first presentation by the internationally renowned German artist in Berlin in the past 13 years and his first work within the context of theater. In »7:00–8:30 PM, 05.31.2007«, Schneider once more challenges the audience to come to terms with the feelings of uncertainty and absence inherent in the space, leading viewers out of their comfort zone while at the same time hinting at something that happened or is about to happen, an unrealizable event that most likely will remain elusive.

»7:00–8:30 PM, 05.31.2007« extends the relationship established with the viewer in the artist's earlier works into an overtly theatrical context.

In Schneider's installations the audience, which unknowingly takes on the role of performer, "enters" the work, often with no specific directive. Left alone, the viewer has to learn to see the work "from the inside out" and to define his or her role in the process. Throughout most of this experience the spectator is guided, to a large extent without directly perceiving the controlling force behind the scenes. The senses home in on what the viewer can see, hear, and feel. All this is heightened in Schneider's work by the attention paid to movement: the sense of movement becomes a specific means of experiencing time and space. The viewer/actor walks through a space that appears active and animated. The asymmetrical relationship between subject and object, performer and observer, is lifted from its hierarchical hinges, leading in certain instances to an absolute (sub)merging. Only by becoming questioning, alert wanderers are viewers able to experience a sense of narrative and define their own role within it.

Schneider, who was awarded the Golden Lion for his Dead House Ur for the German Pavilion at the 2001 Venice Biennale, has been experimenting with these principles for a long time now. For 20 years he has been building and reshaping House u r in his hometown of Rheydt into a total work of art. There he remodeled his house to create a series of rooms in which floors and ceilings have been replaced, misaligned, and relocated and windows and doorways have been moved, sealed, or concealed. These are rooms that make us forget where we actually stand. In London in 2004 he realized what is probably his most spectacular project to date, The Schneider Family, which was commissioned by Artangel, an organization well known for its bold projects. In two identical houses on a narrow East London side street, Schneider brought to life the uncanny in the everyday, creating the most disturbing experience using the most minimal of means.

»7:00–8:30 PM, 05.31.2007«

Performance by Gregor Schneider

As part of the project series »Relation in Movement«

Date: Thursday, May 31, 2007

Time: 7 p.m.

Venue: Magazin, Staatsoper Berlin, Unter den Linden 7, 10117 Berlin

Tickets: 15 EUR at the box office from 6 p.m.

Ticket sales: [www.staatsoper-berlin.de](http://www.staatsoper-berlin.de), T +49 30 20 35 45 55

Ticket price includes a program/brochure (mailed after publication in June 2007) with essays by Thomas Macho, Thomas Raab and Susanne Pfeffer.

