



### **TERRES ARIDES at DEN ATELIER**

After more than a year being closed for the public, live performances will return to den Atelier!

Den Atelier is pleased to announce that TERRES ARIDES, the documentary theatre play by Ian De Toffoli, featuring renowned actors Luc Schiltz and Pitt Simon, will be coming to den Atelier on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 after an 18-month hiatus.

The theatrical performance marks a first step towards eventually reopening the concert hall for a bigger audience later this year.

The whole industry had been hit hard by the global pandemic and although the corona virus is wreaking havoc on live music, den Atelier has been constantly working on alternative projects and strategies to keep bringing back live performances to the Grand-Duchy. An important aspect of this particular resilience has been to join forces with other key players in the Luxembourgish cultural industry.

The performance of the play represents the first collaboration between den Atelier and a sector that had not yet found its way into the beloved concert venue.

The performance of the play is not only a matter of the heart for den Atelier because of the simple novelty of hosting one of the most successful Luxembourgish theatre plays with more than 10 sold out shows to date, but also because of its story itself, which revolves around a journalist's trip to Syria. The real-life journalist was adventurous from a young age and is one of the brave founding members of den Atelier: Petz Bartz.

The date of the event was chosen at random and yet it falls on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. This is why we are proud to close the evening with a panel discussion with both the author Ian De Toffoli and the journalist Petz Bartz.

**Information:**

TERRES ARIDES by Ian De Toffoli  
Theatre play in French language  
September 11<sup>th</sup> 2021  
den Atelier – 54, rue de Hollerich, Ville de Luxembourg

with Luc Schiltz, Pitt Simon  
design - Ian De Toffoli  
video - Michel Maier  
lights - Nico Tremblay, Antoine Colla  
technical management - Antoine Colla

co-production Centaur Theater, Kulturhaus Niederaanven  
in co-production with the Kinneksbond, Center Culturel Mamer  
with the financial support of the **Ministry of Culture of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg**

**Schedule:**

**19:00 doors**

**20:00 TERRES ARIDES (90')**

**followed by a table ronde with Karin Weyer (respect.lu - Centre contre la radicalisation), the author Ian De Toffoli and Journalist Petz Bartz. The table ronde will be hosted by Jeff Schinker.**

**Synopsis:**

TERRES ARIDES tells a story based on a trip to Syria that a Luxembourg journalist undertook in 2019, to report on an alleged jihadist, member of the Islamic State, being held in a secret prison in the territory occupied by the Kurds, in Rojava, until the invasion of the Turkish military.

The history of this fighter is unique, in the sense that he is the only converted warrior to have left from Luxembourg and to still be in captivity in a warzone. He is a perfect European citizen, he was born in Luxembourg in 1987, he grew up in Meispelt, he has a Portuguese passport.

The journalist, during a trip that lasted a week but required months of preparation, passed through western Iraq into Syria, crossing the only border that is not controlled by troops of Bashar Al-Assad, to conduct an interview with the young jihadist and to launch, once back, the question of how Luxembourg justice and politics intend to deal with this case.

TERRES ARIDES constitutes a starting point for a set of reflections, in particular on the role of the government, which, at this date and in this affair, has reacted little, but also on the so-called stability and social peace which reigns in Luxembourg, on questions of an ethical nature, as well as on the motivations and the future of these young wanderers in increasingly uncertain times.

**Info & tickets at [www.atelier.lu](http://www.atelier.lu)**