

# THE MISFITS

ON THE OUTCASTS

1978-2016

WORLD PREMIERE 9/4 BACKA TEATER



**BACKA TEATER**

LINDHOLMEN HISINGEN | [WWW.BACKATEATER.SE](http://WWW.BACKATEATER.SE) | 031 708 70 00



PROSPERO

Göteborgs Stadsteater



# THE MISFITS

- on the outcasts. 1978-2016.

In a galaxy far, far away ... Up in the distant north ... In a grey working class suburb of Göteborg, Sweden ... The year was 1978 and some radical theatre workers founded a theatre company: Backa Teater.

Their aim was to interact with the young people of the community, and especially with the ones who came from the working class or from socially troubled backgrounds. The ensemble searched for scripts, music and theatrical shapes that could describe and connect with the outcast, the troubled youth, the misfits of the Swedish society in 1978. They wanted to use theatre to inspire the younger generation and thereby change the course towards a better world.

This performance is a scenic investigation of how social constructions and the need for scapegoats create the misfits of a society. Documentary pictures, scripts and music from the history of Backa Teater, from 1978 to 2016, are combined with the fluctuating narratives about the outcast, the troubled youth, the misfits in news media, music and film. In this choreographic and visual piece 14 actors and one musician reveal the constantly shifting images, attributes and gestures of the antagonistic part that is: The Misfit.

Authentic texts and voices from the outcast, the troubled youth and the misfits of Europe 2016 are included in the piece.

**World premiere:**

9 April 2016 Backa Teater

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY:  
Mattias Andersson

SET DESIGN AND COSTUME BY:  
Anna Heymowska

CHOREOGRAPHY:  
Tove Sahlén

HAIR AND MAKE-UP DESIGN:  
Linda Boije af Gennäs

LIGHT DESIGN:  
Thomas Fredriksson

SOUND DESIGN & MUSIC:  
Jonas Redig

WITH:  
Stefan Abellsson, Hannah Alem Davidsson, Ulf Dohlsten, Ibrahim Faal, Ylva Gallon, Anna Harling, Maria Hedborg, Gunilla Johansson, Mats Nahlin, Josefin Neldén, Ramtin Parvaneh, Ulf Rönnerstrand, Nemanja Stojanovic, Emelie Strömberg, Ove Wolf

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## IN THE PRESS

”Mattias Andersson started to develop his collage method in “The mental states of Gothenburg” ten years ago. I have never seen it more defined than here. In a phenomenal way the performance manages to connect scenes, sources, subjects, levels – without one overriding the other. “The Misfits” uniquely, organically and seamlessly link scenes together, which look like they have nothing to do with each other – and hence surprisingly illuminate each other.”

– Dagens Nyheter (Swedens biggest newspaper)

”/.../ and the texts twists, are declared and vocalized in that special way that only Andersson can. /.../ And the movement that binds the classical pieces with the present, that movement finds its response in the room where the choreography of Tove Sahlin and the music of Jonas Redig binds it all together into a bodily now.

Backa’s history of reaching out to the misfit, the outcast – with different approaches and varied political influence through time but with the same crazy belief; “people who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world” /.../ Maybe it is Backa Teater who are “The Misfits” – may they never acclimate!”

– Sveriges Radio, Kulturnytt (National Swedish Radio)

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”In a time of open political conflict, it would be damned if the theatre didn’t correspond with the present and its convulsions. Backa Teater has done so since 1978.”

/.../

”In long moments it is a wonderful performance, vibrating with vitality in its expressions, with a strong trust in the ensemble and the audience that is the trademark of Backa Teater.”

– GöteborgsPosten (Gothenburgs biggest newspaper)

”Theatre is more than its different parts and sometimes the entirety rises higher than the ceiling in sweet unison with the audience. That is what happens when Backa Teater after 38 active years gives “The Misfits”, a highly local and highly European story on the outcasts.”

/.../

”So much is expressed behind the words, in the stillness and the movements of the bodies, in the sad eyes of Ibrahim Faal, in the invasion of the strange aquarium fish. Many of the images get etched, not least the frozen desperation of Anna Harling as a child and a sister, and her wild attacks against the walls.”

– Svenska Dagbladet (Swedens second biggest newspaper)

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# PHOTOS

All photos by: Ola Kjelbye

Pictures in high res are downloadable here:  
<http://stadsteatern.goteborg.se/backateater/press/the-misfits/>

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Photo in background by: Ingmar Jernberg



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# BACKA TEATER

In 1978 a small group employed at Göteborgs Stadsteater decided to found a new theatre. Their aim was to use theatre as an art form to inspire the younger generation and thereby change the course towards a better world. The company was created as an off-shoot of Göteborgs Stadsteater and was situated in the suburb Backa. This was the beginning of the Backa Teater.

Over the years, Backa Teater has produced and achieved success with both newly written and classical works for children, youth and adults. It has been honored with several awards, nationally as well as internationally, for their pioneering way of making and performing theatre.

Today Backa Teater is one of Sweden's most important theatres where the combination of artistic courage and high quality craftsmanship set the standard for the always well acclaimed performances.

Through the years Backa Teater has attracted well renowned directors and playwrights from all over the world. The team of Backa Teater always works with an ambition to make something never seen before. That in combination with the large black box venue creates an arena for guesting artists to accomplish something completely new.

The performances of Backa Teater and Mattias Andersson have gained international acclaim and have toured all over the world. *King Matt the First* visited Washington in 2010 and *Utopia 2012* has been screened in Pskov in 2014. *Acts of goodness* is frequently programmed for festivals around Europe and recently visited Köln and Helsinki.



GANGS OF GOTHENBURG

Photo: Ola Kjelbye



CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Photo: Ola Kjelbye



UTOPIA 2012

Photo: Ola Kjelbye

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# MATTIAS ANDERSSON

Renowned playwright and director Mattias Andersson has been the Artistic Director of Backa Teater since 2006. Andersson often explores the darker side of human nature and has received a lot of acclaim for his way of clashing documentary material with classical texts.

Andersson has been awarded the Ibsen-prize in 2007 and the Swedish Theatre Critics Award in 2007 and 2009. Performances like *Crime and Punishment*, *The Mental States of Sweden*, *Gangs of Gothenburg*, *Utopia 2012* and *Acts of Goodness* are well acclaimed both nationally and internationally. Several of Andersson's plays have been translated and staged all over Europe.

Mattias Andersson has previously directed several well acclaimed performances, such as:

- *The Idiot*, The Royal Dramatic Theatre, 2015
- *Acts of Goodness*, Backa Teater, 2014
- *The Mental States of Sweden*, The Royal Dramatic Theatre, 2013
- *Utopia 2012*, Backa Teater, 2012
- *King Matt the First*, Backa Teater, 2009
- *Gangs of Gothenburg*, Backa Teater, 2009
- *Crime and Punishment*, Backa Teater, 2007
- *The Mental States of Gothenburg*, Angereds Teater, 2006



COLLATION THE MISFITS

Photo: Hanna Johansson

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# PROSPERO

An international collaboration

## THE PROSPERO NETWORK

Prospero is an ongoing collaboration between seven different Theatres and Festivals in Europe. The project aims to support and highlight artistic theatre projects in order to support dialogue, exchange and creativity. The project has previously supported artists like Thomas Ostermeier, Angelica Liddell, Katie Mitchell and Krzysztof Warlikowski.

## PRODUCTION:

Backa Teater, Göteborgs Stadsteater

## COPRODUCTION:

Prospero (Théâtre National de Bretagne, France; Théâtre de Liège, Belgium; Emilia Romagna Teatro Fondazione, Italy; Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz, Germany; National Theatre of Croatia / World Theatre Festival Zagreb, Croatia; Athens and Epidaurus Festival, Greece)

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