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2017

L'Allemagne  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

# ***WHAT DOES ART ADD TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF A GLOBAL CRISIS? UPCOMING GOETHE-INSTITUT & LUMINATO PROGRAMS***

**DATE**

June 1, 2017

**Two productions playing in Toronto invite viewers to reflect on the ubiquity of war as well as the creative forces that oppose and overcome it. They are part of a cluster of contemplations on art and war that the Goethe-Institut Toronto has been introducing over the past seasons, including a curated film program of recent European films on the global refugee crisis and conversations about displacement caused by war.**

“Take good care of this...it is my whole life.” This was the message Berlin expressionist artist Charlotte Salomon attached to her portfolio of over a thousand paintings before entrusting it, in 1942, to a physician in southern France, where she had been hiding from the Nazis. Shortly thereafter, she was deported to Auschwitz to die in the gas chambers, at the age of 26.

Unfinished projects, lives cut short, lives not even begun – the personal legacy of war is the subject of Theaturtle's chamber musical “CHARLOTTE: A Tri-Coloured Play with Music” playing in Toronto as part of the Luminato Festival and *Germany @ Canada 2017*.

Toronto-based Theaturtle has collaborated with teams in the UK and the Czech Republic to bring Salomon's work to life and to honour the unbridled creativity of a young Jewish woman who endured life under the Nazis by envisaging her life as a *singspiel* or song play. This performance, a combination of Salomon's narration, dialogue, music and images, is a work-in-progress, affording audiences a glimpse into the creative process that Salomon began and this creative team is determined to complete.

In her new documentary “Shooting Ourselves”, New York director Christine Cynn (“The Act of Killing”) takes audiences inside “Situation Rooms”, the celebrated immersive show created by Berlin theatre collective Rimini Protokoll, that the Goethe-Institut and the Luminato Festival brought to Toronto last year. The multi-player video game invites spectators into staged rooms to participate in chillingly real-world situations – selecting child soldiers in Congo, attending an arms fair, patrolling the Gaza strip.

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Cynn's film, which has its Canadian premiere on June 23 at the Goethe-Institut Toronto, captures the disconcerting immediacy of the multi-player video game and reminds Western viewers that war and the means of its making are in fact global.

“Shooting Ourselves” and “CHARLOTTE: A Tri-Coloured Play with Music” are part of *Germany @ Canada 2017*, an engaging cultural program presented by the Goethe-Institut and the German Embassy highlighting the German-Canadian friendship in honour of Canada's sesquicentennial year. Running from coast to coast and throughout the year, the program brings a dynamic sampling of German contemporary culture to Canada. Under the motto “Germany @ Canada 2017 – Partners from Immigration to Innovation / L'Allemagne @ Canada 2017 – Partenaires: de l'immigration à l'innovation”, this festival includes over 40 events - concerts, exhibitions, conferences, performances and film screenings.

Program details can be found at: [goethe.de/can2017ger](http://goethe.de/can2017ger) and [SoGerman.ca / SiAllemand.ca](http://SoGerman.ca/SiAllemand.ca)