

## **HAPPY HOUR**

Spooky Action Theater and the Goethe-Institut Washington bring the interactive performance event *Happy Hour* by the emerging German theater company machina eX to Washington May 14 - June 12, 2016. Blending video games, live theater, and interactive installation, this English-language premiere of *Happy Hour* brings machina eX's signature high-quality technology to Spooky Action Theater's versatile and imaginative playing space. Designed for no more than 20 audience members at a time, this immersive experience creates an active exchange among the players (audience), and between the audience and the actors - the human avatars - in the other room.



*Happy Hour*, a hilarious and thought-provoking immersive theater performance, pits two small teams of audience members against one another in a race to solve a series of puzzles. Drinks in hand, the teams must help their human avatars escape the clutches of the evil mastermind holding them captive. A diabolical bartender gives each team the tools they need to communicate in this theatrical twist on the familiar Room Escape video game. As the avatars' puzzles become increasingly complex,

will either team find the keys, unlock the doors, and beat the clock to save the stranger they have been guiding on the other side of the screen?

Co-Directors: Yves Regenass (machina eX) and Gillian Drake (Spooky Action Theater)

US Scenic Design: Kim Sammis

US Technology Direction and Lighting Design: Gordon Nimmo-Smith

Additional US Production team: TBA

US Adaptation, Game and Interaction Design: Jan Philip Steimel & Lasse Marburg (machina eX)

Original Production, Artistic Direction and Game Design: machina eX and Gessnerallee Zurich, at which *Happy Hour* premiered.

*"Why did we just do that?," a girl in my group asks after we tried different combinations of commands in a collective power frenzy and forced the performer ... to do absurd and sometimes repetitive operations just like a puppet on a string. "Because it is fun," another girl answers. - Andreas Tobler, Tagesanzeiger Zürich*

*"In a previously unseen way the group mixes two worlds which so far seemed incompatible. And they accomplish it with flying colors" - Jan Graber for 20 Minuten*

## PRODUCING PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

### [machina eX](#)

machina eX is a company of media and theatre artists from Germany designing computer games in real life environments. Blending theater performance with the power of digital gaming principles, machina eX enchants performers and players alike and turns theatrical stages into fantastic interactive worlds. Audiences plunge into the world of the game and find themselves in the midst of a story that they must guide to its conclusion. machina eX returns to DC following a successful production of the award-winning *15'000 Gray* at the 2014 Zeitgeist Festival.

<http://machinaex.de>

### [Spooky Action Theater](#)

Located in a historic church along Washington, DC's U Street corridor, Spooky Action Theater (SAT) is a dynamic, young theater company that has been recharging the audience's imaginative, intuitive, emotional core by linking artists & audience in a collaborative enterprise.

[www.spookyaction.org](http://www.spookyaction.org)

### [Goethe-Institut Washington](#)

The Goethe-Institut Washington, the German cultural center, organizes and supports cultural events that present German culture abroad and that further the transatlantic dialogue regarding today's challenging questions. [www.goethe.de/washington](http://www.goethe.de/washington)

Made possible with additional support from the German Federal Foreign Office and Friends of the Goethe-Institut Washington.

Press images can be downloaded [here](#).

## DATES

Preview Performances May 12-13 PWYC at the door  
Opening Night Saturday, May 14 at 7:00pm & 9:00pm  
Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays: 7:00pm & 9:00pm  
Sundays: 2:30pm & 4:30pm  
Performances run through June 12, 2016

## LOCATION

Spooky Action Theater, 1810 16<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Washington, DC (Metro: Dupont Circle or U Street)

## TICKET SALES

Please visit [Spooky Action Theater's website](#) for ticket purchases.

All tickets are general admission. VIP tickets are an additional \$5 and include a drink. (ID checked at the door.) Our bar and gaming room seats 20 audience members per performance.

The two gaming tables can each seat 10 patrons.

**GROUP SALES:** This interactive event will team up audience members with their fellow patrons. Groups of friends who wish to play together may contact the Box Office directly at [info@spookyaction.org](mailto:info@spookyaction.org) or (202) 248-0301 for group sales information and pricing.

## PRESS CONTACT

Norma Broadwater, Goethe-Institut  
202-847-4707  
[nbroadwater@washington.goethe.org](mailto:nbroadwater@washington.goethe.org)

Roberta Alves, Spooky Action Theater  
202-352-5623  
[roalves@spookyaction.org](mailto:roalves@spookyaction.org)