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“Go Western”

Theater Sgaramusch scrutinize yesterday's America

Welcome to the Wild Wild West!

Smoking colts, creaking saloon doors and an entire score of revolver heroes romp around in Theater Sgaramusch's new piece. In this wild theater adventure, the great legends of the Wild West come alive once more – until Calamity Jane & Co. shoot them down again.

It's obvious that Nora Vonder Mühl and Stefan Colombo, as advertised on the flyer, really are in the mood for some Western action. Decked out with cowboy boots, leather tassels and Stetsons (cowboy hats), there's just one more thing that simply cannot be left out, the revolver. Without one, you're not going to get anywhere in the Wild West.

Tales of Wild Heroics

In Vaudeville Revue style, the audience is introduced in rhyme to what's coming next. “The Curse of the Gold” is on the program, a juicy Wild West story about love, lies and legends. The main character: the legendary Calamity Jane, a lonesome woman in a man's wild Western world. Drinking, swearing and shamelessly perspiring, she earns her respect from the revolver men. And when nothing else works; she makes use of her 38 Smith-&-Wesson.

Unfortunately, it's exactly this which leads the bold lady into trouble, and she lands in jail. There is still some law and order in the Wild West,

despite the Gold rush and self justice. Whilst the bandits rage outside, Calamity Jane is alone behind the prison walls, starved, thirsty and terribly bored. Until the fearless Bill Hickok helps her out of the lock-up. Outlaws don't go in for acts of kindness and he wants something in return. Wild Bill is in a clinch: He's analphabetic, and unable to read the treasure map he's stolen off his dead mate Sam. Of course, Calamity Jane lends this dashing Western hero a helping hand.

It's not just the life, suffering and adventures of Calamity Jane and Wild Bill that are packed into this 40 minute Sgaramusch program. When a

typical Western word is mentioned, the action is interrupted for a brief, ironical lecture in front of the Wild West Map. The audience, like on the education channel, accompanied by unhurried background music (Music: Olifr Maurmann), is informed about the most important gold mining places, or given a demonstration in the production of smoke signals.

Spinning off Legends

In "Go Western", Theater Sgaramusch – with their twinkle in the eye approach to story telling - rolls on an entire arsenal of revolver heroes and Western clichés, in order to create an idea of what the Wild West really was like. Under Christoph Mörkofers direction, Nora Vonder Mühl and Stefan Colombo diligently spin off legends about the Western heroes and heroines, founded on historical figures and their biographies:-something the latter must have enjoyed doing themselves whilst still alive. Or maybe it really is true, that Jane freed Wild Bill and herself from the Indians with a quick horse vaulting feat?

It's not just the viewing that's vastly entertaining in "Go Western". The two actors obviously enjoy their trip to the America of yesterday and perform with an inspiring playful, liveliness. Thanks to the action packed performance and numerous ironic allusions, both the youngest and the older members of the audience get their share of entertainment from Theater Sgaramusch's Wild West story.

Elisabeth Hasler

English translation by Frances Werner