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Who is John?

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Translated from German

„This is John“ That is how Theater Sgaramusch from Schaffhausen starts up it's tale, that is meant to be the fairy tale of snowwhite. John but stands in the middle of the stage, wiping his nose with his fingers. He wants to leave to sea. A trip far away to foreign countries, to the roots of “once upon a time” of the old days.

There are loads of beginnings to storytelling. They sound very much alike though to find out the right one is not that easy: “... there was a queen.” – There you go. The fairy tale about snowwhite, the bad stepmother and the seven dwarves can begin, as the Grimm brothers wrote: “with white snow, black ebony and essentially with red blood that – oh dear – drops out of the queen's noble finger.

Vivid pictures coloured with paints out of fairy tales, full of contrast. That is what Désirée Senn, Nora Vonder Mühl and Stefan Colombo directed by Markus Keller-Rottmeier like sorcerers charm against the black walls of an empty stage. All they need to do so are 3 suits, a cello, a tiny accordeon and a children's cassette player with an in-built microphone. With only these ingredients they tell the hell out of a tale. As i.e. king and queen quarrel about whether the name of the new born girl should be snowwhite or Jill. What was decided we all know. But who has ever heard of a singing stepmother asking her rattling dog about her beauty and the dog instead of answering charmingly just happily snoring into her face? And after all there is John - whose ship meanwhile has happened to strand in the midst of the story, - who becomes the king's hunter – where he immediately falls in love with snowwhite and vice e versa.

Little gestures, a glance of an eye or a single word can be enough for Theater Sgaramusch to change the crude magic of fairy tale into a humorist contrast to boring every day life. Anybody can be anyone. A Stepmother, a dwarf, a dog – or John himself.

If you miss this, you definitively miss something!