

A D E L A I D E F E S T I V A L 2 0 2 6



AF26 DIGITAL DAYBILL

History of Violence

**By Édouard Louis / Thomas Ostermeier
/ Schaubühne Berlin**

Dates: Fri 27 Feb – Mon 2 Mar

Venue: Dunstan Playhouse

Duration: 2 hrs, no interval

Note: performed in German with English surtitles

Credits

Director Thomas Ostermeier

Collaboration Director David Stöhr

Set and Costume Design Nina Wetzel

Composer Nils Ostendorf

Video Sébastien Dupouey

Dramaturg Florian Borchmeyer

Lighting Designer Michael Wetzel

Collaboration Choreography Johanna Lemke

Cast Christoph Gawenda, Laurenz Laufenberg, Renato Schuch, Alina Stiegler, Thomas Witte (Musician)

Based on *Histoire de la violence* by Édouard Louis © Éditions du Seuil, 2016

Acknowledgements

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Coproduction with Théâtre de la Ville Paris, Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles and St. Ann's Warehouse Brooklyn.

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About The Show

One of the world's most provocative and influential directors Thomas Ostermeier (*Qui a tué mon père [Who killed my father] 2024, Richard III, 2017*) returns to Adelaide Festival with a searing production of Édouard Louis' autobiographical novel.

At 4am in the Place de la République in Paris, while returning home from a Christmas dinner, Édouard meets Reda, a charming and seductive stranger in the street. They get talking, start to flirt and soon Édouard is taking him back to his apartment.

Through the fractured recall of Édouard, his sister, the police and doctors, *History of Violence* reconstructs this desire-filled encounter, turned violent.

A layered retelling that is both devastating and funny, *History of Violence* explores race, queerness and rage unbridled, until all that remains is a nuanced, closely guarded memory.

About Schaubühne Berlin

Schaubühne Berlin stands as one of Germany's most vital cultural institutions and a global leader in contemporary theatre. Renowned for its bold aesthetics, political urgency, and fearless experimentation, the company has built an international reputation for work that is both socially resonant and artistically groundbreaking. At the heart of the Schaubühne is its permanent ensemble of around 30 actors, whose ongoing collaboration fuels a dynamic repertoire ranging from radical reinterpretations of world drama to cutting-edge new writing. Over the past two decades, the company has premiered more than a hundred world and German premieres, underscoring its commitment to nurturing new voices and expanding the possibilities of the stage.

Each season, the Schaubühne debuts around ten new productions while maintaining a rotating repertoire of more than thirty works. Its global reach is unparalleled: the company tours extensively, presenting around one hundred performances annually at major international festivals, as well as in leading theatres across the globe.

Adelaide Festival has proudly introduced Schaubühne Berlin's evocative and influential work to Australian audiences through acclaimed national premieres such as *Nora* (2006), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (2008), *Richard III* (2017), and *Qui a tué mon père (Who Killed My Father)* (2024).

Since 1999, Thomas Ostermeier has been a central force in shaping the company's artistic vision, becoming Artistic Director in 2009 and guiding the Schaubühne into its position as one of the world's most influential theatres.