

WiS Meeting Minutes for, August 12, 2023

Minutes; Erica

Attendees: Cindy, Cihan, Erica

Meeting time: 10 - 11:30

We began with a **Critique**: Cihan, who did not know we changed the theme of the next reading from Harvest to Bad Influence, shared a very short piece of only a few lines, he was beginning to develop for the Harvest theme. What he read was very atmospheric with some lovely images, which he said he'd like to develop further. Cindy had a question about some contradictions she heard and Erica asked about the time of year represented, as it seemed vague but maybe important. Cihan said he already had a story to represent the Bad Influence theme and that he would shorten to the required 10-12 minutes for the reading.

Erica decided that since it is her turn to do the prompt at the next meeting on September 16th and she may or may not be there (as she is going to U.S. from September 18th to October 23rd, might be going bonkers about preparing and by the way, will miss the Reading in October), that she would designate that Cindy would present a prompt. Then Barbara could do the prompt at the October meeting while Erica is in U.S. and Erica would do it in November.

Since Erica missed the last meeting, she'd like to be represented in the reading although she won't be there. She asked what the group might think of her finding two women to read her 1-page play, "The Downside of Teletherapy", since it is short, maybe theme related and might be easy to stage. A few days ago, she wrote to Susan Schwartz, who indicated on Facebook that she is "coming" to the reading, to ask if she'd be interested in being one of the two characters and sent her a copy of the play which is attached below, if anyone who has not already heard it, is interested to read it. Cindy also suggested that if Susan is going to be here, to ask her if she would be the moderator for the reading, as she has been truly sparkling at doing this in the past! Erica will follow up on these two issues and if Susan can't do the play, will ask two actresses from NEAT to do it. If she declines the moderator, someone else will have to ask around and follow up on this. Erica let y'all know when she hears back from her.

Erica also will follow up with Florian to remind him that he has said yes to providing music for the reading. When the dates for the rehearsals are established, someone else will need to contact him and let him know about the online one, or maybe send him a list of the names and topics of the pieces to be read.

Erica suggested a 1st idea for a theme for January: "Homecoming" and has since thought up some more: including "Ironclad Alibi" and "Lullaby" (or "Original Lullabies" (sic)) Certainly there will be many more to come from her and others...

Please be sure to ADD Cindy to the mailing list, as she did not receive the minutes from last month's meeting from Andrea.

For the **Prompt**, we each wrote a blurb (keeping it, at Cindy's suggestion, to ca.100 words) for the advertising of the next reading. at Dreigroschenthaeter on Friday, October 6th at 20:00, which was requested my Helen Pavel **asap!** We are sending these below, with the hope that others will either weigh in with new ones, or mold these into one blurb we can use!!! Cindy suggested we leave off our

names, but given that we were only 3 people in attendance, Erica believes you will all figure out who wrote what anyway! Please follow up and weigh in!!!

The meeting was adjourned at ca. 11:30.

Here are the blurbs:

#1

Who has influenced us in our lives? Our parents? Our teachers? Little boys chasing us around the playground peeing at us when we were four and many other formative or salient experiences we've had. These influences can be for good or bad and surely some have shaped who we are today. There's also the possibility that we have been a bad influence on others. Think about it. We, the Writers in Stuttgart were curious - some of us even intrigued, about this question. That's why the theme for our next reading on Friday, October 6th at 20Uhr is "Bad Influence". Come to Dreiroschentheater on that night and you'll hear what we've come up with!

#2

People leave their mark on us. Some change us for the better, and some turn out a downright bad influence. Be it our colleagues, classmates, closest friends or members of our family. Looking them in the eye we might discover things; Unpleasant, appalling, daring, captivating, riotous, and terrible things. That captivate, anger, excite and invigorate us. That have the potential to elevate or destroy us.

#3

Bad Influence. You? Them? It? Who is responsible? What does bad mean? Who is to decide? The future is now and so are it's influencers. They are just unequally distributed. Are they desirable? Are there lessons to be learned? Should we change course? Come join the Writers in Stuttgart at their next reading at the DREIGROSCHEN THEATER on Friday, 6. October, 2023 at 20:00 as they share an evening of vivid poems, untold stories, and wild narratives on this theme.

Erica's play "The Downside of Teletherapy"