

## PRESS RELEASE

### «Con Garbo nei Grigioni» with Hans Peter Litscher

#### Exhibition, guided tours & performances in Chur, Klosters and Samedan

What could have moved a breathtakingly beautiful Hollywood icon such as Great Garbo, basking in world-wide success, to put an abrupt end to her movie career at the age of 37, and henceforth spend her summers at the far end of the Prättigau valley in Graubünden? One of moviedom's great divas, Garbo was already a legend in her own lifetime, and an aura of mystery shrouds the «Swedish Sphinx» until our very days. Yet it is a fact that after abandoning her career in 1942, the «Divine» led a secluded, almost monastic life in Klosters. Staying in unassuming hotels at first, and in a rented apartment later, she spent her days taking extensive walks and practicing Yoga. Every now and then, she would pay a visit to the Engadin or to Chur. Come-back offers - from whomsoever - were rigorously rejected. She would not talk to journalists. Paparazzi kept stalking her trying to snap pictures of Garbo shopping at the local butchershop «Spiess» or hiking in the Prättigau and picking flowers from the alpine meadows. Spiced with assorted speculative innuendo, such pictures were then published by the gossip magazines - until Greta Garbo at last passed away on April 15th, 1990, at age 85.

That was it. Or was it?

Hans Peter Litscher, the Swiss director, author and organizer of exhibitions was intrigued precisely by the many blanks surrounding the mystery guest of Klosters. He embarked upon a quest to find the traces that Garbo left behind in Graubünden and to reassemble the mosaic of her life there, stone by stone. Litscher's works have been shown at international theater festivals (Spielzeit Europa, Wiener Festwochen), as well as in museums (Kunsthalle Schirn Frankfurt, Kunsthaus Zürich, Museum of Modern Art Vienna), and they prove him to be a gifted seeker, collector and creator of worlds generated by art.

Helped by the muse of memory, by the luck of accident and by Mathias Balzer, a dramatist and producer thoroughly familiar with the Graubünden terrain, Litscher's local research has yielded astonishing results. Together they found in Klosters the X-rays of Garbo's feet, the cane, shoes and cloths she wore in the swiss mountains and innumerable objects and kitchentools, Garbo used there at the end of her life.

Foremost among these treasures is the discovery of the estate of local shoe salesman and foot fetishist Chasper Cafilich (1947-1990). Mesmerized by Garbo's body language, which he sought to «decipher», he followed the diva's every step during her long visits here, staked her out and recorded her life in minutest detail. Shortly before his own death - by suicide on the anniversary of her death, for as yet unknown reasons - Cafilich had assembled a veritable Garbo-Mausoleum in his mobile home. This Prättigau «Taj Mahal» on wheels serves as the core of Hans Peter Litscher's Garbo-Production.

Classified ads placed in the local press have brought to light even more curious tidbits and anecdotes than could be believed: such as the Women's Group in Saas who several years ago had woven a gobelin - showing Adam and Eve leaving Paradise - from discarded clothes, using a dress which Greta Garbo had once donated to the wardrobe of the local theatre group as the centrepiece sun... she used in everyday life.

Based on this enormous accumulation of facts, historical photographs, stories, rumours, documents and devotional items, Hans Peter Litscher's performance of his «Con Garbo nei Grigioni» conjures up a multi-faceted, intoxicating Garbo-Panopticon. Oscillating imperceptibly between Musil's

«Wirklichkeitssinn» (sense of reality) and «Möglichkeitssinn» (sense of eventuality) , Litscher spins an artful yarn that subtly blurs the edges of truth in a mist of probability. Reality was never so fantastic, fantasy never so real.

Chasper Caflische's Mobile-Home & Deer Glass House can be seen January 14th – 29th, 2011, at the Theaterplatz in Chur. At several days, the artist will take 25 interested spectators along on the journey «Con Garbo nei Grigioni».

Installation and guided tours will move on to Klosters with site-specific modifications, before being shown at Chesa Planta in Samedan in August.

### **Chur**

Exhibition: Theaterplatz & Theater Chur January 14th – 29th 2011

open daily 17- 19 hours, entry free

Guides Tours (approximately 70 minutes): January 14th at 20 hours (opening night)

January 15th, 21st, 29th at 19 and 21 hours

Tickets: CHF 42/21 / Reservations: [www.theaterchur.ch](http://www.theaterchur.ch)

### **Klosters**

Exhibition : Promenade & Hotel Pardenn: March 12th – 20th 2011

Guides Tours (approximately 70 minutes): March 12./13./15./17./18. März 19.30 hours.

March 19th and 20th, at 16 hours. Tickets: CHF 30.-- / Reservations: [www.kulturschuppen.ch](http://www.kulturschuppen.ch)

### **Samedan**

Exhibition: Chesa Planta, Juli 31th - August 14th, 2011

Info: [www.chesaplanta.ch](http://www.chesaplanta.ch)

*An exhibition curated & presented by Hans Peter Litscher*

*Art Works by Joseph Beuys, Richard Serra, Jean Pierre Bertrand & Chasper Caflisch*

*«CHASPER CAFLISCH's GARBO MOBILE HOME & DEER-GLASS-HOUSE»*

*«GARBO AT THE FOOT OF THE MAGIC MOUNTAIN»*

*a silent film by Chasper Caflisch with live Alphorn-accompaniment by Johannes & Irene Zoja*

*Artistic collaborator and producer: Mathias Balzer, Wall of Sound-Remix : Andreas Bosshard, assisted by Chris Hunter, Foot painting: Coni Bardill, assistance: Duri Bischoff*

*Producer: Mathias Balzer©Produktion, Co-producers: Theater Chur, Kulturgesellschaft Klosters, Hotel Pardenn Klosters, Chesa Planta Samedan*

*Sponsors: Lotteriefonds/Amt für Kultur Kanton Graubünden, Fundaziun Caflisch, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Fondation Nestlé pour l'art, Anny Casty-Sprecher Stiftung, Graubündner Kantonalbank, Stiftung Dr. Valentin Malamoud, Stiftung Dr. M.O. Winterhalter, Stiftung Lienhard-Hunger.*