



Zürich, 16th of October 2013

Two weeks ago I attended the rehearsal of Bette Davis... "*Fasten Your Seatbelts!*" on a Saturday night at the Susan Batson Studio. While the crowds were heading through the streets outside to see the shows in one of the many Broadway-theaters around, I had the opportunity to watch Bettina Lohmeyer all by myself working with Susan Batson. I know Bettina from her many appearances on stage and television and even had the chance to spend time with her working on two stage productions in Berlin and Graz. It was the first time for me to meet Susan Batson, who is regarded with highest reputation in German theater.

As a dramaturg who works at the Zürich Schauspielhaus, I am responsible for the theater's artistic program and I am involved in the development of our stage productions. The more I thought of the ambitious plan to bring the life of Bette Davis on stage as a monologue, the more curious I was. What a brave choice to play one of the greatest icons of American show business.

As soon as the rehearsal started I realized how brilliant the idea was, to bring this life on stage, performed by Bettina. From the very beginning I felt the enormous power, will and sensibility of Bette Davis' character. Soon "the legend" disappeared and the humanity of a broken woman began to live.

It was fascinating to join the conversation between Bettina and Susan. The way they discussed details regarding the role couldn't have been more precise and always lend on true emotions and profound knowledge of Bette Davis' life.

It was a truly inspiring evening that gave me important cues for my theater work here in Europe. Sending my best wishes - or as we say here: TOI TOI TOI - to New York,

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