



## You are invited to a discussion session on Taboos in Children's Theatre

Imaginate event in partnership with Lung Ha's Theatre Company  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1700 – 1900, Stockbridge House, Edinburgh  
**Booking necessary – details of how to book included below.**

What makes suitable drama for children? Should children be entertained and challenged, or should a trip to the theatre be an escape from the pressures of every day life? Is it taboo to address the issue of death, suicide, mental health and family breakdown in theatre for children?

Imaginate is delighted to be working in partnership with Lung Ha's to welcome Suzanne Osten to present her views on Taboos in Children's Theatre at this discussion. Osten states: '*There are no taboos, only adults' ambiguous ways of trying to deal with things.*'

Suzanne will be joined by a panel including Andy Cannon, David Greig, Lu Kemp and Ann - Sofie Barany (psychoanalyst and dramaturg for *Medea's Children*) to discuss and debate this provocative topic.

Lung Ha's are presenting one of Suzanne's plays, ***Medea's Children*** at this years' Edinburgh Fringe Festival as part of the Made in Scotland showcase. ***Medea's Children***, is a landmark play in Swedish theatre - it is the story, told in a playful, humorous and challenging way, of a family who manage to go through divorce realising that life must go on. Written in 1975, the play explores Euripides' tale of betrayal, murder and infanticide from the point of view of the children. When the play was first performed it was considered scandalous in the way it brought children's everyday, sometimes difficult, lives and reality to the stage. It is now, however, one of Sweden's most successful plays and has gone on to play in countries throughout the world, and now in Scotland.

Suzanne is an award winning director and writer of theatre and film and Artistic Director of Unga Klara theatre company, Sweden, since 1975. ***Medea's Children*** is an international coproduction between inclusive theatre specialists Lung Ha's Theatre Company (Scotland) and the internationally renowned Unga Klara (Sweden).

***Pioneering, prolific and, above all, passionate about the importance of seeing things from the child's perspective – these are the qualities that define Suzanne Osten.***

Time Out London, 2006

### To book:

Free but ticketed, contact Jennifer Cummins at [imaginat.org.uk](mailto:Jennifer@imaginat.org.uk) to book a place, e-mail: [Jennifer@imaginat.org.uk](mailto:Jennifer@imaginat.org.uk) ; telephone: 0131 225 8050. ***Please book early as places are limited. Thank you***

### Ticket offer for *Medea's Children*:

Lung Ha's and Remarkable Arts are offering tickets for *Medea's Children* at the reduced rate of £5 for anyone attending this event. Further details about the performance included below.

Lung Ha's Theatre Company and Unga Klara present  
**MEDEA'S CHILDREN** by Suzanne Osten and Per Lysander

For ages 8+, children should be accompanied by an adult



**Medea's Children**, by Suzanne Osten and Per Lysander, is a landmark play in Swedish theatre - it is the story, told in a playful, humorous and challenging way, of a family who manage to go through divorce realising that life must go on. When the play was first performed in 1975 it was pioneering in the way it brought children's everyday, sometimes difficult, lives and reality to the stage. **Medea's Children** is an international coproduction between renowned inclusive theatre specialists Lung Ha's Theatre Company (Scotland) and the internationally renowned Unga Klara (Sweden).

*"I will tell you a fairy tale. Once upon a time there was a prince called Jason who fell terribly in love with a princess called Medea. So, she had two children..."*

In today's Sweden, where a third of children are living with divorced parents, **Medea's Children** is a classic; it re-visits the timeless Greek play, **MEDEA**, from the children's perspective.

**Lung Ha's Theatre Company** was established in 1984 and exists to provide and inspire opportunities for people with learning disabilities to become actively involved in the performing arts. In 2010 Lung Ha's Theatre Company was awarded, together with Grid Iron, the Critics Award for Theatre in Scotland award for Best Ensemble production for **Huxley's Lab**.

**Unga Klara** was formed in 1975 and explores what constitutes dramatic art from the approach that a young audience is entitled to the same high level of artistic quality as an adult audience. Based on the conviction that we can best express a positive outlook on life by speaking truthfully about its complexity, Unga Klara has tackled serious topics in a playful form, and combined the heavy with the light - the past 35 years of meetings, exploration, and purposeful effort have resulted in Unga Klara having a unique position nationally and internationally.

**Performance details:**

**Dates - August - 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 - 10.30am.**

**Running time 1 hour - no interval.**

**Venue** - Remarkable Arts, The Studio @ St. George's West, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh, EH2 4RT.

**Tickets** - £8 & £6, 0131 226 0000, [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com), and from August - [www.remarkable-arts.com](http://www.remarkable-arts.com), 0131 226 6522.

**Director** - Suzanne Osten (Unga Klara)

**Cast** - Mark Howie, Katrina Merrilees, Maria Oller, Stephan Tait, Nicola Tuxworth.

**Composer and Live Musician** - John Kielty

**Further information:** [www.lunghas.co.uk](http://www.lunghas.co.uk), [www.ungaklara.se](http://www.ungaklara.se)

**\*Medea's Children** is part of the *Made in Scotland* showcase - *Made in Scotland* is a curated showcase of high quality performance from Scotland at the world's biggest arts festival, made possible by support from the Scottish Government's Festivals Expo Fund. It is a partnership between the Festival Fringe Society, the federation of Scottish Theatre (FST) and Creative Scotland.  
[www.scottishtheatres.com/madeinscotland](http://www.scottishtheatres.com/madeinscotland).