

wexner center
for the arts

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Media contacts: Erik Pepple, 614 688-3261 or epepple@wexarts.org

Karen Simonian, 614 292-9923 or ksimonian@wexarts.org

FLEMISH INNOVATORS MAKE U.S. DEBUT WITH *ÜBUNG*

***BELGIAN THEATER GROUP VICTORIA REVEALS HOW KIDS
PRACTICE ACTING ALL GROWN UP***

“Of an incredibly fragile beauty...simply breathtaking.”—*Het Volkskrant* (Belgium)

Belgian theater ensemble **Victoria** makes its U.S. debut at the Wexner Center with four performances of the international hit *ÜBUNG (Practice)*, a provocative work that explores children’s passage into adulthood. *ÜBUNG*, which runs **April 7–10** as a black box show on Mershon Stage, offers an innovative exploration of the interaction between live actors and cinematic images, as the adolescent actors onstage mimic the action of adults onscreen. Victoria has earned worldwide plaudits for *ÜBUNG*, making this eagerly anticipated performance one of the highlights of the theater season.

ABOUT *ÜBUNG*

In writer/director Josse De Pauw’s *ÜBUNG* (“Practice”), young actors, ages 11 to 13, are seen in front of a black-and-white film that shows a group of adults having a sumptuous dinner party in a splendid villa. They drink to be able to talk to each other, and end up drinking too much and letting too many things slip in an embarrassing display of pettiness. Onstage, the children are dressed exactly like the adults in the film—color miniatures of the grownups on screen—as they skillfully yet guilelessly recite the adults’ lines and mimic the film’s sound effects. *ÜBUNG* artfully throws into high relief the way children practice how to become adults, holding a mirror up to the supposedly mature role models who show them the life that awaits them.

ÜBUNG opened at the Kunsten Festival des Arts in Brussels in May 2001. The production received the 2001 Dutch/Flemish Theatre Festival Prize for the best theater production in Flanders and the Netherlands.

Performed in Flemish, subtitled in English.

ABOUT VICTORIA

As one of the premier theater ensembles in Europe, Victoria has earned a reputation as a leading force in the realm of experimental theater. Based in Ghent and formed in 1991, Victoria works across many disciplines, from dance to visual arts to film, drawing from a pool of artists, young and old, Flemish and otherwise, all of whom contribute their ideas and various areas of expertise. Victoria is known for its novel approach to youth-centered themes, at times in collaboration with their hometown cohorts and Wexner Center favorites Les Ballets C. de la B.

For more information: <http://www.victoria.be>

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

In addition to organizing public presentations of contemporary work in the performing, media, and visual arts, the Wexner Center actively seeks to provide opportunities for interaction among visiting artists, students, faculty, and staff of The Ohio State University, and members of the community. These activities and associated discussions led by authorities in many fields offer our audiences a better understanding of the creative process and the work of artists engaged by the Wexner Center.

While on campus, members of the *üBUNG* creative team will meet with Ohio State theater students to discuss Victoria's company history and series of works dealing with the theme of coming of age. At this session, they will discuss in detail their experiences working with young actors and with dance company Les Ballets C. de la B., which is also based in Ghent and has collaborated with Victoria on previous projects.

EVENT SUPPORT

Victoria is presented by the Wexner Center with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2003–04 performing arts season is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Support for the theater season is provided by Altria Group, Inc.

Additional season support is provided by the Ohio Arts Council and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

CALENDAR INFORMATION: Victoria / üBUNG

Description: Belgian ensemble Victoria performs U.S. debut of *üBUNG (Practice)*, a provocative exploration of children's passage into adulthood. The show includes live actors, ages 11–13, performing in front of a film.

Dates and times: Wednesday–Saturday, April 7–10 / 8 pm

Location: Black box show on Mershon Stage (limited seating; audience and actors onstage); 1871 N. High St.

Tickets: \$16 general public; \$13 members; \$10 Ohio State students; \$5 High 5 tickets (High 5 tickets available in at least a day in advance of show at Wexner Center ticket office).

Ticket outlet: Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk, 614 292-3535 and Ticketmaster outlets, 614 431-3600.

Public information: 614 292-3535 and wexarts.org

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Digital images available upon request.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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