

L'Obrador d'estiu de la Sala Beckett:

an international meeting place for new playwriting

For the last six years, the **Sala Beckett/Obrador Internacional de Dramatúrgia** has been organising an annual international meeting of emerging dramatists from around the world. Under the name of **l'Obrador d'estiu**, in the second week of July it runs an intensive week-long programme formed by courses, seminars, staged readings and other activities based around contemporary drama, directed by some of the most important dramatists and theatre teachers working today.

Neil LaBute, Martin Crimp, Simon Stephens, Will Keen, Biljana Srbljanovic, Falk Richter, Lutz Hübner, José Sanchis Sinisterra, Enzo Cormann, Rafael Spregelburd, David Lescot or Ahmed Ghazali have been, among others, some of the teachers and tutors at previous events, in addition to Catalan playwrights Carles Batlle, Sergi Belbel, Jordi Casanovas, Pere Riera and Xavier Albertí.

The participation of emerging playwrights is backed by the recommendation of renowned theatres, organisations or cultural dissemination centres from all over the world, which not only put forward the playwrights' names but also help to fund participation. Among those who have cooperated on previous events, the Royal Court Theatre of London with the help of the British Council; the Festival Theatertreffen and Stückemarkt of Berlin, with the Goethe Institut of Barcelona; the SACD of France and the French Institute of Barcelona; the Galataperform theatre of Turkey; the CEAD of Quebec; the CED of Belgium; the Italian Institute of Culture of Barcelona; the Govern de les Illes Balears; the National Board of Culture of Uruguay and the Institut de les Lletres Catalanes.

The contact and the live exchange of experiences between participants, whether between pupils and their teachers or among the emerging authors themselves and other professionals visiting l'Obrador, have turned out to be a great stimulus for the birth of new ideas and new individual or collective projects of creation, and this is one of the aspects that most clearly justify the growth and consolidation of this project.

This year, l'Obrador d'Estiu continues at the **Institut del Teatre** in Barcelona. Its taking place at the same time as a new edition of the **Grec Festival de Barcelona** makes it possible for l'Obrador to be connected, more than ever before, with the fresh new visions and youngest sensitivities of European and international drama.

We sincerely hope that you find the program of workshops and activities of this sixth edition interesting.