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Premiere at the EGL: Ton und Kirschen put on *The Open Door*

<https://www.eldenburg-gymnasium.de/news/premiere-am-egl-ton-und-kirschen-zeigen-the-open-door/>

On 8 September 2023, the school children of the EGL experienced a special theatre performance. The traveling theatre company Ton und Kirschen made a guest appearance at the school for the third time and, in addition to its 30th stage anniversary, brought a premiere in tow. That was not put on until the evening, but the school community had been presented with a sneak preview, so to speak, at midday.

Ton und Kirschen show their usual versatility in their new piece *The Open Door* – every member of the international ensemble acts, sings and plays music, and the scenes are always rounded off by individual performances. The sequence of the scenes – after a kind of prologue from Shakespeare's *Macbeth* – is framed by the beginning and end of Franz Kafka's novel fragment *The Trial*: the portrayal of Josef K., who one morning realises that he has been arrested, oscillates between depressed incredulity and desperate humour towards the two representatives of an enigmatic jurisdiction who block his escape. Despite all the differences between the original texts of the piece, fateful doors form the leitmotif. For example, the door of an office where war refugees await a decision (based on a novella by Joseph Roth); the door of Bluebeard's room, which the duke's bride ultimately opens against his instructions (a puppet play inspired by Georg Trakl, Charles Perrault and Béla Bartók); the door to the panther's cage in the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, about which Rainer Maria Rilke wrote his famous poem; and the lid of a box secured with locks, the most important piece of stage equipment in an escape trick. At the end, Josef K. appears again, to whom, like the audience, the enigmatic parable from *The Trial* is presented – the door of the Law is in the spotlight, before which the "man from the country" spends decades and finally dies, without ever being admitted by the gatekeeper. Of course, a locked door cannot be the final image of a piece entitled *The Open Door*. And it certainly isn't.

Margarete Biereye, who, together with David Johnston, is the Artistic Director of the ensemble, emphasizes how updateable the subject matter is, particularly against the current backdrop of flight and expulsion. However, the motif of doors also necessarily includes the themes of accessibility and openness. She would like the title of the play to be thought of in particular in relation to working and living in a traveling theatre company: as a group, Ton und Kirschen also open every door.