



UNANZ Wellington is proud to support International Peace Day by bringing you...

# ***SOUL OF FIRE***

## ***She fought for Peace***

**A play about the 1st Female Nobel Peace Prize Laureate**

Bertha von Suttner – Monologue for Maxi Blaha by Susanne Wolf

Renowned Austrian pacifist, Bertha von Suttner is the central figure of "*Feuerseele – Sie kämpfte für den Frieden*", "*Soul of fire – She fought for peace*". The well known Austrian Actress Maxi Blaha portrays in deliberately and chronologically chosen chapters, contrasts and episodes, the main concerns of Bertha von Suttner. A passionate humanitarian engagements or dramatic love-affairs in later years, the heroine's life's vicissitudes are presented in a moving, yet humorous manner.

Suttner is a strong woman, who openly and directly struggles with her basic being. She reveals her visions, her feelings and her misery. She shows the ups and down of her struggle with life. She does so unsparingly honestly yet hopeful idealistically.

Susanne F Wolf's play indicates where Bertha's life and exogenous conditions harmonized or contradicted with her biography. Based upon scientific research, the play puts the important political, psychological and emotional aspects of Suttner's life into focus. Passages from Suttner's book and literary text are subtly mingled during the performance.

The musically accompanied "one woman play" in English is a stirring stocktaking of our times, showing that the great visions and ideals of Bertha von Suttner have remained unresolved to this day and age. The play is a theatrical endeavour to disseminate the ideas of the great humanist, to keep them alive.

Bertha von Suttner is the **first female Nobel Prize Laureate**. An avid pacifist, this remarkable woman was the figurehead of a world-wide peace movement. She relentlessly fought nationalist fanaticism, aggressive militarism, anti-Semitism and recognized the dangers of hate breeding. As a writer and lecturer, she inspired her friend and benefactor Alfred Nobel to create a Peace Prize. She was the first woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 for her most famous novel "Lay Down your Arms".

The debut performance of the play took place in the Austrian parliament. Over 50 performances took place all over Austria, in Paris, Istanbul, Oslo, Maribor, Bratislava, as well as in the US, Canada and Japan.

**Concept, Idea** - Maxi Blaha

**Play** - Susanne F. Wolf

**Actress** - Maxi Blaha

**Live-Music** - Georg Buxhofer

**Director** - Alexander Hauer

**Costumes** - Moana Stemberger

**Tuesday 22 September 2015**

**St Andrews on the Terrace (30 the Terrace)**

**12.15–1.30 pm**

**To be followed by a discussion - All Welcome - Entry by Gold Coin Donation**