



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Geneva, June 3, 2009

### ***Calvin Genève en flammes***

### **The unforgettable outdoor theater experience this summer!**

To close celebrations marking the 500th birthday of Calvin, the theater play *Calvin Genève en flammes* will take place from July 1st to the 26th in front of the Reformation Wall in the Promenade des Bastions. With a total of 23 performances and over 34,000 spectators expected, it promises to be the great outdoor event this summer in Geneva. Written by Michel Beretti, this original project for the general public, staged by Francois Rochaix, brings together 40 actors, singers, musicians and extras. The audience will discover Calvin and his life from a more intimate and human angle than in more traditional portrayals. In and around the outdoor stage, the Huguenot Village will come alive on performance days from 5pm. Crafts and costumes will be presented and various shops and booths will animate the village. There will be food and drink as well, including impressive wild boar roasting on the spit. Tickets are available at all CFF train stations and Manor stores, by phone on + 41 (0) 900 552 333 (CHF 1.-/min) and at [www.resaplus.ch](http://www.resaplus.ch). There are special rates for families (the recommended age for children is 10 years and over), students, seniors and groups. The show (captioned in English and German, lasting 1h45) takes place every evening (except Mondays) at 9pm. In case of rain the show will take place at the Théâtre du Léman.

#### **Over 34,000 spectators expected...**

Organized and conducted by the Association Jubilé Calvin09 with broad support from the Protestant Church of Geneva, the city and canton of Geneva as well as from private and public patrons, *Calvin Genève en flammes* is the culmination of celebrations marking the 500th birthday of Calvin. This open-air production for the general public will take place at the foot of the Reformation Wall (the monument erected to commemorate the 400th birthday of Calvin), in the lovely setting of the Promenade des Bastions, from July 1st to the 26th. Every evening (except Mondays), it will allow for 1,500 spectators to lose themselves for an hour and 45 minutes in an intimate and very original portrait of Calvin.

#### **A caustic portrait of Calvin...**

Written by Michel Beretti and staged by François Rochaix, *Calvin Genève en flammes* will offer to the public, both French-speaking and non-French-speaking (the show will be captioned in English and German), a new and exciting look into Calvin and life in Geneva in the 16th century. Presented as a veritable historical theater piece, it confronts existence, the beliefs, the dogmas, the cultures and the revolutions of the day. Above all and most importantly the piece brings new insights into Calvin's

relationship toward the citizens of Geneva, his wife and relatives, his enemies as well as himself. A true fresco of the man not often treated nicely in the history books, the show is not redemptive toward Calvin but is offered up as a rite of passage accessible to all (recommended for children from 10 years of age) in getting to know him better. With 40 actors, singers, musicians and extras, including Michael Kullmann in the role of Calvin, the piece is a mix of drama and song brought to life with sets by Jean-Claude Maret and original music by Guy Bovet.

### **The show must go on...**

Performances of *Calvin Genève en flammes* will take place rain or shine. In the event of rain or poor weather the organizers have provided for the show to take place at the Théâtre du Léman (formerly the Grand Casino, Hotel Kempinski). In the event of rain the change of venue will be announced the day of the performance from 5pm on the outdoor stage. This information will also be available on the RegioInfo telephone service (dial 1600 or from abroad +41 848 80 1600, then dial 81083 when the message begins) and on the web at [www.calvin09-geneve.ch](http://www.calvin09-geneve.ch). The reserved number of seats and seating categories will be assured.

### **Go back in time at the Huguenot village.... and the agora**

The Association Jubilé Calvin09 will offer a trip back in time with the Huguenot village constructed in and around the outdoor stage every day except Mondays, starting at 5pm. There will be presentations from the *Compagnie de 1602* and the *Fédération du costume genevois* in a convivial setting. The village will be complete with artisan stalls, a bookshop devoted to Calvin and the Reformation, games for the kids, a demonstration of the printing-press inspired by Gutenberg, as well as food and beverages including spectacular spit-roasted wild boar.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8pm the Huguenot village will be the setting for an agora: a gathering place to meet and discuss. With help from well-known mediators, current issues such as solidarity and humanitarian action, social justice and economic development, the passing on of values and religious freedom, cultural pluralism and cohabitation, the expansion of the city and the quality of life, will be presented and discussed. The complete program can be found on the web at [www.calvin09-geneve.ch](http://www.calvin09-geneve.ch).

### **The Box Office**

Ticket prices start at CHF 15.- (the reduced rate for students and children) and run to CHF 80.- (the full price for premium seats). Tickets are available at all CFF train stations and Manor stores as well as at La Praille shopping center, the UN cultural kiosk, the FK booth (Pfister Meubles Meyrin), on the web at [www.resaplus.ch](http://www.resaplus.ch) and by phone on + 41 (0) 900 552 333 (CHF 1.-/min.). The show is recommended for children 10 years and over. Special rates exist for families, students, seniors, 20ans/20 francs cardholders, as well as for groups of 10 or more. For group reservations please call: + 41 (0) 22 311 20 09.

**For further information, or to request interviews, stills, recordings, or to attend a rehearsal, please contact:**

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