

EXPOSÉ
ENGLISH Fact sheet

The Inevitable Hildegard

a new show by Friederike Becht & Rocky Duval

2023

von Bingen / Becht / Duval

1141





The Inevitable Hildegard

Hildegard von Bingen lived from 1098-1179 and was an extraordinary personality. Despite the difficulties of her time, she managed to go down in history as the first German Naturalist Scientist; was a writer, spiritual leader, and is today considered a pioneer of feminism and holistic healing.

Additionally, she is also an important figure in music history, having composed some of the first surviving Western musical manuscripts. Her musical works are currently enjoying a revival in the USA, Australia, and Japan.

Why do we want to present a show about Hildegard in 2023?

Hildegard von Bingen wrote on topics which are highly relevant to us in 2023. Our desire is to expand upon her ideas and bring them to the 21st century in a new way which connects to our current lives.

We have no intention of “playing” Hildegard on stage, nor reenacting her life in any way. That has been done.

What makes this show different is we want to enter into a dialogue with her, and in a light, uncomplicated and modern way, draw the line between Hildegard, us as performers, and the audience.



“Cultivate your life
where you find it”

-Hildegard von Bingen

We want to devote ourselves to the themes & issues of the 12th century, but also ours here in the 21st, such as:

- A return to the power of nature
- What it means to be a woman
- Spirituality and Belief - now and then

We ask questions like:

- What were Hildegard’s beliefs, within a Christian context and how did they differ from others of her time (and others throughout Christian history)?
- What do we believe? How does this differ if we go to church or not?

We explore topics like:

- How she was able, as a woman, to pave her own way as a scholar. In her time, women were oppressed highly, and yet through tenacity, courage, and divine strength she was able to go completely against the currents of the time.
 - How Hildegard’s holistic views towards the natural world give us valuable ideas for how to deal with today’s climate crises.
 - How we, as modern women, performers, scholars, and activists can be unconventional in our approach to research just like Hildegard and her nuns.
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**“In music, God left to humanity the
memory of a paradise lost”**



Where & when would we like to present this piece?

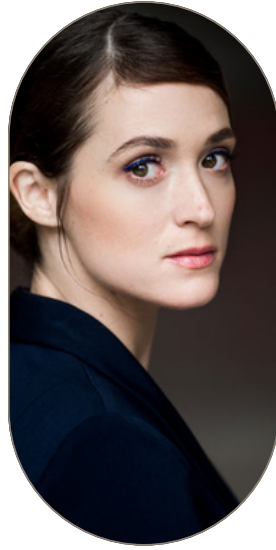
We would like to plan the performance in such a way that it needs very little stage design, and can be played well in **churches, libraries, music halls, theaters** (in Germany: independent theaters, but possibly also municipal theaters), **museums and universities** (in the USA: university tours through music and history departments).

Additionally, we would like to take this project on tour in Germany, and throughout the Northeast region of the USA.

We are planning our rehearsals from May-August 2023, with a German **premiere in summer 2023**.

Friederike Becht

is a German stage and film actor and will perform the works of Hildegard von Bingen, focusing especially on the letters of her time, and Hildegard's own explanations of her spiritual visions. Additionally, some she will perform free texts by Friederike, and poetry by Rocky will also be included. Becht is best known for her work in film, and won Best Actress in German TV in 2022.



Who are we?



Rocky Duval

is a highly trained opera singer and poet and will perform Hildegard's music in our performance. The music will begin in the style of the 1100s and then journey through time to the style of our present day. She will compose new interpretations of Hildegard's music based closely on her manuscripts and texts. Duval has won numerous singing awards, and performed globally.

What else?

Tech set-up:

- 1 additional musician will be required, ideally a Viola da Gamba player, to be sourced locally in the region we perform.
- A tech set-up where we can plug into the sound system will be necessary

Stage set up:

- We will use projections of images from Hildegard's time for this performance but have no other sets
- two music stands
- Three microphones
- 60-75 minutes

Booking:

- USA, Canada, UK: info@rockyduval.com
- Germany, Austria, Switzerland:

