

On the occasion of the 175th Anniversary of Bertha von Suttner

THE HOTEL DE JONG

A Drama



BERTHA VON SUTTNER (1843 -1914) was an influential lobbyist for peace and worked as a political journalist during this conference. She had become a leading figure in the international peace movement following the publication of her bestselling novel »Die Waffen nieder!« (Lay Down Your Arms) in 1889. The book was translated into 16 languages and made her famous the world over. In 1905 she became the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Many years before, she had been Alfred Nobel's secretary in Paris for a short period. Their lasting friendship resulted in the creation of his important legacy for the peace movement. A friend of William T. Stead, she was a collaborator on his daily newspaper, the *Courier de la Conference de la Paix*. She died just one week before the shots in Sarajevo, leading to the Great War.

WILLIAM T. STEAD (1849-1912) was a leading British newspaper and journal editor who is regarded as a pioneer of modern journalism. A social reformer, he opposed –like Bertha von Suttner– war, and promoted international arbitration of disputes between states. During the First (1899) and Second Hague Peace Conferences (1907) he issued a daily newspaper which chronicled the debates in great detail. In July 1907 he organised several public meetings where the Korean delegation of three diplomats –that had secretly been sent from a country increasingly under Japanese occupation– could air their grievances about the non-admittance of Korea to the conference. Stead published extensive reports in several issues of the *Courier de la Conference de la Paix*. He died on the Titanic, on his way to a peace conference in New York.

YI JUN (1859-1907) was born in Book-Chung, in the north of Korea. A highly regarded legal scholar and educator, he became a public prosecutor and was also president of the Korean Red Cross. He was a member of the Independence club and played a leading role in protesting the 1905 »Ulsa Agreement« that Japan had forced Korea to sign under duress. Dedicated to protect his country's freedom and independence, Yi Jun was involved in resistance societies. In 1907 the Korean Emperor secretly ordered Yi Jun and two other diplomats to travel to The Hague. It was a desperate attempt to convince the international community to help reverse the illegal treaty of 1905 that had resulted in the Japanese subjugation of Korea (which was to last until the defeat of Japan in World War II in 1945).

On the occasion of the **175TH BIRTHDAY** of Bertha von Suttner, Petra Keppler and Peter van den Dungen from the Bertha von Suttner Peace Institute in The Hague inspired 7MRP, an English-speaking amateur theatre group in the city, to the production of the Drama »The Hotel de Jong«, about Korean Diplomat Yi Jun who tragically died in the Hague during the Second Hague Peace Conference in 1907.

7MRP is a non-profit theatre group that writes and produces only original scripts and aims at promoting acting and theatre experiences in the English language.

The Drama **THE HOTEL DE JONG** tells the story of one of the three Korean emissaries, Yi Jun and his increasing desperation in his hotel room in Wagenstraat 124 in The Hague, when it became obvious that the mission was a lost cause. Since 1995, the former »Hotel de Jong« became the Yi Jun Peace Museum, with impressive exhibits remembering the Peace Hero. Both North and South Korea commemorate and honour Yi Jun with films and monuments. During his visit to The Hague in August 2013, UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon visited the tomb of Yi Jun at the Cemetery Oud Eijk en Duine.

PRODUCTION

DIRECTOR:.....D. Roskey / R. Walters
PRODUCER:.....M. Pasquini
SET:.....M. Pasquini, M. D'Anna
VISUALS:.....Bertha von Suttner Peace Institute
IDEA:.....Petra Keppler
RESEARCH & TRANSLATION:.....J. Park, S. Kim

CAST

PLAYER 1 / YI JUN:.....Richard Walters
PLAYER 2:.....Luca Tschabold
WILLIAM T. STEAD:.....Alexandre Couquet
BERTHA VON SUTTNER:.....Angelica Reitsma
REPORTER:.....Dana Roskey

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