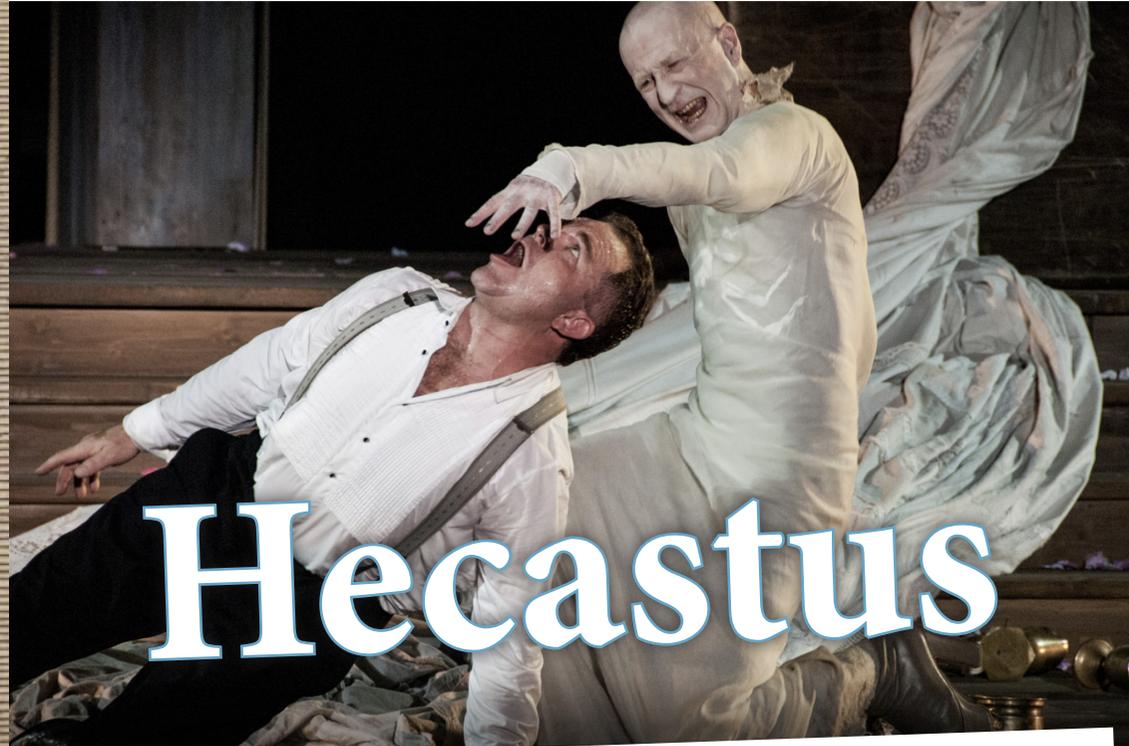


“Therefore, what do strength or riches, pleasures or honours profit us after death, when we shall be deprived of all these things?”

– Georgius Macropedius, *Hecastus* (1539)



Hecastus



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The Hecastus (‘Everyman’) is a sixteenth-century play with a general human and timeless theme: What matters in life? It was the most performed play of the time.

WE ASK YOUR HELP TO GET IT STAGED ALL OVER EUROPE ONCE AGAIN!

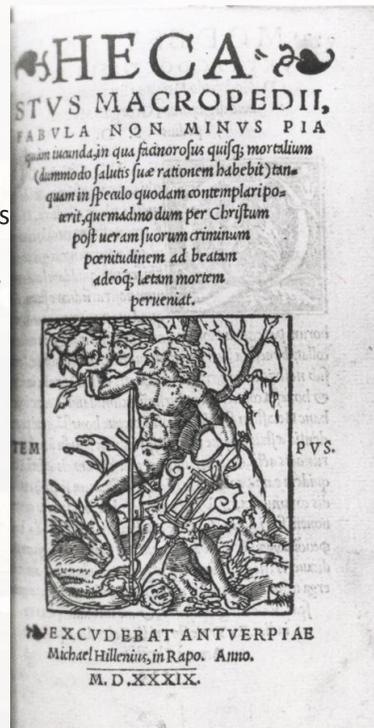
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF A EUROPE-WIDE VOLUNTEER THEATRE PROJECT?

WHAT IS HECASTUS ABOUT?

What is life actually about? This is the theme of **Hecastus** (1539) by the Dutch playwright Georgius Macropedius (1487-1558). The protagonist Hecastus is a rich young man who enjoys life with his many friends. When he hears that he has to die, no one wants to accompany him on his last journey. This forces him to reflect on what really matters in life. The protagonist is named Hecastus, Greek for 'everyman', because at a certain time every one of us must ask himself this important question. The play goes back to the fifteenth-century Dutch morality play **Elckerlyc** (which also means 'everyman'). In the Latin adaptation by Macropedius it became the most successful play of the time. Even today the universal theme and Macropedius' rich yet straightforward style still appeal to us.

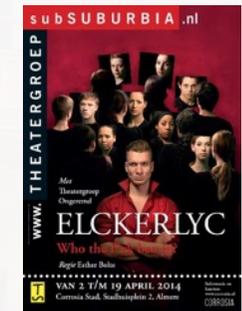
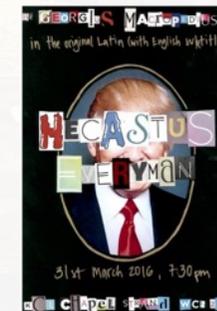
WHY THIS PROJECT?

The **Hecastus Theatre Project** is part of TransLatin, a research project of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. The TransLatin project investigates the interaction between Latin plays written by Dutch playwrights from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century and plays written in local languages across Europe. One of the expected outcomes is that this interaction was considerable and that European drama was more cosmopolitan than assumed so far. The aim of the Hecastus Theatre Project is to re-enact this transnational web of plays by having one of the most performed and translated plays of the sixteenth century, Macropedius' **Hecastus**, staged throughout Europe at the same time.



WHAT DO WE ASK FROM YOU?

We are looking for theater groups and directors who want to perform the **Hecastus** in the Spring of 2023. As a basis we would provide you with an English or German translation of the original Latin text, but you are free to translate it into your national language and give your own interpretation to the plot, the text and the staging. The play lends itself to a modern interpretation of the text: How would we today answer the question of what matters in life? It can also be adapted to a modern setting in terms of acting style and design. But you may of course follow the original (translated) text closely and use historical costumes. Our aim is to celebrate Macropedius as a great playwright and to show that the universal theme of his **Hecastus** can still inspire people throughout Europe today. And we of course hope that it will be as successful as it was in the sixteenth century!



WHAT CAN WE OFFER?

When you decide to participate, you become part of a European network of drama groups and directors. We can help you with ideas for raising funds locally and with recommendations; unfortunately we cannot help financially. We will conclude the project with a joint publication showcasing all productions.

For more information about the TransLatin project or for background information about the **Hecastus** and translations of the play, visit: translatin.nl/hecastus-theatre-project. Or contact dr. Robin Buning: robin.buning@huygens.knaw.nl.