



Press Release

Berlin, 15 June 2015

TANZ IM AUGUST – 27th International Festival Berlin

presented by HAU Hebbel am Ufer

13 August – 4 September 2015

Advance booking for all productions starts on 15 June 2015

Capital Cultural Fund considerably increases the Tanz im August budget. Artistic director Virve Sutinen introduces the programme of this year's festival.

The international festival Tanz im August is delighted by the news that ensuing from a positive development in the financial contribution to the event by the city of Berlin, the Capital Cultural Fund (Hauptstadtkulturfond – HKF) is prepared to top up the festival's budget from its long-term funding programme. In 2016 and 2017 HAU Hebbel am Ufer, as the presenter of Tanz im August, will receive an increase of 200,000 euros, a total of 600,000 euros per year, as Annemie Vanackere, artistic and managing director of HAU Hebbel am Ufer announced during a press conference on Tanz im August on 15 June.

With this decision the joint committee of the CCF has made a clear commitment to the festival Tanz im August, and we are delighted by this. The increase in funds gives us more planning security, and is the basis for an active involvement of the festival as a producer of new works. The funding makes possible a varied programme that can incorporate both big guest performances and premieres alongside smaller productions by younger choreographers. This strengthening of the successfully long-standing festival will extend its international reputation and reinforce the attraction of Berlin as a centre of the performing arts and dance,

said Vanackere, who expressly thanked the members of the committee, Michael Müller, the governing mayor of Berlin, Prof. Monika Grütters, commissioner of the Federal Government for culture and media, Tim Renner, Berlin state secretary of cultural affairs, Günter Winands, ministerial director and Dr Joachim Sartorius, curator of the CCF.

Tanz im August 2015

In 2015 Tanz im August is placing more emphasis on first performances and co-productions. Particular attention is given to the relationship between visual art and dance, the development of the Asian dance scene and the realisation of new projects by Berlin artists. Tanz im August is devoting a multi-part retrospective to the British choreographer and artist Rosemary Butcher.

The 27th International Festival, which begins on 13 August 2015, contains numerous highlights: a total of 18 productions and a retrospective, around 60 performances by the newcomers and stars of contemporary dance from over 20 countries in eight venues throughout Berlin.

The programme of this edition of Tanz im August once again shows its artistic director Virve Sutinen's deep understanding of the possibilities and current relevance of contemporary dance. We are extremely glad to have been able to retain Virve Sutinen's services as festival director for two more years until 2017, and thus to have the opportunity of continuing to develop Tanz im August in both content and structure,

said Annemie Vanackere. According to Virve Sutinen, dance is increasingly revealing itself as an art form that can be developed free from all predefinitions and conventions.

Tanz im August is not a 'thematic' festival, yet it takes up a great many questions. The works presented speak for themselves, and it is my conviction that art can untangle complicated realities and thus give the unknown a form and a voice. Art, and dance in particular, enables us to look at the world with new eyes, and to feel, see and experience something for which we do not yet have the concepts.

said Virve Sutinen.

Programme

Tanz im August opens on 13 August with an exhibition on a stage, a performance in a gallery space, a 24-hour event and an architectural installation in a theatre. For the opening weekend HAU1 is the setting for two experimental artistic formats: the stage premiere of the Haubrok Collection and 24h DURCHEINANDER, by deufert&plischke. On the opening evening the Haus der Berliner Festspiele hosts the European premiere of the outstanding artistic co-production Available Light, by Lucinda Childs, John Adams and Frank O. Gehry – co-produced among others with the Sommerfestival Kampnagel, Hamburg. The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles opened its exhibition space with Available Light in 1983 – then a radical gesture of blurring the boundaries between disciplines.

Rosemary Butcher, to whom Tanz im August is devoting a retrospective, has also worked for a long time at the interface of performing and visual art. The British choreographer, artist and 'icon of new dance' is visiting Tanz im August for the first time, bringing four works and an exhibition of her archive project Memory in the Present Tense. Like the exhibition, the video installation Secrets of the Open Sea, created in 2014, and the performance The Test Pieces circle around the question of memory and its relationship to the present and future.

The Asian positions are introduced on the first weekend by the Filipina Eisa Jocson. In this year's programme the large companies TAO Dance Theatre and the Korea National Contemporary Dance Company, under its director Ahn Aesoon, stand in relation to artists from the Asian independent dance scene, such as Company SIGA or Geumhyung Jeong. The current state of Asian contemporary dance is documented by Choy Ka Fai in the German premiere of SoftMachine, the multi-media archive and performance cycle he has been developing since 2012, conducting 86 interviews up to now with dance-makers from China, India, Indonesia, Japan and Singapore.

Choy Ka Fay lives and works in Berlin, as does Isabel Lewis, who contributes to the festival with three so-called Occasions, events between performance, philosophical salon and party. The Berlin-based and internationally active Adam Linder and Constanza Macras / DorkyPark each show first performances. In HAU1 Adam Lindner presents a hybrid form of movement, language and sound effects influenced by dance styles like Gliding, Waving or the Paddy Cake. In The Ghosts Constanza Macras gives 'discarded' Chinese athletes and circus acrobats a new visibility, as representatives of the shadow side of life in today's People's Republic.

In the festival's second week Marie Chouinard shows two works to mark her company's 25th anniversary: for HENRI MICHAUX : MOUVEMENTS Chouinard used a book by the Belgian surrealist as a choreographic score. Page by page she transforms the mescaline-induced watercolours and ink drawings of Michaux's 15-page poem into dance. Soft virtuosity, still humid, on the edge is her latest piece.

Audience favourite in 2014, Marcos Morau's company La Veronal, from Barcelona, makes a welcome return this year with the German premiere of Voronia, co-produced by Tanz im August. From the Rhenish dance scene, rarely seen in Berlin, MOUVOIR/Stephanie Thiersch presents the first performance of her second collaboration with the Asasello Quartet and DJ Elephan Power. The work of the Finnish choreographer Elina Pirinen can be seen in Berlin for the first time. The choreographers Antony Hamilton and Alisdair Macindoe, from Australia, and the Cie Gilles Jobin are accompanied by machines. Jobin spent three months at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research in Geneva, where he was introduced to the mysteries of particle physics for his work Quantum.

The audience is also invited to take part in a series of meetings and discussions: Physical

Introductions, Dance Circles and Meeting of Minds are offered as open formats, as is the new forum Meet the Artist.

The complete programme is online at: www.tanzimaugust.de

Venues

TANZ IM AUGUST takes place at well-known theatres throughout Berlin: HAU Hebbel am Ufer (HAU1 and HAU3), Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, Haus der Berliner Festspiele, Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz, Sophiensaelen, RADIALSYSTEM V and the Akademie der Künste (Hanseatenweg).

Tickets and Accreditation

Tickets and further information are available as of now – at www.tanzimaugust.de or at the box office of HAU Hebbel am Ufer (temporarily in HAU1 because of rebuilding):

Stresemannstraße 29, 10963 Berlin

Until 31.7, Monday to Saturday 3–7 p.m. From 1.8, daily 12 a.m.–7 p.m.

On days without performances, 3–7 p.m.

Closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Tel. +49 (0)30.259004 -27

Visual material can be downloaded free under Press at www.tanzimaugust.de.

Press accreditation for all productions starts today. Please use the form in the press section of the website.

Press Contact:

Hendrik von Boxberg

Tanz im August

T + 49 30 58901296

M + 49 177 7379207

presse@tanzimaugust.de, presse@von-boxberg.de

www.tanzimaugust.de

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