OPEN CALL

INTRODUCING BERLIN - Newcomer Performing Arts Festival I 11–14 May 2027 I Berlin

Performing Arts Is My First Love <3

We're looking for you! Are you an emerging artist or part of a new collective in the independent arts scene? Do you see yourself as a newcomer, are you just starting out on your professional artistic career, and is Berlin the centre of your work? If you have a finished project just waiting to be on the stage (again), then apply to us by **15 December 2026**!

INTRODUCING BERLIN IS BACK! Experimental, critical, surprising, interdisciplinary – INTRODUCING BERLIN is a cross-venue showcase for new artistic positions in Berlin's independent performing arts scene. The showcase will take place from 11-14.05.2027 at four venues: Ballhaus Ost, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Sophiensæle and TD Berlin. We are seeking a diverse range of artistic positions and fresh creative impulses. The festival provides artists with opportunities for networking and consultation, and supports them in entering Berlin's independent performing arts scene. Furthermore, it gives them the chance to present their projects to (professional) audiences and make new connections within the scene.

Apply now! Sounds like your thing? Then apply via our website.
You can find FAQs with all the important answers to your questions here.
Application deadline: 15 December 2026
Further information is available on our website.

Contact
Do you have any questions? If so, join us for the online information session on 30.11.2026 at 17.00 (registration required by 30.11.2026) or get in touch with us at:
info@introducing-berlin.de

INTRODUCING BERLIN 2027 is a performing arts showcase for New Positionen, organised by Ballhaus Ost, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, LAFT Berlin – Berlin State Association for the Independent Performing Arts e.V, Sophiensæle and TD Berlin. INTRODUCING BERLIN 2027 is funded by Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion using funds from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), 'Strengthening Innovation Potential in Culture III (INP III)'.

FAQ

Who can apply for INTRODUCING BERLIN 2027? Applications are open to individuals and groups, graduates and those transitioning into performing arts, who work in the field of independent performing arts and are at the start of their professional careers. The artists', groups' and collectives' main base must be in Berlin; this should be clearly stated on the **application form**. Applicants may have received funding for a maximum of one publicly funded production. Residency grants and scholarships are excluded from this limit. Participation in publicly funded productions under the artistic direction of others – for example, as a performer or dramaturg – does not count towards this limit.

With what can I apply? Artists, groups and collectives can apply with productions from the field of the independent performing arts that premiered between 01.01.2025 and 15.12.2026 and have been video documented. The production does not necessarily have to be stage-based. It is equally possible to submit works developed for specific public spaces in Berlin, such as audio walks, artistic strolls or digital projects. We recommend applying with works that are technically and organisationally straightforward, as set-up times and budgets are limited. The number of people involved in the production, both on stage and behind the scenes, should generally not exceed five.

How can I apply? Applications submitted in the correct format via the application form by 15.12.2026 will be considered. The application comprises the fully completed online application form, a technical rider or a simple, complete textual description of the technical requirements as a PDF file, including information on

a. Stage (dimensions, props on stage, estimated set-up/dismantling time)
b. Technical requirements (video, sound (pre-recorded clips, sound, microphones, etc.)
c. Lighting (including estimated number of lighting scenes)
d. Special effects (fog, etc.)
e. Trigger warnings
f. Other (necessary permits, fire-hazardous activities, animals/children on stage, etc.)

You can find information on how to write a tech rider here.
In addition, a brief letter of recommendation from a Berlin-based artist, colleague, instructor, or production company is required (PDF). If any members of the production team have barrier-free requirements, an Access Rider must be included (PDF).

What does INTRODUCING BERLIN offer? In collaboration with the venues Ballhaus Ost, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Sophiensæle and TD Berlin, the showcase offers artists, groups and collectives the opportunity to present their own productions to a (professional) audience as part of the festival. Furthermore, INTRODUCING BERLIN sees itself as a platform for networking and exchange between participants and other artists, venues, mentors and

industry professionals. That is why we invite the ‘Introducers’ to take part in additional workshops, feedback sessions, networking events and consultations covering a range of topics.

How often will my production be performed? Each production is usually performed twice, although this may vary depending on the production format. It is our wish that all artists selected for INTRODUCING BERLIN, in addition to performing their own production, take part in the accompanying events on offer during the festival period from 11 to 14 May 2027, and they are invited to attend further performances.

What costs are covered? INTRODUCING BERLIN pays each participant a performer's fee for performances and rehearsal days. The current plan provides for at least two rehearsal days at 250 euros per person each, as well as two performances with an evening fee of 360 euros per person, and a flat-rate organisational fee of 500 euros per production, based on the BFDK’s recommended fees. There are no provisions for covering any further costs, including travel and accommodation expenses. The partner venues will also cover the costs of the venue, basic technical support and evening staff during the performances. Access costs for artists will be covered where possible. In this case, please attach an access rider to your application.

Who makes the selection? Applications will be reviewed and the final selection made in January 2026 by representatives of the partner venues and at least one member of the festival team. The decisions will be announced in March 2027.

Who is organising the festival? INTRODUCING BERLIN 2027 is a performing arts showcase for new positions, organised by Ballhaus Ost, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, LAFT Berlin – Berlin State Association for the Independent Performing Arts e.V, Sophiensæle and TD Berlin. INTRODUCING BERLIN 2027 is funded by Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion using funds from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), ‘Strengthening Innovation Potential in Culture III (INP III)’.

Can I ask any further questions before the submission date? The applications must be submitted latest on 15 December 2026. Prior to this, an online information session will be held on 30.11.2026 at 17:00 for anyone interested. You can register or ask us any questions via info@introducing-berlin.de until 30 November 2026.