



Tanz im August  
Internationales Festival Berlin  
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Press Release  
15 May 2020

TANZ IM AUGUST – 32<sup>nd</sup> International Festival Berlin  
presented by HAU Hebbel am Ufer

The stage programme of the 32<sup>nd</sup> edition of the international festival Tanz im August, presented by HAU Hebbel am Ufer, will not take place in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the nationwide ban on mass events until August 31 and the closure of Berlin stages until the end of July, international travel restrictions as well as limited production and rehearsal opportunities, artistic and managing director of HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Annemie Vanackere, and the artistic director of the festival, Virve Sutinen, together with the Senate Department for Culture and Europe and the Capital Cultural Fund have taken the decision to cancel this year's live performances.

The Tanz im August festival team is currently developing a *Special Edition 2020*, with an alternative digital programme. In collaboration with artists, international festivals and partners it will present a rich variety of works by contemporary dance artists from all over the world. The *Magazin im August* will be published both in print and online with interviews, articles and artist portraits. Further information about the Special Edition 2020 will follow in June.

Every summer Tanz im August shapes the contemporary dance scene in Germany, with around 70 performances at 11 venues across Berlin, more than 160 invited artists from various countries, approximately 20.000 visitors and numerous world and German premieres.

At the time of the COVID-19 restrictions beginning in mid-March 2020 – shortly before the programme was finalised – the following artists and companies were invited for the 2020 festival edition:

Boris Charmatz, Faye Driscoll, William Forsythe, Clara Furey, Israel Galván & Niño de Elche, Thiago Granato, Geumhyung Jeong, Milla Koistinen, Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, Louise Lecavalier / Fou Glorieux, Dana Michel, La Veronal, Lea Moro, MOUVOIR / Stephanie Thiersch, Naïf Production / Sylvain Bouillet & Lucien Reynès, Robyn Orlin / Moving Into Dance Mophatong, Ayelen Parolin / RUDA asbl, PME-ART / Jacob Wren, and Arkadi Zaidas.

Annemie Vanackere, Artistic and Managing Director HAU Hebbel am Ufer: „In view of the current situation, cancelling the live performance programme of Tanz im August is a deeply sad but unavoidable decision, which allows us to concentrate on developing alternative formats. In close consultation with our festival funders we focus now on giving the artists perspectives for the future and, above all, adequately compensate the work which they have already done.



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The current situation is threatening the existence of international artists and partners in particular. This requires solidarity which does not stop at national borders.“

Virve Sutinen, Artistic Director Tanz im August: „With regret we are announcing the cancellation of the live performances of Tanz im August 2020. Under the present circumstances, it is impossible to realise an international programme, which lives from its live atmosphere, transcultural exchange and the encounters between audience and artists. We are convinced that the performing arts, with live happenings and physical presence, have a crucial part to play in re-building trust and re-opening societies.

We are actively participating in policy discussions in international networks in order to re-think and secure continuing international collaboration and exchange in the future. Contemporary dance is hit hard by this crisis as most festivals and seasons are cancelled until the end of the year. This is why we will continue discussions with other international festivals and partners to find ways of supporting artists to mitigate the severe personal and economic impacts of the corona pandemic.“

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