



Tanz im August
Internationales Festival Berlin
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Press Release

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TANZ IM AUGUST – SPECIAL EDITION 2020 Online & Outdoor

32nd International Festival, Berlin

Presented by HAU Hebbel am Ufer

The 32nd annual international festival Tanz im August 2020, presented by HAU Hebbel am Ufer, will open on Friday evening, 21 August, 2020 at 7:30 pm with words of welcome from Berlin's Senator for Culture and Europe Klaus Lederer, Artistic and Managing Director of HAU Hebbel am Ufer Annemie Vanackere and Artistic Director of Tanz im August Virve Sutinen. First guests at the HAU2 studio will be Ole Frahm from the performance collective LIGNA and performer, poet and curator Jaamil Olawale Kosoko. From 21–30 August, various voices from the contemporary international dance world will come together online, at HAU Hebbel am Ufer, and in Berlin's urban space.

With artistic productions especially for the digital sphere, livestreams of talks with international guests, and outdoor performances, the **opening weekend** already offers the entire spectrum of the Special Edition 2020, adapted to the conditions of the coronavirus pandemic. All online productions will be available for free on the Tanz im August website and on YouTube, tickets for the outdoor events are already available in the presale. A special aspect of this year's festival will be the daily, limited access **public screening** next to the **Bibliothek im August** at HAU2, where the audience can meet safely distanced and experience and discuss the online programme in person.

To kick off the festival, works by the Hamburg company LIGNA and American choreographer William Forsythe that make the participation and involvement of the audience an artistic principle can be experienced in **urban space**. Responding to the international restrictions on travel, LIGNA has invited thirteen choreographers from all over the world to their international radio ballet "Dissemination everywhere!". At Uferstudios and in a car park across from HAU Hebbel am Ufer, the audience will be able to follow a choreography that explores experiences of vulnerability and solidarity via headphones "at a distance but in solidarity." On 30 August, the radio ballet will take place simultaneously at Zürcher Theater Spektakel and Theaterfestival Basel. Starting on 21 August and continuing throughout the festival, "UNTITLED INSTRUCTIONAL SERIES (2020)" by William Forsythe invites passersby to try out a range of physical movements with brief choreographical instructions on signs distributed throughout the city.

The **online programme** of Tanz im August begins on Friday evening 21 August at 9 pm (just after the opening ceremony at 7.30 p.m.) with a 12 minute long documentary film "After



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'WEG'. Memories of a Creation" in which the Argentine choreographer Ayelen Parolin looks back on the work process leading up to her group piece WEG. This will be followed by an artist talk with Ayelen Parolin and physicist Pierre Dauby.

One of the digital highlights in 2020, taking place on Sunday, 23 August at 6 pm (Welcome starting at 5.30 p.m.), will be the interactive performance "American Chameleon: The Living Installments (2.0)" by Jaamil Olawale Kosoko on the gaming and chat app Discord and via livestream. Taking the live performance "Chameleon: A Biomythography" as a point of departure, Kosoko and his team will design a virtual venue of encounter in which Black voices feel comfortable thinking and speaking out loud. The three-hour event on the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition will include conversations, a healing session, and the world premiere of Kosoko's film "Chameleon (A Visual Album)." More information on participation and how to use Discord can be found on the Tanz im August website.

With "1000 Scores. Pieces for Here, Now & Later", Tanz im August is coproducing an online platform, initiated by Helgard Haug, David Helbich und Cornelius Puschke, for scores by various commissioned artists. Tanz im August has invited the artists Chiara Bersani, Maija Hirvanen, Victoria Hunt, Choy Ka Fai, and Kettly Noël to submit contributions which will be published successively as of 21 August at www.1000scores.com.

A thematic focus of Tanz im August 2020 lies on international exchange and future forms of collaboration in the performing arts under the conditions presented by the pandemic. Together with Zürcher Theater Spektakel, Tanz im August will be organising a public **digital conference** from 27–29 August with the title "How to Be Together? Conversations about International Exchange and Collaboration in the Performing Arts." This three-day programme will enable a transcontinental dialogue between touring artists, art organisers, and cultural politicians (active participation in the Zoom webinar is possible with prior registration).

Held on four evenings of the festival, the new conversational format **Happy to Listen** will seek to lend a voice to marginalised and (under)represented voices. On Saturday 22 August at 8:30 pm, Victoria Hunt and Emily Johnson will meet to discuss indigenous perspectives on art and activism. Further talks in this series take place on August 25, 27 and 29, with contributions by Neve Mazique, Kim Simpson and Noa Winter; Shayla Lawson, Arlette-Louise Ndakoze and Zahy Guajajara, Princesa Ricardo Marinelli and Alice Ripoll. Happy to Listen wird live aus dem HAU2 gestreamt. Happy to Listen will be streamed live from HAU2.

The **Magazin im August**, with interviews, articles, and portraits, is being published both in print and digitally as a special edition this year. Here you can find not only articles on the current festival, but also contributions from artists who had been invited to Tanz im August before the coronavirus restrictions were implemented and whose subjects and artistic works would have been central to the planned stage programme.

Each year, all festival artists are asked to select three books that are important for their work and their way of thinking. Over the past years, this has resulted in a collection of over 500 books which is being made accessible to the public during the festival at the **Bibliothek im August**. The library is located in the former restaurant and café WAU this year and is open every day in August from 4 to 10 pm; snacks and coffee are also available. An overview of the entire library holdings is available for the public for the first time this year at the Tanz im August website.



Journalists can request accreditation for the events of LIGNA and for the public screening. Please note that attendance at the public screening is limited and that there will be no evening box office. **Images** are available at our website under "Press."

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