



Tanz im August
Internationales Festival Berlin
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Press Release

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TANZ IM AUGUST – 33rd International Festival Berlin

Presented by HAU Hebbel am Ufer

6–22 August 2021

Advance booking for all productions open now at www.tanzimaugust.de

Tanz im August introduces its programme for 2021

Following its absence from the stage due to coronavirus, the international festival Tanz im August, presented by HAU Hebbel am Ufer, is back from 6–22 August with numerous artistic productions by choreographers from very different generations. A total of 6 world premieres and 7 German premieres will be shown at 10 different locations throughout Berlin. Four outdoor spaces enable larger audiences despite possible pandemic restrictions, and the imposing MaHalla, a historical industrial building in Berlin-Oberschöneweide, is a new Tanz im August venue.

At the centre of this year's festival, which has been curated since 2014 by the Finn Virve Sutinen, are works by international choreographers who live and work in Berlin, including Constanza Macras | DorkyPark, Choy Ka Fai, Milla Koistinen, Lea Moro, Thiago Granato and James Batchelor. Along with the immersive exhibition *CosmicWander: Expedition*, at the KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art, Choy Ka Fai is giving the world premiere of his new work, *Postcolonial Spirits*. Another highpoint of the festival is the performance of *ARCHIPELAGO – A Spectacle of Blending*, a cross-genre collaboration between the choreographer Stephanie Thiersch, the composer Brigitta Muntendorf and the architect Sou Fujimoto.

The festival opens on 6 August with the German premiers of *WEG*, by the Argentinian choreographer Ayelen Parolin in HAU1. Berlin's senator for culture and Europe, Klaus Lederer, will give the opening address in the second part of the evening before the world premiere of *Underdogs*, by Anne Nguyen / par Terre Dance Company, at the open-air Freilichtbühne Weißensee. Until 22 August more than 100 artists from 20 countries will present a total of 14 productions and other artistic formats in around 70 performances.

Annemie Vanackere, artistic director of HAU Hebbel am Ufer: *"It is thanks to the flexibility and creativity of Virve Sutinen's team, that a programme has emerged for the 2021 edition of Tanz im August that combines two qualities: a social public sphere and going out into the free spaces where we come together, exchange, argue and celebrate. And it is thanks to the continual financial support of the federal government and the state of Berlin in the Capital Cultural fund, the institutional funding of the HAU, and in this year the addition of the Berlin senate's mobility fund, that that programme could be realised."*



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Virve Sutinen, artistic director of Tanz im August: *“Tanz im August is proud to welcome audiences to a full festival programme of live dance. It is a new hybrid urban festival with exciting new and old indoor venues and outdoor locations. This summer will be an adventure that takes us around Berlin and deep into the worlds of the artists celebrated in this year’s edition. In many ways the pandemic has given us the opportunity to contemplate the future of the performing arts in the face of social and global challenges. While continuing our dialogues with artists, we have also created informal networks with partner institutions and festivals to discuss a fairer and more sustainable dance sector. There are no quick solutions, only slow processes. We are convinced that, in committing to the development and support of artists in the coming years, these efforts will bring new and diverse voices to the dance world.”*

The 2021 programme

The Argentinian choreographer **Ayelen Parolin / RUDA** opens the festival on 6 August in HAU Hebbel am Ufer (HAU1) with *WEG*, a kaleidoscopic landscape of continually changing identities. Accompanied by the pianist Lea Petra, seven dancers search for the animal everyone has inside them. Parolin refers here to the physicist Pierre C. Dauby’s work on dynamic systems. *WEG* was originally planned for the 2020 festival, and now receives its German premiere following cancellation due to the pandemic.

Audiences can expect four stage events in the open air: at the beginning of the festival, the urban-dance pioneer **Anne Nguyen** presents the German premiere of *Underdogs* at the Freilichtbühne Weißensee. To soul music recalling the political climate of 1970s America, three dancers confront the invisible mass of their urban heritage. The production is listed under Tanz im August’s family-friendly category, and is an explicit invitation to bring children aged 10 and older to the performance (5 Euro tickets for children available). The Berlin choreographer **Constanza Macras** returns to Tanz im August with *Stages of Crisis*. The first performance was also prevented by the pandemic in 2020. In May 2021 it had its online premiere at HAU Hebbel am Ufer, which is followed now by its stage premiere in front of an audience in the Gärten der Welt arena. In this fascinating dystopian dance piece Constanza Macras | DorkyPark examine economic and ecological crises and the future of theatre.

With the first performance of her solo *Breathe*, the Finnish choreographer **Milla Koistinen** brings her audience to the football pitch on the Lilli-Henoch-Sportplatz at Anhalter Bahnhof, close to HAU Hebbel am Ufer. A lonely figure in a wide field evokes images of communal celebration and ecstasy, and awakens memories of how it felt to be in a crowd. The Haus der Statistik is the venue for the German premiere of *Frontera / Border – A Living Monument*, by the Mexican-Chilean-Austrian choreographer **Amanda Piña**, inspired by a dance that developed at the border between the USA and Mexico. In a choreography that interweaves hip-hop culture, colonial narratives, indigenous practices and mysticism, Piña reminds us that borders aren’t just marks on maps but are scored right into some people’s bodies.

The choreographer **Stephanie Thiersch** and the composer **Brigitta Muntendorf** initiate a unique interplay of dance, music and architecture in *ARCHIPELAGO – A Spectacle of Blending* in the old industrial space of the MaHalla. A sculpture by the Japanese architect **Sou Fujimoto** is stage, landscape and shelter, and also functions as giant musical instrument for the dancers and musicians.

The Berlin-resident Singaporean artist **Choy Ka Fai** is present at the festival with an exhibition and a world premiere. His immersive installation *CosmicWander: Expedition* can be seen for the entire duration of the festival at the KINDL – Centre for the Arts. For this long-term project Choy Ka Fai travelled through Asia to explore the spiritual practices and shamanic dance cultures of various individuals and communities. At HAU1 he also gives an insight into the traditional Indonesian dolalak dance, and presents an experience of telepresence with performers streamed in from Java and the dancer Vincent Riebeek live in Berlin.

There are also world premieres from the choreographers **James Batchelor**, from Australia, and **Thiago Granato**, from Brazil. James Batchelor reimagines *An Evening-length Performance* in the Sophiensæle Festsaal as a place of queer encounter and expression, and at the same venue Thiago Granato explores the act of listening at a time of ecological, political and personal crisis in *The Sound They Make When No One Listens*. At the world premiere of the immersive solo-performance installation *ARK 1*, in a virtual environment in the St. Elisabeth-Kirche, the choreographer **Colette Sadler** and the visual artist **Mikko Gaestel** examine the future of humankind in relation to technology.

Further German premieres are *Ayur*, by **Radouan Mriziga**, in the St. Elisabeth-Kirche, and **Lea Moro's** *Alle Augen Staunen*, at the radialsystem, which is also listed as family-friendly for children aged 6 and over. In *MAILLES* the Rwandan-British choreographer, singer and author **Dorothee Munyaneza** joins with five women on the stage of the Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz to tell a universal story of endless female creativity.

The Italian choreographer **Chiara Bersani** responds to the isolation and insecurity of last year with a special German premiere. Using a performative object sent to the audience by post, she illuminates the various connections between art and viewer, and enables a performance that can happen in any place at any time.

As a part of the long-term project *URBAN FEMINISM*, initiated by Tanz im August, **ten young Berlin urban-dance artists** present *Gotcha! An Evening of 9 Short Choreographic Works* at HAU1. After a series of weekend workshops preceding the festival with the mentors Anne Nguyen, Raphael Moussa Hillebrand, Honji Wang and Kat Válastur, the participants express their own style and voices in eight solos and a duet. In addition, the film *Martha & Niki* will be available online for the duration of the festival. **Martha Nabwire** and **Niki Tsappos** are the first women to be declared hip-hop world champions at the international street-dance competition Juste Debout in Paris in 2019. The director Tora Mkandawire Mårtens follows the Swedish duo and portrays their love of dance, their unique relationship and the wishes that impel them.

During the online festival of 2020 the discussion format **Happy to Listen** proved a good way of enabling the participation of a worldwide audience. In 2021 the conversations will be initiated by Amanda Piña and Livia Patrizi with Grichka Caruge. The familiar **Meet the Artist** event will continue to take place after many performances, giving audiences the opportunity to talk directly with the Tanz im August artists. The dates for both formats will be available from August at www.tanzimaugust.de and on the festival's social media channels. The **Magazin im August** contributes to the festival in printed form with interviews, background reports and artistic texts. It also contains an inlay with programme texts on all the productions and an overview calendar.

The **Bibliothek im August** library is being transferred to the Internet for 2021. For those interested it will again contain book tips from the festival's participating artists. It will return as a walk-in library in 2022.

The complete programme of Tanz im August 2021 is online from today at www.tanzimaugust.de. Information for festival visitors about the current hygiene rules will be updated daily on the website.

Venues in 2021

HAU Hebbel am Ufer (HAU1), Freilichtbühne Weißensee, Gärten der Welt (arena), Haus der Statistik, KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art, Lilli-Henoch-Sportplatz, MaHalla, radialsystem, Sophiensæle, St. Elisabeth-Kirche, Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz.



Tickets

Tickets and further information are available from today at www.tanzimaugust.de or the HAU Hebbel am Ufer box office (HAU1), tel. +49 (0)30.259004 -27.

Please note that due to the Corona restrictions less tickets than normal will be available.

Press accreditation for all productions starts today. Please use the form in the press section of the website. Photographic material for the above productions may be downloaded free under Press at www.tanzimaugust.de.

Press contact Tanz im August

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Tanz im August is a HAU Hebbel am Ufer festival.

The logo for HAU (Hebbel am Ufer Theater) consists of the letters 'HAU' in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font.

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