



Tanz im August  
Internationales Festival Berlin  
Stresemannstraße 29  
D-10963 Berlin  
Tel +49 (0)30.259 004 -57  
Fax +49 (0)30.259 004 -13  
[www.tanzimaugust.de](http://www.tanzimaugust.de)

## Press Release

29 May 2019

### TANZ IM AUGUST – 31st International Festival Berlin

presented by HAU Hebbel am Ufer

9–31 August 2019

Advance booking for all productions opens now

#### Tanz im August introduces its 2019 programme

The international festival Tanz im August, presented by HAU Hebbel am Ufer, turns Berlin into Germany's dance capital once again from 9–31 August 2019. This 31st edition features a large number of new works by choreographers from different generations. A total of 7 world premieres and 18 German premieres will be shown at HAU Hebbel am Ufer and other venues throughout Berlin. Central to this year's festival is the New York dance legend Deborah Hay, to whom Tanz im August is devoting a big retrospective and a publication under the heading of *RE-Perspective Deborah Hay: Works from 1968 to the Present*. Other highlights include three evenings celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the American choreographer Merce Cunningham, with CCN – Ballet de Lorraine and the Berlin DANCE ON ENSEMBLE, as well as many other international and local productions.

The festival will be opened on 9 August with words of welcome Berlin's state secretary for culture, Dr Torsten Wöhlert, followed by two premieres by Deborah Hay in HAU1. Then 31 productions will be presented in around 70 performances at 11 venues throughout Berlin by more than 160 artists from 15 countries until 31 August.

Annemie Vanackere, artistic director of HAU Hebbel am Ufer: *"In the festival Tanz im August we are bringing together dance-enthusiastic Berliners and guests from around the world this summer for the 31st time. I'm looking forward to the programme! There's one sour note this year, though: renovations, in-house productions or financial frameworks made it difficult to find the necessary venues for large formats. But the Dance Round Table convened by Berlin's cultural politicians gives cause for hope that there will be better conditions for dance in future – not just for the festival but throughout the year. Then Berlin would indeed be a permanent 'dance capital'."*

Virve Sutinen, artistic director of Tanz im August: *"I'm proud to present the third retrospective of a contemporary choreographer and dancer at Tanz im August. RE-Perspective Deborah Hay: Works from 1968 to the Present offers a more in-depth look into the life and works of one of the most influential dance artists of our time. Hay, as a seminal choreographer and dancer, and as a founding member of Judson Dance Theater in New York, has had a profound influence on contemporary dance as an artist, writer and teacher. In contrast we have invited a younger generation of artists, like Nicola*



HAU Hebbel am Ufer / Stresemannstr. 29 / D-10963 Berlin / [www.hebbel-am-ufer.de](http://www.hebbel-am-ufer.de)

Tel +49 (0)30.259 004-0 / Fax +49 (0)30.259 004- 13

Hebbel-Theater Berlin GmbH / Künstlerische Leitung und Geschäftsführung: Annemie Vanackere  
Amtsgericht Berlin-Charlottenburg HRB 29878 / VAT ID DE 136 782 738

*Gunn and James Batchelor, or Albert Quesada and Claire Vivianne Sobottke, who all approach contemporality from different personal and political positions.'*

### The 2019 programme

*RE-Perspective Deborah Hay: Works from 1968 to the Present*, the retrospective at the centre of the 2019 festival, is the largest institutional examination to date of the choreographer's life work. It shows **Deborah Hay** as one of the most influential choreographers of post-modern dance in the 20th and 21st centuries, who has uniquely inspired generations of dancers around the world and continues to do so. The festival opens with two premieres in HAU1: *Animals on the Beach* and *my choreographed body ... revisited*. The retrospective also includes revivals of works by Hay, in the SOPHIENSÆLE and elsewhere, and a multimedia installation in the Akademie der Künste on Pariser Platz. Two German premieres will take place at the Radialsystem: for *The Match* Hay is collaborating with Cullberg, for *ten* with ten outstanding Berlin performers. The retrospective is accompanied by a symposium, discussions, the premiere of a poetic short film about and with Deborah Hay, and a wide-ranging book (184 pages, in English, approx. 32 Euro), published by Hatje Cantz in August 2019.

In 2019 Tanz im August celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of the American choreographer Merce Cunningham. As a part of this **Merce Cunningham Centennial** the **CCN – Ballet de Lorraine** perform *RainForest & Sounddance* and the **DANCE ON ENSEMBLE** present the world premiere of *BERLIN STORY, A re-imagination of Merce Cunningham's STORY*, with a set by the Berlin artist John Bock, at the Volksbühne Berlin.

Further premieres are being brought to Tanz im August by **Eszter Salamon**, with *Monument 0.7: M/OTHERS* in der St Elisabethkirche, **Jérôme Bel**, with *Isadora Duncan* at the Deutsches Theater, and the Berlin-based choreographers **Claire Vivianne Sobottke** and **deufert&plischke**.

Coming to Tanz im August for the first time are the Canadian **Catherine Gaudet**, the Australians **Nicola Gunn** and **James Batchelor**, the South Korean **Ambiguous Dance Company**, the Japanese choreographer **Kaori Seki** and **Oona Doherty**, from Northern Ireland.

Festival visitors can expect two special formats in the KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art. In his *Haptic Installation*, the Japanese choreographer and multidisciplinary artist **Hiroaki Umeda** projects video images onto visitors' closed eyes. And **Par B.L.eux / Benoît Lachambre & Sophie Corriveau** create a fascinating, space-filling sculpture out of coloured tape in their 8-hour performance, *Fluid Grounds*.

The festival's other German premieres are by the Swedish choreographer **Gunilla Heilborn** and the **Theater im Bahnhof**, from Graz, Austria, the French dancer and choreographer **Latifa Laâbissi**, the hip-hop pioneer **Anne Nguyen** with her **Compagnie par Terre**, the young Northern Irish choreographer **Oona Doherty**, the Norwegian choreographer **Alan Lucien Øyen** and his company, **winter guest**, and **La Ribot**, with the inclusive company **Dançando com a Diferença**, from Madeira.

There are also guest appearances by **nora chipaumire**, from New York and Zimbabwe, who participated in last year's Tanz im August, and **Albert Quesada**, who analyses flamenco in a duet with Katie Vickers in HAU3.

The festival programme includes four **family-friendly** productions, with special prices for children and young people. This year for the first time selected artists are available for *selfie sessions* with youngsters after family-friendly productions.



As in 2018 the **Festival Centre** at HAU Hebbel am Ufer will be extended by a temporary pavilion in front of HAU2, designed by the Berlin architects c/o now. Together with the **Bibliothek im August** library in HAU2 and the **WAU** bar and restaurant the centre is the main meeting place for artists, audience and dance professionals.

There is free entry to all kinds of **audience formats**, which include *awareness boosts* with the Berlin choreographer Sebastian Matthias, *book presentations*, the *Deborah Hay Documentation Center*, set up by the dancer and dance scholar Laurent Pichaud as part of the *RE-Perspective Deborah Hay*, and a *special focus* on the *Solo Performance Commissioning Project (SPCP)*. Under the heading of *On the Sofa* artists and other experts come together to discuss current issues resulting from the artistic programme of the festival. These include such themes as experimental dance criticism, #MeToo or dance in the GDR. The popular *Meet the Artist* events will also take place this year after many performances.

The complete programme of Tanz im August 2019 is online as of today at [www.tanzimaugust.de](http://www.tanzimaugust.de)

### **2019 Venues**

Akademie der Künste (Pariser Platz, Hanseatenweg), Deutsches Theater Berlin, HAU Hebbel am Ufer (HAU1, HAU2, HAU3), KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art, Radialsystem, SOPHIENSÆLE, St. Elisabeth-Kirche, Volksbühne Berlin. The Bibliothek im August will be housed for the fourth year running in HAU2.

### **Tickets**

Tickets and further information are available from today at [www.tanzimaugust.de](http://www.tanzimaugust.de) or at the HAU Hebbel am Ufer box office: HAU2, Hallesches Ufer 32, 10963 Berlin, tel. +49 (0)30.259004 -27

### **Discount for big bookers**

If you book at least 8 performances during this 31st Tanz im August, you receive a discount of 20% off the normal price. This limited offer is only available at the advance booking office in HAU2.

### **Audio description & haptic-access tour**

Live audio descriptions are offered on three different occasions for visitors with impaired sight. Headphones will be handed out in the foyer. The service includes a 'haptic-access tour' of the stage space one hour before the performance.

**Tip for journalists:** on three days during the festival the Toast 'n' Talk event will again take place in the Bibliothek im August. This format is explicitly aimed at professionals and journalists. Over coffee and toast, short moderated discussions with festival artists are an invitation to further networking and interchange.

Press accreditation for all productions begins today. Please use the form in the press section. You can download visual material on the above-mentioned productions free of charge under 'Press' at [www.tanzimaugust.de](http://www.tanzimaugust.de).



**Press contact**

Hendrik von Boxberg

Presse Tanz im August

T + 49 30 58901296

M + 49 177 7379207

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

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**HAU**

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