



Tanz im August  
Internationales Festival Berlin  
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## Press Release

30 August 2019

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

presented by HAU Hebbel am Ufer  
9–31 August 2019

#### Tanz im August – festival summary 2019

The successful 31st international festival Tanz im August, presented by HAU Hebbel am Ufer, ends on Saturday evening, 31.8.2019, with performances at HAU Hebbel am Ufer, St. Elisabeth-Kirche, SOPHIENSÆLE and installations at Akademie der Künste (Pariser Platz). With 98% attendance and more than 18,000 tickets sold, the festival made a mark on the 2019 Berlin summer. Until 31 August a total of 31 productions, including 7 world premieres and 18 German premieres, were presented by more than 160 artists from 15 countries at 11 venues throughout Berlin.

Central to this year's festival was the *RE-Perspective Deborah Hay: Works from 1968 to the Present*, with various productions, an exhibition and a symposium on the American choreographer's work. A further highlight were the performances at Volksbühne Berlin by CCN – Ballet de Lorraine and Berlin's DANCE ON ENSEMBLE to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Merce Cunningham. Festival organiser HAU Hebbel am Ufer was the most visited venue with approximately 9.000 visitors at its three theatres HAU1, HAU2, HAU3, the library Bibliothek im August and the Festival Centre. The Berliner Festspielhaus, long-term partner of previous years, is currently unavailable for the festival due to renovation in 2019 and 2020.

Annemie Vanackere, director of HAU Hebbel am Ufer: *„I'm delighted that once again Tanz im August has attracted so many dance enthusiasts. An attendance of 98% shows that contemporary dance has a significance in the lives of many people in Berlin and beyond who are happy to be inspired, provoked and agitated by contemporary dance. The fact that this year we were unable to show so many large productions, and for this reason had fewer tickets to offer the plentiful audience, has to do with the basic difficulty of finding large stages for dance in Berlin. This shows how fragile the situation still is in the city. On a structural and institutional level it's time to finally accord dance the status it deserves and already has in the lives of many Berliners.“*

Virve Sutinen, Artistic Director of Tanz im August: *„Tanz im August laid out a programme that tracked down choreographic thinking and practices as they appear in dance and in other art forms today. It was designed to offer a glimpse into the multitude of contemporary expression and creation here and now. This here and now, as presented in works from Japan to Zimbabwe, was juxtaposed with historical themes and contemporary classics of Western dance. In the heart of this was RE-Perspective Deborah Hay, the retrospective of the American choreographer. The three-week-long investigation into Hay's artistic work and archives allowed us to reflect on the history of choreographic thinking and future of dance as an intellectual bodily practice and legacy to care for. As a choreographer, Hay proved to be as radical as ever in her new works, Animals on the Beach and my choreographed body ... revisited, which premiered at Tanz im August.“*



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In the series of audience formats there are two events tomorrow, Saturday, in the Bibliothek im August. At *On the Sofa*, Claudia Henne und Volkmar Draeger talk about their research into the previously neglected GDR dance scene at 3 p.m. under the title *Emergence into Uncertainty – Dance in the GDR 1989*. The book *Energy and Forces as Aesthetic Interventions. Politics of Bodily Scenarios*, will be presented at 7 p.m. in a conversation between its editors, Sabine Huschka and Barbara Gronau, and authors. It brings together academic and artistic contributions that examine historical and contemporary approaches to energetics in its aesthetic and political potential. Entry to both events is free.

The family-friendly productions again enjoyed much success at Tanz im August 2019, and were attended by around 196 children and young people. The Bibliothek im August, at HAU2, which has been making book recommendations by festival artists available since 2016, was a lively meeting place for visitors, artists and dance professionals this year as well. More than 300 dance professionals and around 135 journalists were accredited for the 2019 festival.

The performance *Story, story, die.*, by Norwegian choreographer Alan Lucien Øyen and his company winter guests can be seen today and tomorrow at HAU Hebbel am Ufer, along with *Happy Island*, by La Ribot and the inclusive company Dançando com a Diferença from Madeira, and *Velvet*, by Berlin based Claire Vivianne Sobottke. deufert&plischke give two more performances of *Liebestod* at SOPHIENSÆLE, and James Batchelor can be seen in *Deepspace* at St. Elisabeth-Kirche. All these events are sold out; a waiting list for possible returns opens one hour before the performance at the respective venue. On Saturday, Tanz im August invites all visitors, artists, partners and helpers to a farewell party with DJs Paul Hanford, Dora Pan and Daybee Deefrom 11 p.m. at WAU.

### **2019 Venues**

Akademie der Künste (Pariser Platz, Hanseatenweg), Deutsches Theater Berlin, HAU Hebbel am Ufer (HAU1, HAU2, HAU3), KINDL – Zentrum für zeitgenössische Kunst, radialsystem, SOPHIENSÆLE, St. Elisabeth-Kirche, Volksbühne Berlin.

The Bibliothek im August was set up for the fourth time during the 2019 festival.

**Images** for all productions can be downloaded free of charge at [www.tanzimaugust.de](http://www.tanzimaugust.de).

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