



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

Because of coronavirus, the international festival Tanz im August, presented by HAU Hebbel am Ufer, is showing events online and in public spaces in a special edition from 21–30 August 2020. The 10-day programme, developed by the invited artists and the festival team around artistic director Virve Sutinen, brings together a wide range of voices from the today's international dance world. Instead of the stage programme cancelled in May, there will be presentations of artistic productions in public spaces, digital discussion forums, audio choreographies, texts, films, an international conference and online performances mainly streamed live from HAU2. The Bibliothek im August library will be open every day in the former WAU restaurant and café, and will function as focal point and meeting place for the festival audience. It will be supplemented by a limited-access outdoor public-viewing area in front of HAU2.

The programme of this special edition is divided into artistic productions, which will be presented online on the Tanz im August website and offline in public spaces under the heading of *Meet the Artist*, the digital discourse programme *Happy to Listen*, an international digital conference, the Bibliothek im August and a special edition of the *Magazin im August*.

The *Meet the Artist* productions in public spaces showcase work by the American choreographer William Forsythe and the German company LIGNA, and focus on audience activity and participation. In his "Untitled Instructional Series" developed for the special edition, William Forsythe offers short choreographic instructions that inspire passers-by to explore and become aware of physical movements.

LIGNA has responded to the restrictions on international travel by inviting 12 choreographers from around the world to their polyphonic radio ballet "Dissemination everywhere!" On four festival days the participating audience follows this choreographic radio programme about the experience of vulnerability and solidarity in public spaces in Berlin via headphones. On August 30 the radio ballet will be shown simultaneously at Tanz im August, the Zürcher Theater Spektakel and the Theater Festival Basel. With contributions by Alejandro Ahmed (Brazil), Edna Jaime (Mozambique), Geumhyung Jeong (South Korea), Eisa Jocson (Philippines), Raquel Meseguer (United Kingdom), Bebe Miller (United States), Maryam Bagheri Nesami & Mitra Ziaee Kia (Iran), Mamela Nyamza (South Africa), Bhenji Ra (Australia), Melati Suryodarmo (Indonesia), Yuya Tsukahara + Contact Gonzo (Japan), Dana Yahalomi / Public Movement (Israel).



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The online programme of *Meet the Artist* gives an insight into the work of artists whose stage works for 2020 were cancelled. It features work by the Nigerian-American artist Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, the Argentinian choreographer Ayelen Parolin, the visual artist and choreographer Arkadi Zaides, the American performer Faye Driscoll, the German choreographer Stephanie Thiersch and a conversation with the Canadian artist Jacob Wren (PME-ART) and the writer and performer Claudia La Rocco. As a part of the new three-year Tanz im August project *URBAN FEMINISM* to support aspiring Berlin female hip-hop artists, the specific challenges of this non-academic dance practice will be discussed and gender-political questions raised about its male-dominated scene. With "1000 scores. Pieces for Here, Now & Later", a project by Helgard Haug, David Helbich and Cornelius Puschke, produced by Rimini Apparat, will also be shown, which offers an online platform for scores by various commissioned artists.

Happy to Listen brings artists and activists together online on four evenings to discuss urgent issues from the point of view of indigenous, feminist and disabled artists. There will also be a discussion on the political and artistic situation in Brazil, with artistic contributions from Alice Ripoll, Zahy Guajajara, Princesa Ricardo Marinelli and others. *Happy to Listen* will be streamed from HAU2 and can be experienced live in the public-viewing area.

Together with the Zurich festival Theater Spektakel, a public digital conference titled "How to be together? – Conversations about international exchange and collaboration in the Performing Arts" will take place from August 27–29 as a response to the situation caused by coronavirus. The three-day programme will enable a trans-continental dialogue between touring artists, event organisers and politicians active in (geographically, culturally, politically and professionally) diverse areas.

The yearly *Magazin im August* will appear as a special edition in both print and digital form with interviews, articles and portraits. Besides contributions about the Special Edition it particularly features contributions by artists invited to Tanz im August before lockdown whose subject matter and artistic works would have been central to the stage programme.

The detailed programme with all dates and protagonists will be published in the second week of August. A press conference is planned for Monday 17 August 2020 at 11 a.m. in the courtyard of HAU1. An invitation follows.

With around 70 events throughout Berlin, more than 160 artists from different countries, approximately 20,000 visitors, numerous premieres and German first performances, Tanz im August leaves its mark on contemporary German dance life every summer.

Because of the covid-19 pandemic, the stage programme of the international festival Tanz im August, presented by HAU Hebbel am Ufer, will not take place in 2020. Following the nationwide ban on large events until 31 August and the closing of Berlin's theatres until the end of July, and given the impossibility of planning international travel and the restrictions placed on production and rehearsal, Annemie Vanackere, artistic and managing director of HAU Hebbel am Ufer, and Virve Sutinen, artistic director of Tanz im August – in consultation with the Senate Department for Culture and Europe and the Capital Cultural Fund – decided in May to cancel the festival in its originally planned form.



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Präsentiert von HAU Hebbel am Ufer

HAU

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