



## PRESS RELEASE

**Press Contact**  
Nicole Kaßberger  
[presse@performingarts-festival.de](mailto:presse@performingarts-festival.de)  
+49 (0) 30/20 45 979 23

The schedule of programming for this year's edition of the Berlin Performing Arts Festival has been announced! Artists and collectives from the independent performing arts community in the fields of performance and dance, spoken word theater, and musical theater as well as object and puppet theater, contemporary circus, and theater for young audiences will present some 40 productions under the motto *bodies under tension*. The advance ticket sale has begun and a complete overview of everything we have to offer, including a diverse schedule of ancillary programming, can now be found online.

### PAF Opening

On May 30, the eight edition of the Berlin Performing Arts Festival will celebrate its official opening ceremony at Festsaal Kreuzberg. The opening event for the festival will offer words of welcome and exciting insights from the entire team as well as a live performance by Olympia Bukkakis as well as two surprise music acts to make things even more interesting.

### Programming from the Community

As the core focus of the festival, the *Programming from the Community* brings together 35 productions from Berlin's independent performing arts community. They demonstrate the diversity of the scene, a variety of artistic positions as well as different aesthetics. Through performances in different genres, the body is negotiated as something human, but also political as well as social in a charged relationship with its counterpart. *Kartografie der Nähe (The Cartography of Intimacy)*, a contemporary circus production with acrobatics, shows the collective space in between. For the productions at Haus der Statistik, the artists are focusing on interaction with as well as integration of the audience: the neighborhood where Haus der Statistik is located is invited to the theater workshop. In addition, there are multiple performances that negotiate these tensions that are referenced in the motto of this year's edition of the festival, such as *between*, Jules Petru Fricker's first independent production, at DOCK 11. Hybrid as well as transmedial productions are also part of the schedule of programming - these include the audiovisual performance *INTER\_SECTION #3.2 - Borrowed Gesture expanded* by Claudia Schmitz and Sabine Ercklentz, *Abteilung Verkehr (Traffic Department)*, a piece of game theater by Borgtheater and an audio walk by the collective RAUM+ZEIT. Novoflot uses public space as a stage and has created an urban parkour with musical performances.

### **Introducing...**

This year, over 200 productions were submitted from which the cooperating performance venues Ballhaus Ost, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Sophiensæle and TD Berlin selected four that will be presented on their stages during the festival. In the ongoing series *to build to bury to remember* (HAU Hebbel am Ufer), Sarah Ama Duah & team concern themselves with the deconstruction of memorials and develop hybrid forms between sculpture and bodies. In the production *we are all made of stars* (Sophiensæle), Freddie Wulf and Alicia Jane Turner bring the audience along with them on a journey through the body as a living landscape, an ecosystem that is constantly changing. With *Kriegsrahmen* (TD Berlin), the collective what about: fuego restages 34 iconic photographs of wars and conflicts throughout the world. And, in *behind your eyeballs* (Ballhaus Ost), Salma Said and Miriam Coretta Schulte take a look at the past with an eye toward the future and ask if archives can be brought to life.

### **PAF Closing**

On June 4, the festival week will come to an end with the *PAF Closing* event at the cult club Mensch Meier. The festival team will present a selection of short performances from a variety of genres by dajci\* collective, Michelle Félix, Xiaoer Liu, neveroddoeven, Ahmed Soura, Maren Strack and Zookunft.Project. The evening will come to a festive end with live music by Gute Katze Böse Katze from Hamburg.

### **Accompanying Schedule of Ancillary Programming**

In order to examine and negotiate the topic of bodies under tension with all of its facets as comprehensively as possible, a diverse schedule of ancillary programming can be attended, consisting of workshops, discussions and a wide range of communication formats. The various levels and constellations such as Bodies & City, Bodies & Crisis or Bodies & Identity will be examined together and playfully researched.

A schedule of ancillary programming will also be offered for visiting industry professionals working in the independent performing arts as well as the opportunity to enter into dialog. In addition, guests of this year's edition of the festival include the European festival network Bridging the Scenes, the national festival association FESTIVALFRIENDS, the *&friends Visit* event as well as a delegation from Catalonia plus international artists and producers from, amongst other locations, Armenia, Palestine and France.

### **University day**

This year as well, the festival is inviting students from all of the institutions of higher education to immerse themselves in the cosmos of the independent performing arts to jointly take a look into exciting questions all about Berlin's independent performing arts community in DOCK ART at DOCK 11. The PAF Institute of Higher Education day takes place in cooperation with the *Freie Universität Berlin*, the *Universität der Künste Berlin*, *Bard College Berlin* as well as the *Hochschulübergreifendes Zentrum Tanz Berlin* (HZT) and the program for Set Design and Scenography of the *Technische Universität Berlin*.

### **PAF Blog & PAF Radio**

The *PAF Blog* will once again accompany the festival. Over the course of a seminar at the Free University of Berlin, students will become journalists and learn the art of theater criticism; the results of this will be made available on the festival website.

And, to help everyone get into the mood for the coming days of the festival, *PAF Radio* offers the opportunity to take a look behind the curtains, listen in on interesting conversations and snap up a great recommendation or two.

It was recently announced that the application for an additional period of funding for the festival as of 2024 from the Berlin Festival Fund has been rejected. As disappointing as this news is, it allows even more energy and joy to be invested in this year's edition of the Berlin Performing Arts Festival to present the independent performing arts community to Berlin's audience in all of its impressive diversity.

**Press accreditation** for all event is now possible, effective immediately. To do so, please send us an email with the performances you would like to attend, to:

[nicole.kassberger@performingarts-festival.de](mailto:nicole.kassberger@performingarts-festival.de)

The following members of the leadership collective are available for interviews and background discussions.

- **Programming from the Community:** Claudia Marks [she/her]
- **Introducing...** Toni Zahn [they/them]
- **PAF Schedule of Ancillary Programming and Network:** Nora Wagner [she/her] and Leoni Grützmaker [she/her]

**The complete schedule of programming as well as additional information about tickets and visual material can be found at [paf.berlin](http://paf.berlin).**

The Berlin Performing Arts Festival is organized by LAFT Berlin - Landesverband freie darstellende Künste Berlin e.V. and is funded by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe.

**LAFT** Landesverband freie darstellende Künste Berlin e.V.  
**BERLIN**



in cooperation with



presented by

