Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

After a very long, difficult barren period – not least for the Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch – the company is embarking on the 2020/21 season. The ensemble all used the free time opened up by the cancellation of performances in Wuppertal, Paris, Los Angeles, Berkeley, Chicago and Ludwigsburg to intensify artistic discussions about strategies for handling a legacy as valuable as Pina Bausch’s, in collaboration with the Pina Bausch Foundation.

In September (3–6 September 2020) the company will open the 2020/21 season with He takes her by the hand and leads her into the castle, the others follow at Wuppertal Opera House. Advance tickets (a highly reduced quantity due to the distancing regulations) go on sale Montag 10 August 2020 at 10:00. Reservations: +49 202 563 7666, www.pina-bausch.de

In 2019 the ensemble made a new production of the piece, premiered in 1978 at Bochum Schauspielhaus and not performed for 29 years. He takes her by the hand and leads her into the castle, the others follow was originally created as a coproduction with Schauspielhaus Bochum and represented a new approach in Pina Bausch’s working methods in her early work. Theatre director Peter Zadek had invited her to develop her own version of William Shakespeare’s Macbeth and the enigmatic title is taken from a stage direction in the play. Searching for a personal language of imagery and movement, Pina Bausch began
asking her performers associative questions, a practice which was to define all future pieces by the Tanztheater Wuppertal.

This new production, with a younger generation of dancers, was directed by Josephine Ann Endicott and Hans Dieter Knebel, both members of the original cast at the 1978 premiere, assisted by Bénédicte Billiet. For the acting roles, artistic director Bettina Wagner-Bergelt was able to enlist two very strong theatre and film actors:

**Johanna Wokalek**, who also performed in Pina Bausch’s Brecht-Weill double-bill *The Seven Deadly Sins* in 2019, takes over the role originally played by Mechthild Großmann. She has worked with international theatre directors such as Luc Bondy, Andrea Breth and Peter Zadek, and appeared in various feature films. She recently played the title role in Sönke Wortmann’s historical drama *Pope Joan*.

The role originally played by Vitus Zeplichal is played by **Maik Solbach**. He has performed countless times on all the major stages in Germany and has worked with artists such as William Forsythe, Katie Mitchell and Karin Beier. Alongside his theatre work he is regularly seen in television productions.

The Tanztheater Wuppertal is planning a varied, exciting season, with new formats adapted to the current safety and hygiene recommendations as necessary. Due to the ongoing volatile coronavirus situation, which also affects the ensemble’s international touring partners, the company will no longer announce performances, workshops and projects simultaneously at the start of the season as before. Instead we will be releasing information closer to the time in each case, as soon as it is clear that rehearsals and performances are genuinely possible while adhering to the hygiene and safety guidelines. The health of our audience members and our ensemble is our number one priority.

Photos: *He takes her by the hand and leads her into the castle, the others follow*
Rights are free for use in coverage of the current performances
DSC 1864 Ensemble, copyright Uwe Stratmann
28 Maik Solbach und Stephanie Troyak, copyright Milan Nowoitnick Kampfer
ST 1557 Ensemble copyright Uwe Stratmann

Press contact:
Ursula Popp
Press, Public Relations and Marketing Officer
Ursula.popp@pina-bausch.de
+49 (0)202 563 67 20
+49 (0)172 882 3718