In November, the Tanztheater Wuppertal will embark on an ambitious restaging of The Piece with the Ship. Characterised by sweet melancholy, delicate humour and zestful dancing, the piece depicts a community stranded in an abandoned place. A beach without an ocean, a ship without water. People who have been torn from everyday life, poised between extreme vulnerability and a strong will to survive, dance as if their lives depended on it. Rarely seen, the piece premiered in Wuppertal in 1993 and
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was last performed in Saitama, Japan, 24 years ago. It is now being restaged with an intergenerational cast.

Beginning in 2019 with Bluebeard and continuing in 2020 with He Takes Her By The Hand And Leads Her To The Castle, The Others Follow, the Tanztheater Wuppertal has been undergoing a process of transformation in how it cultivates and engages with Pina Bausch’s choreographic legacy. Not only are we rethinking how we rehearse, cast and perform her pieces, but we are also re-evaluating how we work together and how we pass on roles and repertoire. Artistic Director Bettina Wagner-Bergelt was able to enlist the Israeli artist Saar Magal as an ‘outside eye’ for the restaging of The Piece with the Ship. Together with Barbara Kaufmann, Héléna Pikon and Julie Anne Stanzak as rehearsal directors she will help to bring the piece back to the stage. Several other dancers from the original 1993 cast are directly passing on their roles to the new cast.

Saar Magal is a choreographer and director with an unusual approach, whose productions explore the interstices between dance, opera, theatre and performance. She has developed projects for Batsheva Ensemble Dance Company, the Bavarian State Opera (Hacking Wagner), and the Staatsoper unter den Linden in Berlin. In 2021 she will create works for the Schauspiel Frankfurt and the Burgtheater Vienna. Her international collaborations include works with the directors Krzysztof Warlikowski and Robert Woodruff. She also teaches dance and performance at several schools and academies in Israel and the USA, among them ART Institute for Advanced Theatre at Harvard University.

The extraordinary stage set by Peter Pabst – featuring sand dunes and the hull of a stranded ship – is being restored to its original state under his supervision.

Birdsong, the sound of raindrops, jungle noises and strains of harp are punctuated by heavy storms and rolling thunder, alongside arias by Walther von der Vogelweide, Georg Frideric Handel and Christoph Willibald Gluck, as well as medieval and renaissance music and songs from India, Morocco and Namibia. The musical arrangement is by Matthias Burkert.

With the start of the 2020/21 season, the Tanztheater has welcomed four new colleagues into the ensemble. Because several dancers had left in recent years (among them Regina Advento, Bénédicte Billiet, Breanna O’Marra, Douglas Letheren and Pau Aran Gimeno), there were empty spaces, which have now been filled by Taylor Drury, Alexander Lopez Guerra, Dean Biosca and Gabriel Alves Brito. They will appear on stage in Wuppertal for the first time in The Piece with the Ship.

Taylor Drury (born 1992), from Canada, studied at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and at the Juilliard School in New York. She previously danced with the Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz in Munich. Dean Biosca (born 1994), from the USA, previously danced with the Saarländisches Staatsballett. He has performed in works by Stijn Celis, Richard Siegal, Anna Konjetzky, Jiří Kylián, Alexander Ekman, Lar Lubowitch and Brian Brooks. Gabriel Brito (born 1997), from Brazil, previously danced with the German National Youth Ballet for two years and then the Hamburg Ballet John Neumeier, before deciding to join the Tanztheater Wuppertal. Alexander Lopez Guerra (born 1995), from Peru, has gained experience by performing works by Crystal Pite, Akram Khan, Alexander Ekman, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Ohad Naharin.
The restaging of The Piece with the Ship launches the performance series **Pina Bausch Centre under construction**, which will take place at the Altes Schauspielhaus in Wuppertal from 21 – 29 November 2020.

Further information will be published on pinabauschzentrum.de and pina-bausch.de at the end of October.

Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch
Artistic Director Bettina Wagner-Bergelt

The Piece with the Ship
A piece by Pina Bausch (Restaging)
World premiere: 1993
Performances: 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29 November 2020
Booking opens on 25 September 2020
Launch of the performance series:
“**Pina Bausch Centre under construction**”

Cast: Emma Barrowman, Andrey Berezin, Gabriel Brito, Taylor Drury, Çagdaş Ermis, Jonathan Fredrickson, Silvia Farias Heredia, Ditta Miranda Jasjfi, Milan Nowoitnick Kampfer, Yosuke Kusano*, Alexander Lopez Guerra, Blanca Noguerol Ramírez, Ekaterina Shushakova, Oleg Stepanov, Julian Stierle, Michael Strecker, Christopher Tandy, Stephanie Troyak, Tsai-Wei Tien, Ophelia Young, Tsai-Chin Yu, N.N.; **subject to change!**

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