

Press release  
Tanztheater Wuppertal  
Pina Bausch  
Press release

17<sup>th</sup> November 2020



## Event series Pina Bausch Centre *under construction*

1. The project
2. Statements
3. More on the Pina Bausch Centre

1. In the presence of **Prof. Dr. Uwe Schneidewind**, Mayor of the City of Wuppertal, **Dr. Hildegard Kaluza**, Head of Culture at the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Research of North Rhine-Westphalia (representing Minister Pfeiffer-Poensgen), **Salomon Bausch**, Director of the Pina Bausch Foundation, and **Matthias Nocke**, Head of the Department of Culture of the City of Wuppertal, **Bettina Wagner- Bergelt**, Artistic Director of the Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch and **Dr. Marc Wagenbach**, curator of the series, presented the programme of events for *under construction*.

Full of joy and courage even in these difficult times, the Pina Bausch Centre *under construction* is embarking on a journey of discovery to explore what togetherness can mean in a pandemic and in lockdown, and to uncover new spaces for art and dance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Conceived as a digital event series, *under construction* will offer more than 30 activities between 21<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020. It launches a new era of envisioning the future Pina Bausch Centre – rooted in Wuppertal but strongly connected to friends and partner organisations all over the world.

For the Pina Bausch Centre *under construction*, the curators are inviting international guest artists, dancers, researchers and the people of Wuppertal to imagine new forms of togetherness and collective action. Its motto is: “We are building a house together”. What do we wish for in the future Pina Bausch Centre? How can it become a centre for creativity and engagement with international art? And at the same time a place where you can feel at home, meet friends, be creative together and take a break from the pressures of everyday life?

# Press release

These are the questions we are asking during this preparatory phase of the project, which we have titled *under construction*. As we begin to plan for the future Pina Bausch Centre, we imagine an open house for the people of Wuppertal that has local impact and international appeal, that is digitally connected and fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A centre that aims to be more than just a place of conservation where a great artistic oeuvre is cultivated.

The Pina Bausch Centre will be one of the few places in the world dedicated to the choreographer's extensive artistic legacy and to the preservation and sustainable development of a unique ensemble of dancers. It will be well connected both internationally and locally, and at the same time participate in current artistic developments and social discourses.

**Innovative, creative, experimental** – the activities offered as part of *under construction* include baking fortune cookies, daily digital warm-ups for the whole family, workshops (from yoga to Gaga and contemporary dance), artistic interventions, masterclasses, films, music, a nightly programme of dance films, podcasts, panels, discussions, outdoor projections and live streams. Having originally planned the event as a meeting point and opportunity for the people of Wuppertal to become involved, we were adamant for it not to be cancelled. Instead it has become a testing ground for the potentials of digital spaces. The premiere of Pina Bausch's "The Piece with the Ship", which was to launch the series on 21<sup>st</sup> November, will now be projected on to the façade of the Schauspielhaus. This installation will also be digitally live-streamed from the future Pina Bausch Centre.

The series will feature pupils from Wuppertal schools, the tanzcHor60+ of the Bergische Musikschule, Power of Color Wuppertal, the "Archive of Dreams" in collaboration with women's groups and refugees, representatives of the )) freies netz werk )) KULTUR, dancers from Wuppertal's independent scene, international guest artists including Helena Waldmann, Gintersdorfer/Klaßen, Richard Siegal and Robyn Orlin, the Tanztheater Wuppertal ... and renowned national and international partner organisations such as Sadler's Wells Theatre in London and others.

**The Pina Bausch Centre is a project of the City of Wuppertal, co-funded by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, in collaboration with the Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch and the Pina Bausch Foundation.**

**Sponsors *under construction*: Kunststiftung NRW and Art Mentor Foundation Lucerne**

## 2. Statements:

**Prof. Dr. Uwe Schneidewind, Mayor of the City of Wuppertal**

We are delighted to see the courage and innovative potential of *under construction*, which is reaching so many people of different generations and backgrounds through its programme and digital offerings, even in times of a pandemic. An online format that comes to people's homes, that opens up a space for thinking about different futures, no matter how difficult the times – funded by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

Soon, the splendid new Pina Bausch Centre will open as a space for art, culture, encounters, creativity and debate.

**Dr. Hildegard Kaluza**, Ministry of Innovation, Science and Research of North Rhine-Westphalia, Head of Culture, on behalf of Minister Pfeiffer-Poensgen

For the dance state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Pina Bausch Centre with its multiple activity lines is a fantastic asset. Bringing together the international ensemble of the Tanztheater Wuppertal, the people of the city, a new production house for interdisciplinary collaborations between artists from all over the world, the Pina Bausch

# Press release

Archive and Pina Bausch's extensive artistic legacy is a wonderful challenge and a wonderful opportunity to develop international, forward-looking and sustainable new artistic approaches.

## **Dr. Marc Wagenbach**

With *under construction* I would like us to work with many different people in Wuppertal and online all over the world to develop visions for a future Pina Bausch Centre. I want us to collect ideas for a space where many can feel at home, where different points of view are respected and where not just the loudest voices are heard. I want us to build a house fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century: sustainable, pluralistic, socially engaged and creative. We are building a house together. *under construction* is the first step on a long journey.

### **3. Further information about the Pina Bausch Centre**

The future Pina Bausch Centre is designed to be a laboratory of the future, knitting together recollection, experimentation, creativity, knowledge transfer, reflection and participation in multiple ways. A new extension will be built as part of the renovation of the former Schauspielhaus, for which an architectural competition is due to be announced next year. The future Centre's four core activity lines will complement each other and be closely intertwined:

The Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch will have its new permanent home at the Pina Bausch Centre, with dedicated rehearsal spaces and a venue in the exact place where Pina Bausch created the majority of her works. A new production centre will offer space and opportunities for the creation of large-scale national and international stage productions across different genres. It will be a place for new German and European premieres, co-productions, the restaging of older works, and technical rehearsals in Wuppertal. The Pina Bausch Archive provides access to Pina Bausch's extraordinary artistic legacy. Preserving precious knowledge of her unique oeuvre and bringing a multitude of materials to life will inspire future generations and generate new creative activities. Last but not least, the Forum Wupperbogen is conceived as a laboratory for the development of future cultural organisations. It will explore themes and artistic formats for new participatory projects, aiming to infuse the entire organisation with its democratic ethos.

Building the Pina Bausch Centre is a joint project by the City of Wuppertal, the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, and the German Federal Government.

For further information, please visit:

[www.pinabauschzentrum.de](http://www.pinabauschzentrum.de) and <https://under-construction-wuppertal.de/>

Press contact

Ursula Popp

Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch

Press, Public Relations and Marketing Officer

[ursula.popp@pina-bausch.de](mailto:ursula.popp@pina-bausch.de)

T. 0202 563 6720

M. 0172 882 3718