

Press Release 2021/22 Season

27th May 2021

Bettina Wagner-Bergelt, artistic director of the Tanztheater Wuppertal, Roger Christmann, its managing director, and Matthias Nocke, Head of Culture of the City of Wuppertal, presented the programme for the upcoming 2021/22 season yesterday.

The Tanztheater Wuppertal will be showing ten pieces in 2021/22, including two new productions. Thirty performances are planned to take place in Wuppertal. The company will also tour to Ludwigsburg, Clermont-Ferrand, Saint Petersburg, Lublin, Luxembourg, Ludwigshafen, Montpellier, Charleroi, Fürth, Paris and Vienna.

The ensemble will be back on stage in Wuppertal again for the first time in November 2021, presenting the premiere of a piece by the American choreographer Richard Siegal for dancers of the Tanztheater Wuppertal: Shooting into the Corner (working title), performed in the installation Shooting into the Corner by Anish Kapoor, one of the most important sculptors of our time. The premiere of the new piece by the choreographer and member of the ensemble Rainer Behr, a film version of which will be shown on 2nd July 2021, will take place at the Opera House on 20th January 2022.

The season will also offer opportunities for encounters between the ensemble and external artists. Among them are Peeping Tom from Belgium, Alan Lucien Øyen from Norway (who will accompany the rehearsals of 'Sweet Mambo' in May 2022, just like Saar Magal did last year for The Piece with the Ship), the American sculptor Senga Nengudi in cooperation with the Lenbachhaus Munich and the Von-der-Heydt-Museum in Wuppertal, and the French performer and visual artist (and winner of the Preis der Nationalgalerie Berlin 2019) Pauline Curnier Jardin. In addition, there will be lectures by researchers, artists and philosophers, some of them public and others just for the ensemble.

Alongside the two new creations, several well-known pieces from the repertoire – Wiesenland, Full Moon, 'Sweet Mambo', Palermo Palermo – and the postponed premiere of The Piece with the Ship, a particular focus of the season will be on the completion of a cycle of early pieces from the 1970s, which artistic director Bettina Wagner-Bergelt initiated in 2019/20. Three emblematic works from this period will be presented next season: Kontakthof, Bluebeard. While Listening to a Tape Recording of Béla Bartók's Opera "Duke Bluebeard's Castle" and the re-staging of Orpheus and Eurydice.

"For me, these are very important pieces by Pina Bausch, undoubtedly her most radical ones", says Bettina Wagner-Bergelt. "Here we are at the very source of her creation. She was in a grinding creative process at that time to find her voice, her language, her style. She explored without compromise. Beauty happened by surprise and there was an inalienable truth in these works, a beauty that is also painful."

Orpheus and Eurydice, Pina Bausch's danced opera to music by Christoph W. Gluck, was last seen in Wuppertal in 2003 and then became part of the Paris Opera's repertoire for many years. In Wuppertal it will be led by Michael Hofstetter as guest conductor, with the Symphony Orchestra and the Choir of the Wuppertaler Bühnen under Markus Baisch. In late April/early May, it will be performed at the GLUCK FESTSPIELE // 2022 in Fürth with the Händelfestspielorchester and the Lauschwerk/AUDI Chorakademie.

Going forward, the Tanztheater Wuppertal is deeply committed to:

- intensifying its collaboration with the Pina Bausch Foundation – from workshops and teaching activities to passing on Pina Bausch's oeuvre to future generations of dance artists
- consolidating its education programmes and collaborations with schools and social institutions, bringing art and dance to children and young people of all cultural and social backgrounds.

The activities on offer range from taster workshops and weekly dance projects to interdisciplinary collaborations with other arts institutions and choreographic projects during school holidays. Among the activities planned for the 2021/22 season is a flagship project with the Berufskolleg Kohlstraße, led by former ensemble member Jorge Puerta Armenta and the Wuppertal artists Horst Wegener, Milton Camilo, Tobias Daemgen, Anna Wehsarg and Ruth Amarante at the Schauspielhaus Wuppertal.

The process of democratisation that was initiated by Bettina Wagner-Bergelt and Roger Christmann, and the development of participatory formats for organisational and artistic decision-making processes will also be continued and intensified in the future.

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