

PRESS RELEASE **2019/2020 SEASON**



JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE PINA BAUSCH FOUNDATION AND TANZTHEATER WUPPERTAL PINA BAUSCH AT THE FORMER SCHAUSPIELHAUS WUPPERTAL ON 28TH OF MAY 2019

Tanztheater Wuppertal
Pina Bausch

Bettina Wagner-Bergelt, Artistic Director of the Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch since January 2019, and Salomon Bausch, Executive Director of the Pina Bausch Foundation, yesterday presented the Tanztheater Wuppertal's 2019/20 season and the Pina Bausch Foundation's 10th anniversary programme together with Matthias Nocke, City Councillor for Culture for the City of Wuppertal.

For the very first time, the two institutions presented their plans for the new season in a joint press conference. Both are looking to the future: The two institutions will intensify their cooperation, not only regarding the plans for the new Pina Bausch Centre but also to find answers to key questions concerning the future of both institutions.

Below you will find the joint press release of the Pina Bausch Foundation and the Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or interview requests.

Kind regards,

Ursula Popp
Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch
Press and Public Relations Officer
E ursula.popp@pina-bausch.de
T +49 202 563 6720

Denise Fertig
Pina Bausch Foundation
Communications
E denise@pinabausch.org
T +49 202 261 588 24

PINA BAUSCH FOUNDATION

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10 YEARS PINA BAUSCH FOUNDATION

The Pina Bausch Foundation celebrates its 10th anniversary this 2019/20 season. An extensive programme of events offers many opportunities to engage with Pina Bausch's oeuvre and the work of the Foundation.

A highlight of the season is the double bill *The Rite of Spring – common ground[s]*, which is currently being created in collaboration with the École des Sables in Senegal. It will provide new insights into one of Pina Bausch's most famous choreographies, both for the dancers of this unique ensemble and for an international audience. Following its world premiere in Dakar, the production will be performed at the Wuppertal Opera House from 9th – 12th April 2020 before embarking on an international tour produced in collaboration with London's Sadler's Wells Theatre.

Also in this season, the Pina Bausch Archive will go online to make rare materials from Pina Bausch's artistic estate freely available to anyone in the world. The Foundation has been working to digitise the archive and make it accessible since 2010. The vast collection (which comprises of around 9,000 videos, 200,000 photographs and production materials for all her works) is the basis for re-staging her pieces at the Tanztheater Wuppertal and transmitting them to other companies. During the 2019/20 season, materials from five works will become available, with others following over the coming years.

While celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Foundation is also developing a vision for how to engage with Pina Bausch's legacy in the future. As well as drawing on past experiences, the Foundation invites collaborators, audience members and everyone interested to contribute to the conversation. The invitation is entitled *UTOPINA: ideas and dreams about Pina Bausch's art*. Two *UTOPINA* events will focus on the role of the archive and the transmission of her pieces. Both events will be framed by excerpts from a film by Florian Heinzen-Ziob about the work of the Foundation, created in cooperation with the Kunststiftung NRW. Other events in the 2019/2020 season include the launch of an online film edition, the Pina Bausch Fellowship 2020, the conclusion of the global video project *Dance! The NELKEN-Line* in Wuppertal, and the transmission of pieces to the Semperoper Ballet Dresden and the Opera Ballet Vlaanderen.

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The Tanztheater Wuppertal will present nine different works during the 2019/20 season, with 32 performances at the Wuppertal Opera House. The Brecht/Weill evening *The Seven Deadly Sins/Don't Be Afraid* has been invited by the Théâtre de la Ville to perform at the newly reopened Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, together with the Ensemble Intercontemporain. In March 2020 it will return to Wuppertal where it will be accompanied by the Wuppertal Symphony Orchestra. International tours will take the ensemble to Catanzaro in Southern Italy and the Charleroi Danse Festival in Belgium for the first time, as well as to Tel Aviv, London and Paris. During a three-week USA tour, the ensemble will present nine performances of *Palermo Palermo* in Los Angeles, Berkeley and Chicago.

One of the things Bettina Wagner-Bergelt is focusing on (while maintaining the current repertoire of well-known works and new creations) is the **re-staging or reconstruction of works** that have not been performed for many years. 42 years after its world premiere in 1977, the ensemble of the Tanztheater will re-stage *Bluebeard. Listening to a Tape Recording of Béla Bartók's Opera, "Bluebeard's Castle"* with an entirely new cast. It is a disturbing, subversive piece that was originally performed in twelve cities including Cologne, Los Angeles, Paris and Toronto up until the mid-1980s. Both in content and form it counts among Pina Bausch's seminal masterpieces. *Bluebeard* will premiere at the Wuppertal Opera House on 23rd January 2020. The re-staging will be led by Jan Minarik and Beatrice Libonati from the original cast and Helena Pikon and Barbara Kaufmann. In February 2020, it will travel to London for a series of performances at Sadler's Wells.

The intention and motivation behind **new creations and the development of inspiring interdisciplinary formats** is to spark the ensemble's creativity, aiming to be as radical and questioning as Pina Bausch herself – also with a view to the future programming of the Pina Bausch Centre. Five choreographers from different artistic traditions have been invited to work with the ensemble over the course of the coming season: In June 2020 Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Richard Siegal, Monika Gintersdorfer/Knut Klaßen, Helena Waldmann and Rainer Behr will present an evening of new works entitled *Begegnungen / Encounters*. A new edition of the **Underground** series will see nine new productions performed at the Schauspielhaus, the site of the future Pina Bausch Centre, and the Glass Pavillion in the Sculpture Park in November 2019.

Bettina Wagner-Bergelt aims to strengthen the Tanztheater's ties with the city through **sustainable co-operations with other cultural institutions in Wuppertal** and through projects with schools, colleges and universities: "Wuppertal with its cultural diversity and vitality offers wonderful opportunities for interdisciplinary co-operations and artistic experiments and adventures. In the coming season we will therefore work with the Wuppertaler Bühnen, the Sculpture Park Waldfrieden by Tony Cragg, the Von-der-Heydt Museum, the Riedelhallen and the Bergische Musikschule Wuppertal."

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Entitled **Suchen & Finden**, the Tanztheater's programme for children and young people offers a variety of participatory projects and formats for all school types on topics relating to the coming season. Dancers from the ensemble and guest artists from different genres will work with children and young people, offering a spectrum of opportunities ranging from taster workshops to weekly dance projects, larger-scale interdisciplinary co-operations and choreographic holiday projects. In addition, former dancers from the Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch will lead on the development of a new core subject of dance at the Offene Ganztagsgrundschule Birkenhöhe. With this initiative, the Tanztheater Wuppertal is also fostering a long-term co-operation between the Bergische Musikschule Wuppertal and the Offene Ganztagsgrundschule Birkenhöhe.

The ensemble will mark the 10th anniversary of Pina Bausch's death with a special event at the Opera House on 3rd October, following the performance of Pina Bausch's final piece ... *como el mosquito en la piedra, ay si, si, si....*