

PRESS REPORT

Berlin, May 25th 2012

TANZ IM AUGUST
10 – 25 AUG
BERLIN 2012

TANZ IM AUGUST - INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL BERLIN 2012

This year, TANZ IM AUGUST will take place from August 10th to 25th at numerous stages in Berlin, among them the Hebbel am Ufer (HAU 1-3), the Podewil, the Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz and the Academy of the Arts Berlin.

The 24th edition of the festival for contemporary dance and performance will be opened at the Haus der Berliner Festspiele with a guest performance by the Japanese choreographer Saburo Teshigawara and his company KARAS. The group work "Mirror and Music" impresses with its contrasting composition of movement, sound and light; it produces an atmosphere in which meditation and apocalypse are closely linked.

A theme that can be followed in this year's festival is the connection between dance and language. With the motto „Figures of Speech“, the curators have invited a series of productions in which the spoken and written word plays a decisive role - either as a rhythmic impulse for movement, a written basis for a choreography or a narrative within the piece.

In the solo „It's going to get worse and worse and worse, my friend“ by Lisbeth Gruwez, it's a speech by the ultra-conservative American televangelist Jimmy Swaggart that is transformed in its rhythm and gesture into precise movements. The piece deals less with the direct meanings of the words and phrases, but more with the violence that can lie in the rhetorical strategies of someone in a trance-like state.

“Them”, which premiered in 1986 and was revived in 2010, is a piece by the New York choreographer Ishmael Houston-Jones about male sexuality and aggression. The mostly improvised piece is supported by Chris Cochrane's raw guitar sound as well as texts that are spoken live by Dennis Cooper about homosexual identity, drug excesses, death and suicide.

Other highlights of the festival are, among others, the guest performances by Deborah Hay, Akram Khan, Benoit Lachambre, the Norwegian group Carte Blanche with a choreography by the Batsheva-member Sharon Eyal, the Tunisian/French company Chatha and the Belgian/Cambodian cooperation between Arco Renz and Amrita Performing Arts.

Public discussions, films, parties and above all the newly designed associated program Sideshow, curated by the artists Eva Meyer-Keller and Rico Repotente (including yoga, jogging, workshops, concerts and performances as well as the sideshow saloon), brings together artists, experts and the audience.

In addition, this year there will be a cooperation between TANZ IM AUGUST and the TANZNACHT Berlin in, among others, the site-specific project X-Choreografen; here 15 choreographers explore the West Berlin district around the Kurfürstendamm. On August 25th, all visitors are then invited to a final event and party at the Podewil.

TANZ IM AUGUST - International Dance Festival Berlin is a common event of the Kulturprojekte Berlin/TanzWerkstatt Berlin and Hebbel am Ufer, supported by the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Senate Chancellery for Cultural Affairs, as well as funded by the Hauptstadtkulturfonds.

You will also find the entire program at www.tanzimaugust.de.

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