

PARTICIPATION  
AND  
THEATRE

# COMMON PLACES

DIGITAL

10.–12.03.2022



GEFÖRDERT VOM



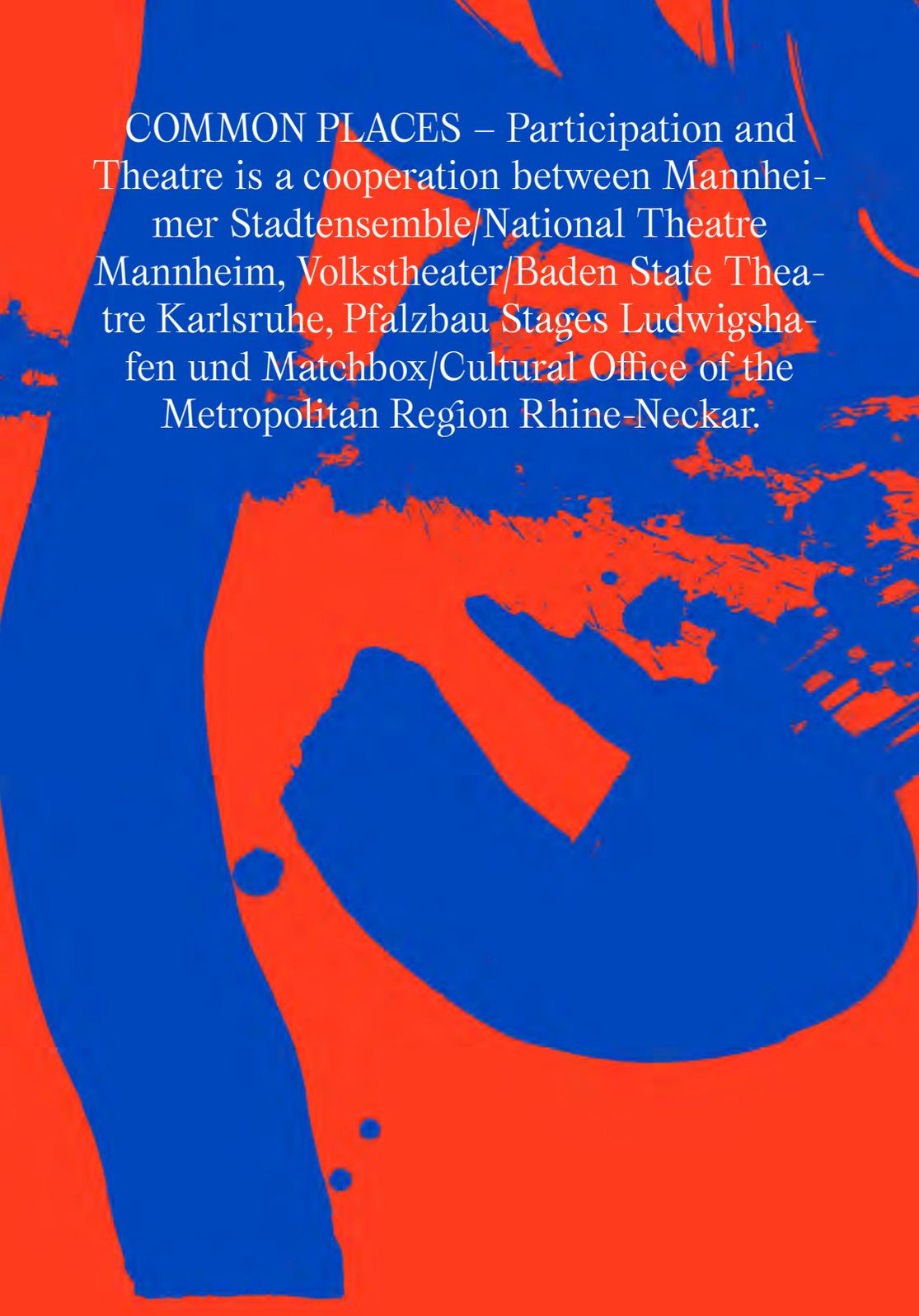
Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST

Gesellschaft der Freunde  
des Badischen Staatstheaters Karlsruhe e.V.



Freunde und Förderer des  
Nationaltheaters Mannheim e.V.



COMMON PLACES – Participation and Theatre is a cooperation between Mannheimer Stadtensemble/National Theatre Mannheim, Volkstheater/Baden State Theatre Karlsruhe, Pfalzbau Stages Ludwigshafen und Matchbox/Cultural Office of the Metropolitan Region Rhine-Neckar.

A warm welcome to COMMON PLACES - Participation and Theatre! You are entering a forum that aims at showing the diversity of artistic participatory work and strengthening it for the future. How have participatory approaches developed aesthetically and structurally in recent years? We dare to look beyond the established 'citizens' stages' and permanent institutions and take a look at what can be learned from other art forms or political and social initiatives.

Located somewhere between a conference and a festival, COMMON PLACES offers a wide range of KEYNOTES and discussion formats that take into account the omnipresent, 'post-pandemic' need for networking, exchange and development of thoughts. Following our open call, GUEST PERFORMANCES from Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium and the UK have been selected to be shown via zoom and stream. They offer an insight into the contemporary range of participatory work in spoken, dance, music theatre and performance, while simultaneously serving as starting points for discussions.

TALKS tie in with the guest performances, broaden the European perspective and discuss collective, inclusive or activist working methods. Some of these artistic methods can be tried out practically in WORKSHOPS. As an additional focus structural questions should not be neglected in 2022: What does it take to make participation sustainable and substantial? Is participation rooted in the needs of citizens or rather in questions of legitimization of the traditional art institutions? What is at stake is nothing less than the future of theatre. We are happy to have you!

# PROGRAM

## 10. – 12.03.22

Thursday, March 10th

2-4pm  
**WORKSHOPS I & II**  
Zoom / German

I: Legal basics of participation  
By Michael Schröder

II: TheatrX: A game about the future of theatre  
By Luca Rudolf, Fabian Chyle-Silvestri and & Keller

6pm  
**LET'S SHOW: OPENING**  
With the festival team & guests  
Stream / German & English

6:30pm  
**THIS IS THE MAYORESS SPEAKING (DE)**  
Performative opening speech by Tanja Krone  
Stream / German with English subtitles

7pm  
**IVORY TOWER VS. ART FOR ALL?**  
Keynote by Prof. Dr. Julius Heinicke  
Stream / German

8pm  
**STILLE SLAG (DK)**  
Music theatre by Louise Alenius, Tanja Diers & Tue Biering  
Stream / Danish with English subtitles  
Followed by an artist talk on Zoom

9:45pm  
**LET'S HANG: OPEN BAR**  
With the festival team & guests  
Zoom / German & English

Friday, March 11th

9:30am  
**LET'S HANG: BREAKFAST CLUB**  
With the festival team & guests  
Zoom / German & English

10am  
**NOW PRESENTING: ART!**  
Talk on the aesthetics of participation  
Zoom / German with English translation

# COMMON PLACES

11:15am  
**OPERA MEETS ACTIVISM**  
Talk on participatory music theatre  
Zoom / German with English translation

12:30pm  
**DEMOCRACY**  
- TOXIC FOR THE ARTS?  
Debate on the limits of participation  
Zoom / German with English translation

2pm  
**LET'S MOVE: AEROBIC-SESSION**  
With Manuel Flickinger  
Zoom / no language needed

2:30-6:30pm  
**THE CITY AS A PLACE OF KNOWLEDGE**  
Workshop III by Ulrike Hatzler  
Zoom / German & English

2:30pm  
**SHIFTING FACES (NL)**  
Dance piece by Joop Oonk & Misiconi Dance Company  
Stream / no language needed & audio description in English

3pm  
**RHYTHM ISN'T EVERYTHING**  
Talk on dance and empowerment  
Zoom / English

3:45pm  
**LET'S HANG: COFFEE & CHIT CHAT**  
With the festival team & guests  
Zoom / German & English

4:15pm  
**SPOTLIGHTS INTERNATIONAL**  
From Poland, India and Great Britain  
Zoom / English

6:30pm  
**I REMEMBER (GB)**  
Short film by Andy Field & Beckie Darlington  
Stream / English

7pm  
**REVISITING "ARTIFICIAL HELLS"**  
Lecture on participatory art in the 2010s by Claire Bishop  
Zoom / English

# PARTICIPATION AND THEATRE

3

8pm - English version  
**YOUR WORD IN MY MOUTH (BE/DE)**  
8:30pm - German version  
**DEIN WORT IN MEINEM MUND (BE/DE)**  
Scripted conversation by Anna Rispoli, Lotte Lindner & Till Steinbrenner  
Zoom / German & English  
Followed by an artist talk on Zoom

9:30pm  
**LET'S HANG: THROUGH THE NIGHT**  
With the festival team & guests  
Zoom / German & English

Saturday, March 12th

9:30am  
**"BÜRGER:INNEN:BÜHNEN"**  
Book presentation by Hannes Langer  
Zoom / German

10am  
**LET'S NETWORK**  
Open Space  
Zoom / German & English

11am  
**INSTITUTIONS SEEKING ADVICE**  
Sharing experiences on program advisory boards  
Zoom / English

11am  
**SPOTLIGHTS 5x5**  
Five project presentations  
Zoom / German

12pm  
**VILLAGE PEOPLE**  
Talk on art and participation in rural areas  
Zoom / German & English translation

12-2pm  
**WORKSHOPS IV - VI**  
Zoom

IV: Collective female\* working methods  
By Katharina Oberlik  
English & German / till 4pm

V: Storytelling with digital means  
By Ilja Mirsky & Klabauter Theater Hamburg  
German

VI: Settings and strategies of interaction  
By Turbo Pascal  
German

2-4pm  
**WORKSHOPS VII & VIII**  
Zoom

VII: Writing for the digital space  
By Seda Keskinkılıç-Brück  
German

VIII: Autoteatro  
By Ant Hampton  
English

4pm  
**VERSCHWÖRT EUCH! (DE)**  
Performance by Janette Mickan & Sarah Johanna Steinfelder  
Stream / German with English subtitles  
Followed by an artist talk on Zoom

6pm  
**BETTER TOGETHER**  
Talk with i can be your translator  
Zoom / German

6:30pm  
**BESSER IST BESSER (DE)**  
Performance by i can be your translator  
Stream / German  
Followed by an artist talk on Zoom

Anytime

on demand  
**MEDEA.CHOR (DE)**  
Web installation by Mathilde Lehmann & Nanako Oizumi  
Online / German / English & German subtitles

on demand via mail  
**ON FRIENDSHIP (DE)**  
Friendship experience by Anna-Kirstine Linke  
At home / German & English

Info

Streams and tickets on [www.dringeblieden.de](http://www.dringeblieden.de).  
More information also on Instagram [@common.places.festival](https://www.instagram.com/common.places.festival)

Art Discourse Workshop

## LET'S HANG

Talk, dance, breakfast and celebrate with the festival team

Ongoing from Thursday to Saturday in our digital festival hub

Socializing

During COMMON PLACES - Participation and Theatre the festival team occupies the studio stage of Mannheim's National Theatre, streaming into your living and dining rooms or offices, always live and always happy. LET'S CREATE some festival mood!

Our zoom channel 4068477584 will be open for the entire duration of the festival. Feel free to ask questions, get the info you need and meet for private conversations in breakout sessions. Come hang out with us!

## MEDEA.CHOR (DE)

Web installation

Online / German / subtitles English & German / ca. 90 mins

Art

Concept: Mathilde Lehmann, Nanako Oizumi | Direction, Digital Installation and Media: Mathilde Lehmann, Nanako Oizumi, Sören Zweiniger | Performance: Martha-Angel Gräbenitz | Werkstatt: Anna Elisabeth Diepold, Pia Martz

„The name means what it means. Me. Nothing else.“ - Dea Loher: Manhattan Medea. 'Medea' is often a synonym for a vengeful woman. *MEDEA.chor* goes in search of the Medea who is hidden behind the lines. In interviews with more than 30 women with migration experience, a vocal concert between myth and present emerges. A common search begins, for a core story, if there is one, and above all: for Medea's voice.

A production by PRUNK&PLASTE in cooperation with Werkstattmacher e.V. and LOFFT - DAS THEATER. Sponsored by the City of Leipzig, Kulturamt.

[www.prunkundplaste.de](http://www.prunkundplaste.de)

## ON FRIENDSHIP (DE)

A friendship experience

By post / German & English / 2-3h

Art

Concept and realisation: Anna-Kirstine Linke  
With: you & your friend, your smartphones

And that's how it works:

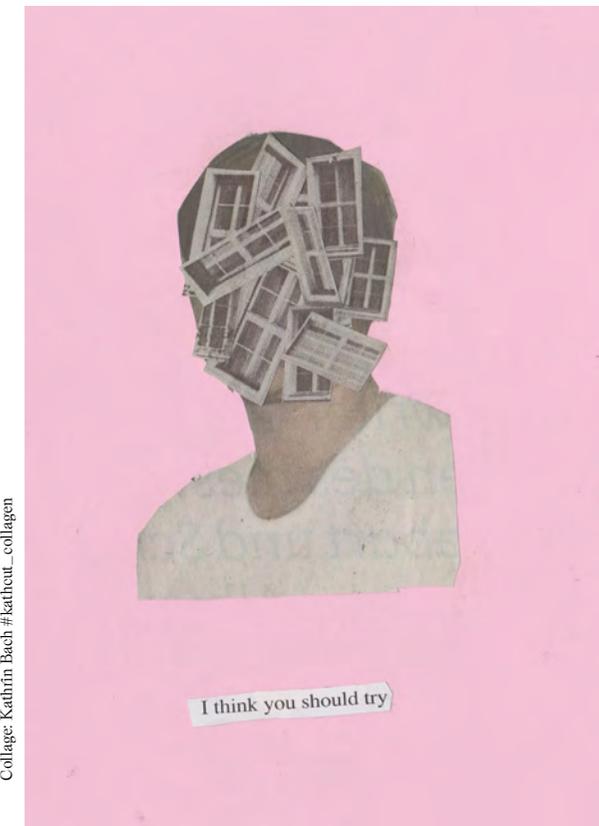
1. You meet your friend.
2. You exchange keys.
3. You each go to the other's flat.
4. Bring the letter "On Friendship" with you.
5. This is the beginning of a ride through your friendship.

Anna-Kirstine Linke works as a writer and director with a focus on biographical works and participatory formats. She developed and tested *Über Freundschaft (On friendship)* with friends in 2019. It will be presented publicly for the first time as part of COMMON PLACES.



Still: MEDEA.chor

Collage: Kathrin Bach #kathrein\_collagen



## LEGAL BASICS OF PARTICIPATION

Workshop I

2-4pm / Zoom / German

Workshop

With: Michael Schröder (Lawyer, Deputy Managing Director and Board Member of the German Stage Association)

Collaborating with people on a volunteer basis within the theatre industry presents many legal issues and questions concerning employment law: adequate payment, organising rehearsals on off-days and holidays, working hours outside of normal rehearsal times, and many other pitfalls. The workshop will outline some solutions to these issues. Please bring questions and examples from your own work practice!

## THEATR X: A GAME ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THEATRE

Workshop II

2-4pm / Zoom / German

Workshop

With: Luca Rudolf (political & theatre scientist, theatre educator), Fabian Chyle-Silvestri (choreographer & choreographer) & Sean Keller (writer and media artist)

The *TheatrX* games are made for individuals and institutions that are interested in theatre and participation in one way or another - making it, watching it, passing by. In this workshop, individual games will be tested, discussed and possibly improved together with the game developers.

*TheatrX - 10 Days, 10 Games* is a ten-part card set that was developed as part of *TheatrX - The City-Theatre-Future-Experiment* on behalf of Theater der Jungen Welt as part of Leipzig - City of Social Movements.

## LET'S SHOW: OPENING

6pm / Stream / German & English / 30 mins

Curating COMMON PLACES - Participation and Theatre, we were following the motto 'show, don't tell'. Nevertheless, some introductory telling has to be done: The festival team welcomes you from a special set up in the studio. We introduce ourselves and get you in the mood for three days full of discussion and input. We are also pleased to hear a welcoming address by Petra Olschowski, State Secretary in the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts Baden-Württemberg. Before we move to more interactive zoom sessions in the upcoming days, Thursday's program can be enjoyed conveniently as a stream. Make yourselves comfortable and tune in!



Die Bürgermeister\*in (The Mayoress), Photo: Arthur Bauer

## THIS IS THE MAYORESS SPEAKING (DE)

Performative opening speech

6.30pm / Stream / German with English subtitles / 20 mins

Art

Idea, concept: Lea Gerschwitz, Tanja Krone | Dramaturgy: Lea Gerschwitz | Costume design: Kathrin Krumbein | Photo, Film: Arthur Bauer | Performance: Tanja Krone

Last year, performer and musician Tanja Krone set out for the artistic exploration of an office, asking: How do I become a mayoress? Exclusively for COMMON PLACES - Participation and Theatre, she will give her first inaugural speech in this capacity, taking the plunge after many conversations, municipal council meetings and visits to city halls.

*Die Bürgermeister\*in (The Mayoress)* is a production by Matchbox, the itinerant art and culture project in the Rhine-Neckar region, in collaboration with Heinrich Böll Foundation Baden-Württemberg.

Tanja Krone is a director, curator, performer and musician. In her work she deals with social participation and art as a space of possibility. She is persistently in search for the poetic within the documentary.

[www.tanjakrone.de](http://www.tanjakrone.de)

## IVORY TOWER VS. ART FOR ALL?

Keynote

7pm / Stream / German / 30 mins

Discourse

By Prof. Dr. Julius Heinicke (University of Hildesheim)

In his keynote Julius Heinicke will speak about the emerging self-understanding of participatory projects as an art form and their most diverse positioning between socio-political engagement and aesthetic action. Taking a look at his practice and research activities in Southern Africa, he will then offer reflections on the European character of the discourse and the (necessary) democratisation of cultural institutions.

Julius Heinicke is professor of Cultural Policy and holds the UNESCO chair 'Cultural Policy for the Arts in Development' at the University of Hildesheim. From 2017-2020, he was professor of 'Applied Cultural Studies' at Coburg University of Applied Sciences. Since 2018, he has been project manager of the research project 'Interfaces between High Culture and Cultural Education'.

## STILLE SLAG (DK)

Music Theatre

8pm / Stream / Danish with English subtitles / 60 mins / Followed by an artist talk on Zoom

Art

Composition: Louise Alenius | Text and dramaturgy, artistic direction: Tanja Diers | Direction: Tue Biering | Set design: Ida Grarup | Lighting design: Balder Nørskov | Lighting design assistance: Suni Joensen | Production: Amanda Tilia Hamelle | Casting: Katharina Adrian |

Performance: Morten Grove Frandsen, Katinka Fogh Vindelev, Julie Meera Albertsen, Kirsten Grove, Mathias Monrad Møller, Kristian Bordoy og Gustav Johansson, Tanja Bibi Berthelsen, Jannik Vig, Boris Andersen, Habib Moutran, Lars Vesterlund

„I hold on. Table-chair-bed torn from the wall. Seat and backrest torn apart. The broom overturned and smeared with blood. Chipped, broken, bloodstained mirror tiles. You'll never catch me.“

What happens to the body when you are locked up? Text and music of *Stille Slag* are based on interviews with former inmates of Danish prisons who appear on stage as silent performers. With the help of a composition for seven voices, opera singers create a dense atmosphere around them, which illustrates the effects of isolation on human beings.

A production of Østerbro Teater Copenhagen.



Stille Slag, Photo: Søren Meisner

## NOW PRESENTING: ART!

Talk on the aesthetics of participation

10am / Zoom / German with English translation / 60 mins

### Discourse

With: Max Glauner (author and lecturer), Sebastian Hannak (stage designer), Tobias Rausch (director and dramaturg, Head of the Bürger.Bühne at the Staatsschauspiel Dresden), Beata Anna Schmutz (director, Head of the Stadtensemble Mannheim)

Moderator: Lena Mallmann

The invited theatre makers are strong advocates for their participatory work as an art form of its own. They talk about aesthetics, methods and formats that are strongly based on an open and collaborative work approach. What kind of training, which skills are necessary to work with non-professional performers? Theoretical perspectives broaden the discussion: coming from the predominantly biographical approaches of the 'citizen's stages', genres and formats have multiplied in the last 15 years as visual arts and contemporary media are entering, boundaries between disciplines as well as between performers and audiences become blurred, spectators become collaborators. Regarding the overall program of COMMON PLACES the broad panel will talk about swarm intelligence, equal footing, about questions of professionalisation, their understanding of art, about, well, actually everything.

## OPERA MEETS ACTIVISM

Talk on participatory music theatre

11.15am / Zoom / German with English translation / 60 mins

### Discourse

With: Artists from the collective Lauratibor, Anna Chernomordik (dramaturg, Musiktheater im Revier Gelsenkirchen) & Ulf Schmidt (author), Dennis Depta & Marielle Sterra (glanz&krawall)

Moderator: Barbara Wendland

In the face of music theatre's hermetic form and powerful tradition, participation rarely has a chance to blossom. Nevertheless, there are examples of a fruitful connection between participation, political activism and the opera genre. We are happy to present: *Stadt der Arbeit (City of Work)* by Volker Lösch and Ulf Schmidt, a musical/theatrical project with citizens of Gelsenkirchen who struggle with the hardships of a fictitious workhouse. *Wem gehört Lauratibor? (Who owns Lauratibor?)*, a large-scale project on the gentrification of a neighbourhood in Berlin. And last but not least the collective glanz&krawall, working on its vision of a cross-disciplinary music theatre that blithely seeks confrontation with the rest of society.

## DEMOCRACY - TOXIC FOR THE ARTS?

Debate on the limits of participation

12.30am / Zoom / German with English translation / 60 mins

### Discourse

With: Antigone Akgün (dramaturg, Ayşe X Staatstheater), Alexander Koch (director, Neue Auftraggeber Germany), Monika Schill (director, Cultural Office Ludwigshafen), Julian Warner (cultural anthropologist and designated director of Brecht Festival Augsburg)

Moderator: Beata Anna Schmutz

How much grassroots democracy can art handle? Some participatory processes leave-disappointed participants behind, while at the same time not offering the 'fresh perspective' the institutions had hoped for. A broad panel discusses the assignment that theatres and galleries receive along with their extensive public funding and the corresponding responsibility to engage in a dialogue with their visitors - and with their non-visitors. Is participation a working method or a goal of cultural policy? Die Neuen Auftraggeber (The New Commissioners) have imported an idea from France that not only enables co-determination, but builds on it: art projects as citizens' initiatives. Could this be a model for theatres, too?

## LET'S MOVE: AEROBIC-SESSION

2pm / Zoom / no language needed / 30 mins

### Socializing

With: Manuel Flickinger

Raise your hands! One third of COMMON PLACES is already over and it's time to strengthen your back, stretch your legs and move your head to keep your mind flexible. Manuel Flickinger, aerobics trainer and participant of German tv show *Ich bin ein Star - holt mich hier raus* as well as a member of Mannheim City Ensemble (Mannheimer Stadtensemble), is making us move right after lunch. Let's loosen up our limbs and get into the right mood to watch and talk about dance practice in the afternoon. And remember: Rhythm isn't everything. Keep cameras switched on or off, as you prefer!

## THE CITY AS A PLACE OF KNOWLEDGE

Workshop III

2.30-6.30pm / Zoom / German & English

Workshop

With: Univ. Prof. Ulrike Hatzler (director of the MA programme “Applied Theatre – Artistic theatre practice & society”, Mozarteum University Salzburg, Austria)

Who or what shapes the narrative of a city? Which knowledge, which skills are hidden in the architecture of a place? Isn't the city the true expert when it comes to participation and sharing?

Based on theoretical impulses, e.g. on walking, listening or performative urbanism, this workshop is focused on developing ideas on how to explore a city in dialogue form. The workshop claims that, at least rudimentary, all ingredients for a University for Participation are already present in every city. One can find fragments, unearth treasures in the layers of places and spaces. To be precise, we deal with an ‘un-university’ here, that has foresightfully said goodbye to the hierarchies of knowledge certificates and degrees. It treats its inhabitants as students and lecturers at the same time, in a constant exchange between these two roles.

## SHIFTING FACES (NL)

Dance piece by Joop Oonk & Misiconi  
Dance Company

2.30pm / Stream / no language needed &  
English with audio description / 30 mins

Art

By Misiconi Dance Company | Artistic direction and choreography: Joop Oonk | Dramaturgy: Floor Cremers | Music: Ed de Vos Costume | Costume Design: Esmée Thomassen | Light Design: Sanne Hensen | Performance: Mathilde Dirkszwaiger, Eric Heijmans, Suzanne Lamers, Jordy Ruhl, Claudia Scafigella, Manouk Schrauwen, Saskia Spierenburg, Enya Straver

*Shifting Faces* reflects on the versatility and diversity of humans and its polar opposite, the manufacturing of absolute uniformity. How synchronous, identical and flawless can we be as people in this society? What is ‘the norm’? Using face masks, the body itself becomes the central, non-verbal storyteller in *Shifting Faces*. As in all of their pieces, Misiconi Dance Company questions normative thinking and the paradigm of equality and celebrates the difference of their dancers as their greatest asset. The unique physical and emotional strengths of dancers with and without disabilities create their aesthetic and expressive power.

[www.misiconi.nl](http://www.misiconi.nl)

## RHYTHM ISN'T EVERYTHING

Talk on dance and empowerment

3pm / Zoom / English / 45 mins

Discourse

With: Monica Delgadillo Aguilar (choreographer, Tanz die Toleranz Wien), Joop Oonk (choreographer, Misiconi Dance Company NL), Graham Smith (choreographer, Municipal Theatre Freiburg)  
Moderator: Lea Gerschwitz

Many people would rather dance in dark clubs with loud music, artificial smoke and flickering lights than go out on a stage! The fear of being judged for one's awkward movements is too strong. Western societies are characterised by the difficult relationship to one's own body and to bodies in society, making participatory dance work in Central Europe particularly challenging, but also particularly empowering - if fixed ideas of 'skill' or 'talent' can be overcome in the process. At the same time, the physical approach can facilitate communication across language barriers. After having watched *Shifting Faces*, three representatives from companies in Germany, Austria and the Netherlands discuss how dance can become a form of expression for anyone and how standard ideas of technique and physique aren't the end-all, be-all for artistic quality.



Shifting Faces, Photo: Sjoerd Dertine

## SPOTLIGHTS INTERNATIONAL

From Poland, India and Great Britain

4.15pm / Zoom / English / 3x 45 mins

### Discourse

With: Anuja Ghosalkar (director, theatre facilitator), Jemma McDonnell (director, Paper Birds), Bartosz Zimniak (artist & curator, MEWKA Gallery Gdańsk), Andy Fields & Beckie Darlington (artist duo Andy & Beckie)

Moderator: Lena Mallmann

What does participatory art look like beyond the German-speaking world? Artists from Poland, India and Great Britain share how participation is anchored in their own work and in the discourse of their respective countries.

Polish intermedia artist Bartosz Zimniak talks about „socially engaged galleries“ (Galeria Społecznie Zaangażowana) in Poland that combine community arts and neighbourhood gatherings with the production and exhibition of art. In 2017, he founded MEWKA Socially Engaged Gallery in the Nowy Port district of Gdańsk, where he curates and organises exhibitions, workshops and thematic talks together with the neighbourhood, local communities and artists.

@mewkagaleriazaangazowana

Anuja Ghosalkar is the founder of the documentary theatre group Drama Queen, which has been challenging and developing India's strong theatre tradition since 2015. In her practice, she searches for the missing stories, for new narratives on gender and intimacy, and tries to overcome hierarchies between audience and performers. Her latest work, *The Lonely Hearts Club*, emerged in the midst of the pandemic as an Instagram project about eroticism, taboos, and our connection with screens. Anuja introduces her own work in times of rising cultural conservatism in India and explains the conditions and consequences of her participatory work.

@anujaghosalkar

Using the example of *The School of Hope*, their 2021 international digital multimedia project about empathy, Jenna McDonnell, the artistic director of the British collective The Paper Birds, talks about the importance of collective learning for her work. The Paper Birds use the British tradition of „verbatim theatre,“ a documentary form that often works exclusively with verbatim interviews. Also, the British artist duo Andy & Beckie will introduce their creative projects that initiate new kinds of conversations between children and adults, before we watch their short film *I Remember* as an example.

www.thepaperbirds.com

## I REMEMBER (GB)

Short film

6.30pm / Stream / English / 15 mins

Art

Concept, realisation and editing: Andy Field, Beckie Darlington | Music: Tom Parkinson | With: Children of the Norwich Primary Academy in Norfolk

*I Remember* is an imaginary documentary set 50 years in the future in which a group of children plays themselves many years in the future and looks back on today's present. In grey wigs and crooked moustaches, the now-elderly interviewees in 2071 look back on their childhood and in particular the experience of growing up during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their imagined memories and hard-won wisdom offer a safe distance from which the audience can reflect on the pandemic and its consequences.

With their projects, Andy & Beckie provide children with the tools to reflect on and articulate their experience of the world, and create situations in which adults can really listen to children with the kind of seriousness and concentration they normally only reserve for other adults.

Commissioned by Norfolk & Norwich Festival. With thanks to Sarah Witcomb, Heather Denny and all the staff and students of Norwich Primary Academy.

www.andyandbeckie.com



Still: I Remember

Friday, 11.03.

## REVISITING “ARTIFICIAL HELLS”

Lecture on participatory art in the 2010s

7pm / Stream / English / 60 mins

Discourse

With: Claire Bishop (art critic and professor, City University New York)

It's been ten years since Claire Bishop published “Artificial Hells: Participatory Art and the Politics of Spectatorship” (Verso, 2012). In anticipation of a reprint to mark the book's tenth anniversary, this talk will gauge the development of participation over the last decade in art and performance and beyond. It will revisit the book's blind spots - namely, omissions concerning technology and race - and reflect on how the book's central aesthetic argument, in favour of antagonism, has lost force in the last decade.

Claire Bishop is a critic and professor in the PhD Program in Art History at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. She is a Contributing Editor of Artforum, and her essays and books have been translated into twenty languages. Her most recent publication is a book of conversations with Cuban artist Tania Bruguera (Cisneros, 2020).

## YOUR WORD IN MY MOUTH (BE/DE)

Scripted conversation

Zoom / 8pm / English  
Brussels version 2019  
Zoom / 8.30pm / German  
Hannover version 2017  
60 mins

Followed by an artist talk on Zoom

Art

By Anna Rispoli, Lotte Lindner & Till Steinbrenner

*Your Word in My Mouth* brings various real-life characters into conversation with each other by having the audience lend them their voices. Among others, a polyamorist, a football-crazy teenage girl, a notary specialising in matrimonial contracts, a sex assistant for people with disabilities and a Belgo-Congolese widow have a talk. Their specific relationships to love and desire question the very private strategies each of us uses to negotiate one's place in a democracy in crises. Readers can find out what it feels like to express views, values, and needs that are not their own. But you can also just sign up as a listener.

Anna Rispoli works in art and activism and performatively explores the relationship between people, cities, identities.

[www.annarispoli.be](http://www.annarispoli.be)

Saturday, 12.03.

## “BÜRGER:IN- NEN:BÜHNEN”

Book presentation

9.30am / Zoom / German / 30 mins

Discourse

With: Hannes Langer  
(director Bürgerbühne, Kleist Forum Frankfurt a. d. Oder)

In numerous conversations with social scientists, theatre educators, artists, and practitioners of community theatre in 2021, Hannes Langer and Katja Münster questioned the institutionalisation of participatory theatre, the ‘Bürgerbühnen’ at German municipal and state theatres. In the resulting book, which will be published by Beltz- Juventa Verlag in spring 2023, they address the question whether this institutionalisation advances or hinders participatory working methods. At a digital breakfast Hannes Langer offers first insights from their interviews and conversations.

## LET'S NETWORK

Open Space

10am / Zoom / German & English / 60 mins

Socializing

On Saturday Morning, like in every good festival, we offer an opportunity to network, to get to know existing initiatives, establish new contacts and deepen discussions from the previous days. We operate with the open space method: at the beginning all attendees can propose topics for discussion, which are then taken up in breakout rooms. And we bring some suggestions, too: artists involved in the festival will offer extended talks about their works. Ulrike Hatzler introduces the network PAC, the Permanent Conference in Higher Education in the Field of Performing Arts. And Ant Hampton presents *Showing Without Going* ([www.vidy.ch/en/showing-without-going](http://www.vidy.ch/en/showing-without-going)), a free working tool and resource developed with Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne and an international working group, creating approaches to the presenting and touring of live performance in times of limited travel. We are happy to assist with the exchange of contact details.



Your Word In My Mouth, Photo: Bea Borgers

## INSTITUTIONS SEEKING ADVICE

Sharing experiences on program advisory boards

11am / Zoom / English / 60 mins

### Discourse

With: Dörte Ilsabe Dennemann (curator, Kunsthalle Mannheim), Rob Drummer (Artistic Director Boundless Theatre South Bermondsey, Luca Ricci (Artistic Director Kilowatt Festival Sansepolcro), André Uelner (diversity change agent, Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz), Eva Wolfesberger and representatives of the respective advisory boards  
Moderator: Stefanie Bub (Ludwigshafen Cultural Office / dasHaus Cultural Centre)

Ten years ago the so-called 'citizens' stages' cropped up, while today it is the advisory boards that are growing and flourishing. Theatres, festivals, museums, and cultural centers are 'opening up' and inviting citizens to participate in programming, who then find themselves on an 'advisory board' or as a 'critical friend'. Examples from Italy, Great Britain, Austria and Germany shed light on experiences from advisory board work. What are the prerequisites on the part of the institutions? What can and should be expected of citizens? An honest review: Does the advisory board need the institution or does the institution need the advisory board?

## SPOTLIGHTS 5x5

Five project presentations

11am / Zoom / German / 60 mins

### Socializing

This is where artists introduce themselves. We have selected only the bravest to present themselves and their projects in 5 minutes. Not much time considering that the works shown have taken months or even years of dedication. Hopefully it will be enough to get an impression, make contacts and broaden the view of the diversity of participatory projects. After the project presentations there will be an opportunity to get together in breakout rooms.

#### *MEDEA.chor*

By PRUNK&PLASTE  
[www.prunkundplaste.de](http://www.prunkundplaste.de)

#### *Besser Sterben -*

*Eine Kaffeefahrt mit dem Tod*  
By Theaterkollektiv Behrmann / Koch / Mielich  
[www.rubybehrmann.de](http://www.rubybehrmann.de)

#### *Shell Game – Lost in Paranoialand*

By Anna Kpok  
[www.annakpok.de](http://www.annakpok.de)

#### *Über Freund:innenschaft*

By Anna-Kirstine Linke

#### *3 WOODS*

By Mia & Eric (CAN)  
[www.miaanderic.ca](http://www.miaanderic.ca)  
[www.3-woods.com](http://www.3-woods.com)

## VILLAGE PEOPLE

Talk on art and participation in rural areas

12 pm / Zoom / German with English translation / 60 mins

### Discourse

With: David Adler und Josefa Baum (Kulturlandbüro), Janette Mickan (director & author, collective LUNATIKS), Barbara Sterzenbach (educational scientist, University of Koblenz-Landau)  
Moderator: Lea Gerschwitz

Community, civil engagement, undiscovered stories - isn't this much more likely to be found in the countryside than on the urban 'citizens' stage'? Village residencies and support programs for rural areas are booming in many places. Cultural policy aspirations meet the realities of participatory work, which often move between a supposed cultural need in rural areas and the search for new aesthetic forms and methods. It starts, however, with residents and artists meeting each other in unfamiliar surroundings. What characterises successful (or failed) community work away from the big cities and what do we learn from it? This is one of the topics discussed by experts from practice and research.

## COLLECTIVE FEMALE\* WORKING METHODS

Workshop IV for FLINTA\*

12-4pm / Zoom / English & German

### Workshop

With: Katharina Oberlik (freelance theatre practitioner)

*Female Buddies* is a performance and video project that emerged during the pandemic lockdown in 2021. For six months, 13 female performers from Germany, Burkina Faso and Indonesia were connected via video conferences. They developed collective working methods that can be tested and reflected upon in this workshop. During the four hours all participants will get to know the project and have time to dive into collective working themselves. In our own living space we will work on common tasks and develop female characters that come to light when we stage ourselves.

Katharina Oberlik is a director and performer, long-time member and co-founder of She She Pop. She is a lecturer at the Theaterakademie Hamburg, among others, and works in free collaborations, e.g. with Hajusom and Meine Damen und Herren. In 2020 she founded the female network Performing Females as a label for new narratives in female self-expression.

[www.katharinaoberlik.com](http://www.katharinaoberlik.com)

## STORYTELLING WITH DIGITAL MEANS

Workshop V

12-2pm / Zoom / German

Workshop

With: Ilja Mirsky (dramaturg & media artist), Florian Giese & Marc-André Steffen (actors), Karín Nissen-Rizvani (artistic director, Klabauter Theater)

In the theatre project *Mythen der Zweckmäßigkeit (Myths of Expediency)*, created in 2021 at the Klabauter Theater Hamburg, advanced digital means such as avatars, holograms, live camera, body scans and landscape projections expand the artistic expression of the ensemble. In the workshop with the dramaturg and media artist Ilja Mirsky, Karín Nissen-Rizvani (concept and direction) and actors of the Klabauter ensemble, some of these media extensions will be presented, tried out and discussed.

Ilja Mirsky is dramaturge and programmer at the Institute for Theatrical Futurology (ITZ) at the Zimmertheater Tübingen. He is doing his PhD and lecturing on theatre and artificial intelligence.

The Klabauter Theater is part of the Rauhes Haus Foundation and one of the eight Hamburg off stages - off mainstream. The inclusive ensemble develops its own plays or reworks well-known stories, creating unconventional and touching productions for a broad audience.

[www.klabauter-theater.de](http://www.klabauter-theater.de)

## SETTINGS AND STRATEGIES OF INTERACTION

Workshop VI

12-2pm / Zoom / German

Workshop

With: Janina Janke (stage designer) & Angela Löer (dramaturg, performer)

In recent years, the collective Turbo Pascal has realised a variety of artistic works that understand theatre and/or the public space as a place of encounter and gathering. In interactive and communicative settings, the audience itself becomes the subject, developing its own dynamic. Janina Janke and Angela Löer tell us how these settings are created and what they require. They share their communicative strategies and test different interactive formats in a digital space with the participants.

Angela Löer studied cultural studies and aesthetic practice in Hildesheim and Aix-en-Provence, works as a dramaturg and theatre pedagogue, and is a founding member and performer in the collective Turbo Pascal.

Janina Janke studied stage design at the Berlin University of the Arts. In addition to her exploratory art projects on striking architectures and public spaces, she works as a freelance stage and costume designer for theatre and opera, regularly for the performance collective Turbo Pascal.

[www.turbopascal.info](http://www.turbopascal.info)

## WRITING FOR THE DIGITAL SPACE

Workshop VII

2-4pm / Zoom / German

Workshop

With: Seda Keskinliç-Brück (author, Institut für Digitaldramatik)

As an introduction to the topic, the Institut für Digitaldramatik (Institute for Digital Dramatic Art) will be presenting its work. At the Institute, recently founded at the National Theatre in Mannheim, nine fellows explore how texts can be created for new digital stages and whether writing in these spaces requires entirely new artistic strategies.

For the participants, too, no sentence will remain the same after this digital workshop. Together we will find our way into a digital writing flow and celebrate rewriting and deleting, copying and changing sentences. Together we seek new formats such as creative writing for and in digital spaces.

Seda Keskinliç is a freelance writer who writes prose, poetry, and for the stage. She studied literature and philosophy at the University of Heidelberg. As a fellow at the Institute for Digital Drama, she explores immersive writing in digital formats.

[www.nationaltheater-mannheim.de](http://www.nationaltheater-mannheim.de)

## AUTOTEATRO

Workshop VIII

2-4 pm / Zoom / English

Workshop

With: Ant Hampton (artist)

Coming from his practice of guiding people through „unrehearsed performance situations,“ in 2007 Ant Hampton developed a format that became known as „Autoteatro“. In Autoteatro, audience members perform the piece themselves, for each other. By means of instructions via audio, visual cues or text for what to do or say, but without a game master or performer, the spectators are guided through the situations - their actions or non-actions become the performance.

Autoteatro distinguishes itself from game design - there is no need for special skills among the spectators, there is nothing to win and no reason to act in competition with others. The Autoteatro pieces continue to tour widely, in over 60 different language versions. For COMMON PLACES, Ant Hampton will introduce this strand of his work in a two-hour workshop, including the chance to experience excerpts of certain pieces including his most recent collaboration with Tim Etchells, *Not to Scale*.

[www.anthampton.com](http://www.anthampton.com)

## VERSCHWÖRT EUCH! (DE)

Performance

4pm / Stream / German with English subtitles / 60 mins

Followed by an artist talk on Zoom

Art

Text and direction: Janette Mickan, Sarah Johanna Steinfelder | Scenography and costumes: Soojin Oh Sound | Design: Haesoo Eshu Jung | Lighting design: Josef Maaß | Performance: Judith Florence Ehrhardt | Cinematography: Manuel Kinzer, Nils Linscheidt, Olaf Saumer | Sound: Hossein Roushankar | Postproduction: FILMGESTALTEN

Did the moon landing actually happen? Was it the G5 mobile network expansion in Wuhan that caused the emergence of COVID-19? Has the political elite been replaced by alien reptiles?

*Verschwört euch! (Conspire!)* is a research-based, interactive solo performance that searches for the performative qualities of conspiracy narratives. Gathered from research in literature, social networks and conversations with convinced and critics, a multi-perspectival monologue emerged. It explores the possibilities of how we can stay in conversation with each other.

In cooperation with Artistania e. V. / Supported by Fonds Darstellende Künste with funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media as part of NEU-START KULTUR. #TakePart #TakeAction

[www.verschwoert-euch.de](http://www.verschwoert-euch.de)

Verschwört euch!, Photo: Kira Hofmann



## Discourse

Moderator: Charlotte Arens

Before we watch their production *besser ist besser (better is better)*, the collective *i can be your translator* introduces itself. They talk about their rehearsal process and their consistent work on equal footing - despite or even because of different abilities and ideas within the ensemble and the team.

## BETTER TOGETHER

Talk with *i can be your translator*

6pm / Zoom / German / 30 mins

## BESSER IST BESSER (DE)

Performance

6.30pm / Stream / German / 105 mins / Followed by an artist talk on Zoom

Art

Concept: *i can be your translator* | Design: Birk-André Hildebrandt | Music: Christian Fleck | Dramaturgy: Philipp Schulte | Costume: Julia Strauß | Production Management: Maren Becker | Assistance: Sabrina Leistner, Björn Lammers | Performance: Lis Marie Diehl, Linda Fisahn, Christian Fleck, Julia Hülsken, Lina Jung, Anna Reizbikh, Christoph Rodatz, Christian Schöttelndreier, Laurens Wältken

We want to fence

We want to fight

We have muscles

Everyone draws from the full:

The performers on stage show their abilities.

The audience rewards not only with applause.

With a little effort, you can make it to the top!

The arena is open, the distribution of money shall begin.

We lay the foundation for a fair and adequate payment for all artists on stage. In the pot are several thousand

euros of evening fee. From now on we will pay according to output - the audience decides. After all, we are happy citizens of a fair performance-based society.

A production of *i can be your translator* / inTakt e.V. in co-production with Ringlokschuppen Ruhr Mülheim and Theater im Depot Dortmund.

Funded by: Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, NRW Landesbüro Freie Darstellende Künste, Fonds Darstellende Künste with funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, from the Kunststiftung NRW and the Cultural Office of the City of Dortmund.

With the kind support of: DEW21.

[www.icanbeyourtranslator.de](http://www.icanbeyourtranslator.de)

besser ist besser, Photo: Oskar Neubauer



## ONLINE VENUES

Das Festival takes place digitally on the Streaming-Plattform [www.dringebliieben.de](http://www.dringebliieben.de) and the conference-platform Zoom.

## TICKETS

*Festival pass für alle Programmpunkte:*

Regular 30€ / Professionals 45€

*Workshops:* 15€

*Single Ticket Art:* 5€-15€ (Solidary price system)

## CONTACT / SUPPORT

*Telephone:* +49 1522 42 68 73 4

*E-Mail:* [silke.roth@staats theater.karlsruhe.de](mailto:silke.roth@staats theater.karlsruhe.de)

The Festival-Hub-Zoom (4068477584) will be open throughout the festival. Questions about the programme and how to use Zoom will be answered here.

You can find further information on our Instagram [@common.places.festival](https://www.instagram.com/common.places.festival)



## IMPRINT

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