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● TREFFPUNKT Rotebühlplatz  
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# Press Release

To be included in your publication

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22<sup>nd</sup> International Solo-Dance-Theater Festival Stuttgart, Germany

15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## **Contemporary dance on the beat – young dance talents at TREFFPUNKT Rotebühlplatz**

Innovative, contemporary, surprising – an exciting crossover of cultures and dance styles awaits visitors to the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Solo Dance Theater Festival from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Young dance talents from all over the world are converging on TREFFPUNKT Rotebühlplatz in Stuttgart, Germany. They hail from Europe, Egypt, Palastine, Armenia, Japan, the USA, Taiwan, Brazil, Columbia and Senegal. They've brought works with them which in quite different ways are the product of a search for answers to personal and political questions. The programme encompasses 18 premieres, all competing for a number of prizes and the positive words of our international jury. Taking on the important role of the jury this year are Bernhard Fauser (artistic and commercial director of the HebelHalle, Künstlerhaus UnterwegsTheater, CEO of the Choreographisches Centrum Heidelberg), Ricardo Fernando (ballet director und chief choreographer at Theater Augsburg), Diana Fontes (founder and artistic director of the "Encontro de Dança Contemporânea" in Natal, Brazil), Toulia Limnaios (artistic director and choreographer of cie. toulia limnaios in Berlin) and Josh Martin (performer, choreographer and artistic co-director of the Vancouver-based "Company 605").

The range of topics on offer are as varied as the countries from which the artists hail. A topic which always has a new spotlight shone on it is the relationship between the individual and society. How are interpersonal relationships influenced by societal expectations or cultural impressions? How are we manipulated by judging others and prejudice – ‘pre-judging’ others, for example in the gender debate? How far can one fit in without losing one’s own identity? What does family mean today? For us and for other cultures? The artists attempt to gauge their own limits – inner and outer – and to work out what is behind these. The pieces are less narrative than in the past, focusing instead on reflecting on dance or the creative process itself.

## **Jury**

**Bernhard Fauser**, originally from Stuttgart, has been the artistic and commercial director of the *HebelHalle, Künstlerhaus UnterwegsTheater* since 2010 and the commercial director of the *Choreographisches Centrum Heidelberg* since 2013. Describing himself as a dancing director and serial venue founder, he is the brains behind festival formats such as TANZinternational 1991-2000, ARTORT 2006-present and 720STUNDEN. Bernhard Fauser came to dance via a traineeship at the Parisian circus school *Ecole Nationale du Cirque*. Following various engagements as a whiteface clown, in 1988 he founded the *UnterwegsTheater* in Heidelberg with the choreographer Jai Gonzales, both of whom are still at its helm.

**Ricardo Fernando** has been ballet director and chief choreographer since the 2017/18 season at Theater Augsburg. He started his career as ballet director and chief choreographer in Bremerhaven in 1993 where during the course of a seven year tenure he staged several full length ballets and contemporary choreographies as well as the first AIDS benefit dance gala in Germany. While still heading up the company in Bremerhaven, he was also ballet director in Chemnitz from 1998 till 2000. He subsequently left to become ballet director in Pforzheim, moving a year later into the same role in Regensburg. The 2003/2004 season saw him as ballet director at the *Theater Hagen*, beginning his tenure with a premiere of the work “Tango”. Alongside narrative ballets, *Theater Hagen* also presented classic modernist ballets under his direction. Ricardo Fernando also created special works for OPUS with “Le Bal”, “Estação Esperança” and “Brabrabrasil”. Work he initiated with guest choreographer gave Ballett Hagen new ideas and perspectives, making them known way beyond the city of Hagen.

Ricardo Fernando has worked as a guest choreographer in Germany, Japan, Brazil, Austria, Turkey, Switzerland and Italy. In 2015 he was awarded the „Deutscher Tanzpreis“ in recognition of his work.

**Diana Fontes** is the founder and artistic director of the “Encontro de Dança Contemporânea” in Natal, Brazil. In her artistic work, she places great value on understanding how people can express themselves through dance and how to support them in this. Her love of contemporary dance was sparked at the *Monica Japiacu Contemporary Dance Studio* in Recife in Brazil, where she discovered contemporary dance and dances such as Frevo, Samba and Forro. Diana Fontes has worked on various projects which have made contemporary dance known in her native country. In 2007 and 2008 she received the “Funarte Klaus Vianna Dance Award” for the best dance project in Brazil. For many years, most recently in 2017, she headed up the *National Contemporary Dance Festival* in Natal. Diana Fontes is a curator and juror in high demand, being involved in competitions such as the International Dance & Theater Festival in Recife in 2012 and in the GIRART Festival in Cordoba, Argentina in 2017.

**Toula Limnaios** is artistic director and choreographer at the *cie. toula limnaios* in Berlin. She has interpreted works by Claudio Bernardo and Régine Chopinot has worked as an assistant to Pierre Droulers. Toula Limnaios trained at the *Folkwang Hochschule Essen*, where she was a member of the Folkwang dance studio under the artistic director of Pina Bausch. In 2007–2008, Toula Limnaios was a guest lecturer for choreography at the *Ernst-Busch-Schule*. She also gained recognition for her live improvisations with musicians Konrad Bauer and Peter Kowald. In 1996 she founded *cie. toula limnaios*, with which she has done several tours and guest appearances through Europe, South and Central America and Africa. In 2003, she founded her own theatre under the name of *HALLE* in Berlin. In addition, Toula Limnaios is a guest choreographer at *Theater Osnabrück*, *Theater Münster* and teaches at the *Hochschule für Darstellende Künste* in Frankfurt am Main.

**Josh Martin** is a performer, choreographer and artistic co-director of the Vancouver-based “*Company 605*”, a collective of Canadian dancers who develop new contemporary dance works through open, creative processes. Dance fans here in Stuttgart will remember Josh Martin as a winner of the 18th International Solo-Dance-Theater Festival Stuttgart 2014, where he won both the first prize for choreography as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the dance category. Josh Martin has worked with a number of companies and independent choreographers, including Amber Funk Barton, Martha Carter, Karen Jamieson, David Raymond, Vanessa Goodman, Wen Wei Wang and Tara Cheyenne. He has performed as a soloist in places such as the *National Arts Center* in Ottawa. In 2013, he received the Vancouver’s Mayor’s Arts Award for dance. Josh Martin has created several pieces of choreography and has also performed in various dance films such as “Inheritor recordings” (2015) and “Turn around tango” (2012).

## **Prizes**

The prizes for the categories Dance and Choreography range from € 1,500 to € 3,500 and have been sponsored by the City of Stuttgart and the Baden-Wuerttemberg Ministry for Science, Research and the Arts. The public's choices can walk home with two further prizes of € 500 apiece, financed by private sponsors. There is also a video dance prize from the Stuttgart-based film company moving angel filmproduction GmbH, which enables competitors to produce a dance film. The residence prize is this year being awarded by Theater Augsburg, whose ballet director Ricardo Fernando is on the jury. He will decide which winner will get to study and stage one of their own pieces with the Augsburg dance company.

**New this year is the awarding of the Eastman Prize Stuttgart.** This prize enables the winner to take part in the "Eastman Summer Intensive 2018", a two week workshop in Antwerp. The prize is being awarded by the Eastman Company in Antwerpen, whose artistic director is Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.

## **Fringe Programme**

At the same time as the festival, visitors can enjoy the exhibition "**Wachter – Winkler – Scafati**" **dance photography by Cayo Vieira running from 08.03. – 22.04.2018** in the foyer of the Robert-Bosch-Hall. The renowned company Balé Teatro Guaira from Curitiba in Brazil first did a guest performance in TREFFPUNKT Rotebühlplatz in November 2017. The German-Brazilian project "Wachter – Winkler – Scafati" - in which the German choreographers Katja Wachter, Christoph Winkler and Roberto Scafati worked with the Brazilian dance company in Curitiba - was developed by Cintia Napoli, the company's artistic director since 2012, and Marcelo Santos..

The renowned Brazilian photographer Cayo Vieira followed the dance project through his camera lens from the beginning. His impressive photographs are being shown for the first time in Germany.

In two equally dynamic and creative **Workshops** for near-beginners, **Ravid Abarbanel** will be showing how a contemporary dance evolves. The Israeli took part in the 20<sup>th</sup> International Solo Dance Theater Festival in 2016 with her solo "Underneath".

Saturday, 17.03.18, 14.30 – 16.30, EUR 26.00, Course Ref: 181-00188

Sunday, 18.03.18, 13.30 – 15.30, EUR 26.00, Course Ref: 181-00189

## **THE 22nd INTERNATIONAL SOLO-DANCE-THEATER FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE:**

**Thursday, 15. to Saturday, 17. March 2018, 8pm each evening:** Competition pieces. The finalists will be announced following the performance on Saturday evening. To sweeten the wait until the nominations, there will be a party in Rudolfs Restaurant with a DJ and a presentation by Ravid Abarbanel, participant in the 20th International Solo Dance Theater Festival.

**Sunday, 18. March 2018, 17.00:** Grand Finale with awards ceremony.

Venue: TREFFPUNKT Rotebühlplatz, Robert-Bosch-Hall

**Admission:** Thursday - Saturday, EUR 16,-/12,- , Sunday, EUR 18,- /14,-

**MC:** Sonia Santiago-Brückner

**Festival Director:** Gudrun Hähnel

**Artistic Director:** Marcelo Santos

[www.treffpunkt-rotebuehlplatz.de](http://www.treffpunkt-rotebuehlplatz.de),

[www.solo-Dance theater.de](http://www.solo-Dance theater.de), [www.facebook.com/soloDance](https://www.facebook.com/soloDance)

### **Dancers:**

**Thursday, 15.03.18, 20.00**

#### **Nel Femminile**

Choreography: Giulia Menti (Italy)

Performance: Francesca Bedin (Italy)

#### **HUMAN ARE STRANGERS**

Choreography: Nicki Liszta (Germany)

Performance: Steven Chotard (France)

#### **Desierto**

Choreography & Performance: David Vilariño (Spain)

#### **EQUAL TO MEN**

Choreography: Roberta Ferrara (Italy)

Performance: Tonia Laterza (Italy)

#### **I'm Home**

Choreography: Yoshito Sakuraba  
(Japan)

Performance: Sean Nederlof (USA)

**The Beauty of it**

Choreography & Performance: Angel Duran Muntada (Spain)

**Friday, 16.03.18, 20.00****NEST**

Choreography & Performance: Ida Hørlyck Thomsen (Denmark)

**(sw)allow**

Choreography & Performance: Kai Chun Chuang (Taiwan)

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Choreography: Sayed Labib (Egypt)

Performance: Diana Wöhrl (Germany)

**(no)Surrender**

Choreography & Performance: Charles Brecard (France)

**ESBOCO TRAJETO en CURVA**

Choreography: Ramon de Oliveira (Brazil)

Performance: Alejandra Moreno (Columbia)

**Blank spots**

Choreography & Performance: Lukas Karvelis (Lithuania)

**Saturday, 17.03.18, 20.00****Pirg'in**

Choreography & Performance: Sarah Damoni (Palastine)

**Le Somnanbule**

Choreography & Performance: Kévin Coquelard (France)

**Woman before decision**

Choreography & Performance: Rima Pipoyan (Armenia)

**Act**

Choreography & Performance: Mathieu Geffré (France)

**Secret**

Choreography & Performance: Dominika Stóżewska (Poland)

**environ et moi**

Choreography & Performance: Abdoulaye Diallo (Senegal)

For questions on the programme and for images, please contact::

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