

CRISIS AVERTED: 2015/2016 BASISFÖRDERUNG (BASIC FUNDING) RECOMMENDED FOR *ENGLISH THEATRE BERLIN / INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER*

English Theatre Berlin has been saved from the **threat of closure**. The artistic relaunch of the institution as an **International Performing Arts Center** by the appointment of Daniel Brunet to the artistic leadership convinced the jury responsible for funding recommendations for independent theater and dance companies in Berlin. Their recommendation for **Basisförderung (basic funding) for the years 2015/2016** has been confirmed by Tim Renner, Berlin's State Secretary for Cultural Affairs. Following the 2012 decision to eliminate basic funding after 2013, the institution has now been rescued and will receive **120,000 euros** in 2015 and in 2016 to ensure the continuity of its artistic work.

To fully ensure this, however, **additional financial support from third parties is absolutely essential** - this will be accomplished by utilizing other public funding instruments and working with international cultural institutions, foundations and sponsors from Berlin's internationally-oriented business community. A Förderverein (a Friends of English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center association) will be founded as a primary fundraising tool.

+++EXPLANATION OF THE JURY

The jury especially emphasizes the current public perception of English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center "as an **innovative, active venue**" with "**politically relevant**" productions as well as the "**mobilization of English-speaking artists in Berlin - reaching far beyond the countries with English as a native language in the direction of Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America**".

This is e.g. intended in the programming with the Expat Expo festival or the Producing Series: Made in Berlin. One prominent example is the documentary theater performance **ECHTER BERLINER !!!! IHR NICHT FUCK YOU** that premiered in the fall of 2013. The production had a capacity of 98% and was one of the most successful productions in the nearly 25-year history of the institution.

The jury also mentions the "**interesting contrast**" that English Theatre Berlin makes with the "post-migratory Ballhaus Naunynstraße and with Heimathafen Neukölln and its orientation towards its immigrant community" **in Berlin's theater landscape**. See also: Jurykommentar zweijährige Basis- und Spielstättenförderung 2015/2016: <http://www.berlin.de/sen/kultur/foerderung/informationen/maininfo2.html> (in German)

+++PRESENT & FUTURE

The leadership of English Theatre Berlin, **Günther Grosser, Daniel Brunet and Bernd Hoffmeister**, thank the Berlin Senate for its generous support, view the funding as acknowledgment of their current work and consider themselves encouraged to continue to build upon their artistic work. The institution's leadership is optimistic about the **newly declared relevance** of ETB:

"We are very pleased that the new artistic concept has won over the jury and gives the opportunity to continue our work. In an international city like Berlin, an institution like ours is simply essential. We offer **diverse audiences an international view of Berlin-specific topics**, provide a **center and a stage** for Berlin's (constantly growing) English-language independent performing arts community, new **work from around the world**, a showcase for English-language **comedy** and **music** as well as valuable work in the field of **cultural education**."

English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center was and is able to keep its doors open in 2014 thanks to the support of the Stiftung Deutsche Klassenlotterie Berlin as well as various individual project grants and Spielstättenförderung (one-year venue funding).