

2019 PROGRAM

# THE EXPO FESTIVAL

A Showcase of *Wahlberliner*



**ENGLISH**  
**THEATRE**  
**BERLIN**

International Performing Arts Center

**ETBERLIN.DE**



# WELCOME TO THE 2019 EXPO FESTIVAL

**Dear visitors,**

Welcome to the seventh edition of the annual Expo Festival: A Showcase of *Wahlberliner*!

Over the last seven years, the Expo has been able to present more than one hundred performances of new work by international artists who have made Berlin their adopted home. In doing so, it holds a unique position in Berlin's vast cultural landscape as both a local and international festival.

Berlin's *Freie Szene*, the independent performing arts community, is remarkable for its diversity of background, artistic and aesthetic practice, working method and philosophy. One of the Expo's most important goals is to ensure that this is reflected in the performances that make up the festival.

To that end, the 2019 Expo features an expanded curatorial team that begins to represent the community's own diversity. After participating in previous editions of the Expo as artists, choreographer Olivia Hyunsin Kim and theater director Shlomo Lieberman joined festival founder Daniel Brunet to select the performances for this year's festival from over 160 submissions based on the criteria of artistic quality, internationalism and creative diversity.

The festival kicks off on Sunday, April 28, with ExpLoRE: the format for newcomers, shorter performances and work-in-progress. This year, we have six different performances taking place on two different stages. Some of the themes examined include queerness, feminism and the seeming contradiction of greater loneliness in the age of increasing digital interconnection. Doors open at 1pm and food, drink and music by Berlin-based international musicians and bands provide a festive backdrop for this journey of discovery.

An additional six full-length performances await you from Monday through Saturday at 8pm. The work includes both world premieres and Berlin premieres in the fields of theater, dance, performance and a special interdisciplinary collaboration between aerial performance, live music and visual art. Post-performance discussions will be offered following *Please, Repeat After Me* on Tuesday, April 30 and *Foreign Body Trio* on Saturday, May 4.

This year, you can experience the work of over 70 *Wahlberliner* originally from 32 different countries during the seven days of the Expo. It is a distinct pleasure to welcome you to Fidicinstraße to participate in a week of exploration and exchange.

**Daniel Brunet, Olivia Hyunsin Kim and Shlomo Lieberman**

Curatorial Team for the 2019 Expo

Technical Direction and Production Management by

**Ralf Arndt, Torsten Litschko and Moritz Meyer**

## **Ticket Information**

Admission to the six performances that make up ExpLoRE on April 28 costs 15 € (9 € students)

Admission to an individual evening performance from Monday – Saturday costs 10 €

An Expo Pass for all six evening performances from Monday – Saturday costs 50 €

The Expo Pass does not include ExpLoRE

ExpLoRE

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- 28 Sun**      2pm **POSEUR**  
Performance | Frederika Tsai and Lena Chen
- 2:45pm **THE INTERVENTION OF LONELINESS**  
Interactive Performance | Ming Poon
- 3:30pm **TEXT ROULETTE**  
Interactive Performance | Finn O’Branagain
- 4:15pm **BANANA PRIDE™**  
Theater | ABA NAIA and Paola Pilnik
- 5pm **SOLAR THRESHOLD**  
Dance Performance | Maque Pereyra
- 5:45pm **SALVATION (GLITTER DOESN’T CARE I’M A BOY)**  
Music Theater | Shlomi Moto Wagner
- 

EVENING PERFORMANCES

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- 29 Mon**      8pm **HARRENDE RÄUME UND TROTZENDE MENSCHEN**  
Dance Theater | Janne Gregor
- 
- 30 Tue**      8pm **PLEASE, REPEAT AFTER ME**  
Theater | Ziad Adwan  
Followed by a post-performance discussion
- 
- 1 Wed**      8pm **VACIO**  
Interdisciplinary (Aerial Performance, Live Music and Visual Art) | Cia Omkara
- 
- 2 Thu**      8pm **BOXES**  
Visual Theater | Maayan Iungman
- 
- 3 Fri**      8pm **RAYS**  
Dance Performance | Mirjam Sögner
- 
- 4 Sat**      8pm **FOREIGN BODY\_TRIO**  
Dance Performance | Howool Baek  
Followed by a post-performance discussion



# EXPLORE

THE 2019  
EXPO FESTIVAL

Sunday, April 28

2:00



## POSEUR

PERFORMANCE

Do you like to watch or be watched?  
She enjoys the feeling of your gaze upon her.  
Elle Peril is a con artist. Elle Peril is an identity crisis.  
Elle Peril is the truest lie she ever told.

Directed by Frederika Tsai (Taiwan/  
Germany), Written and Performed  
by Lena Chen (USA/Germany),  
Music by Alex Weber (Germany),  
Illustration and Animation by  
Lucas Paixão (Brazil), Video Design  
by Effie Wu (Taiwan/Germany),  
Photography by Edward Isais (USA)

When a girl from the United States falls victim to a heinous crime, she impulsively moves to Berlin and invents a fictional life to cope with the traumatic consequences. Inspired by the autobiographic experiences of performance artist and poet Lena Chen, *Poseur* explores the power and the peril of living as a woman in the public gaze.

2:45



## THE INTERVENTION OF LONELINESS

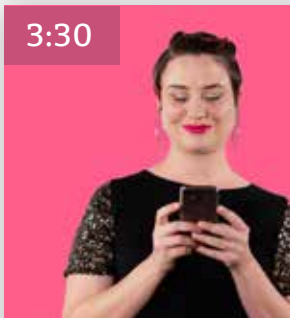
INTERACTIVE  
PERFORMANCE

Concept and Performance by Ming Poon  
(Singapore/The Netherlands), Photography  
by Olivia Kwok (Singapore)

We have entered the age of loneliness. Social media, modern work ethics and urban lifestyles all contribute to a system that exposes us to loneliness on a regular basis and on a global scale.

This interactive performance invites the audience to create a space for loneliness to take place. Can we transform loneliness from a place of suffering to become a source of strength?

3:30



## TEXT ROULETTE

INTERACTIVE  
PERFORMANCE

It's hard to know what to say sometimes. Is there a message you need to send? Maybe you need to tell your crush you can't stop thinking about them, tell your roommate their sexy role-playing is way too loud, or tell your mom you hate her new tattoo. If you can't find the words, play Text Roulette and let Finn O'Branagáin draft them for you – then choose to send, save, delete or ask for a sign. Sign up to participate or watch it unfold from the safety of the audience. Sign up form: [tinyurl.com/textroulette](https://tinyurl.com/textroulette)

Created and Performed by Finn O'Branagáin (Australia), Operator Bronwyn Miller (Australia), Design by Clare Testoni (Australia), Composed by Tom Hogan (Australia), Sound Design by Nathan Jamieson (Australia), Dramaturgy by Alexa Taylor (Australia), Photography by David Cox (Australia)



This format opens the festival and is dedicated to newcomers, shorter performances and work-in-progress. Spend an entire afternoon taking in six different performances. In between the performances, you can enjoy fantastic food, luxurious libations and magnificent music by international, Berlin-based musicians.

4:15



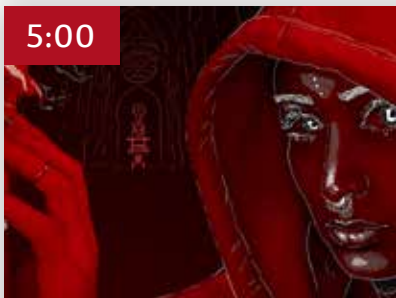
## BANANA PRIDE™

THEATER

Banana Pride™ is a party. It's an exaggeration. It's an exaggerated party. It's a farce with hints of music, dance, clichés, and stereotypes. It's a soap opera. It's a cabaret night. It's a glamorous tragedy. It's a job interview. It's a provocation. It's a political act, a feminist act, a celebration, a carnival night. Banana Pride™ is a manifesto.

Directed and Performed by Kysy Fischer (Brazil), Dramaturgy and Performed by Paola Pilnik (Brazil), Performed by Teija Vaittinen (Finland), Performed by Rafuska Marks (Brazil), Devised by ABA NAIA and Paola Pilnik, Scenography by Inga Aleknavičiute (Lithuania), Lighting Design by Thais Nepomuceno (Brazil), Photography by Mari Vass (Brazil)

5:00



## SOLAR THRESHOLD

DANCE  
PERFORMANCE

*Solar Threshold* fosters the idea of pleasure, sensuality and spirituality as tools for decolonizing bodies. The vibrations of the voice create a temple of sounds and movement that merges the notions of pleasure, sensuality and spirituality. Ritual chanting is interwoven with reggaeton to generate liminal spaces where new bodies/entities/identities appear.

Concept and Performance by Maque Pereyra (Bolivia), Costume Design by Paola Bascón (Bolivia) and Maque Pereyra, Sound Design by Mars Dietz (USA), Dramaturgical Support by Verena Melgarejo (Germany/Bolivia), Lighting Design by Hanna Kritten Tangsoo (Estonia/Germany), Drawing by Lucia Ramirez (Bolivia), Photography by Gisela Zárate (Colombia)

5:45



## SALVATION (GLITTER DOESN'T CARE I'M A BOY)

MUSIC  
THEATER

This science fiction drag ritual is an experimental invocation for a constant distribution of desires based on visions and fantasies Shlomi Moto Wagner has experienced since he was three years old. It explores transformations, mutations and re-manifestations of the idea of being, the sensuality of being a body, the politics of having a body and the poetics of sharing a bodily experience. All bodies are welcome and audience participation is highly encouraged.

Created and Performed by Shlomi Moto Wagner (Israel), Photography by David Beecroft (Germany)



8:00



**Janne Gregor**

Dance Performed by Ixchel Mendoza Hernandez (Mexico), Manon Greiner (Germany), Michele Meloni (Italy)

Choreography by Janne Gregor (Germany),  
Music by Daniel (Mando) Mandolini  
(Argentina/Croatia/Germany),  
Costume and Stage Design by Lena Mody  
(Denmark/Germany),  
Lighting Design by L'udovit (Luigi) Kovács  
(Slovakia/Hungary),  
Costume and Stage Set Up / Video  
Installation by Julia Buntzel (Germany)

Photography by Jörg Metzner (Germany)

## HARRENDE RÄUME UND TROTZENDE MENSCHEN

*"When a man is just born, he is weak and flexible. When he dies, he is hard and insensitive. When a tree is growing, it's tender and pliant. But when it's dry and hard, it dies. Hardness and strength are death's companions." Andrej Tarkovsky, Stalker, USSR, 1979*

In this performance, three dancers and a beatboxer make the struggle against the adversities of a paralyzing world physically tangible. The piece questions of the relationship between physical and mental forces as well as how human beings bundle their strengths in order to move beyond their own limits. The combination of martial arts, krump, dance, live sounds and the given as well as sculpted space create a dense atmosphere and images for which each audience member creates their own contexts, evoking memories of one's own physical condition and experiences.



8:00



**Ziad Adwan**

Written and Directed by Ziad Adwan  
(Syria)

Performed by Selin Kavak (Turkey),  
Gizem Akman (Turkey), Atilla Akinci  
(Turkey/Germany), Enad Marouf (Syria),  
Shadi Ali (Syria), Hussein Al Shatheli  
(Syria)

Set Design by Theresa Scheitzenhammer  
(Germany),  
Lighting Design by Rainer Ludwig  
(Germany),  
Choreography by Mey Seifan (Syria/  
Germany),  
Music by Youmni Abou Al Zahab (Syria),  
Production Management by Mey Seifan

This production was made possible due to  
the generosity of a grant by the theater  
project funding program of Munich's  
Department of Culture.

Photography by Theresa Scheitzenhammer

**Followed by a post-performance  
discussion**

## PLEASE, REPEAT AFTER ME

I have millions of reasons to be crazy;  
give me one reason to be sane!

Or

*Please, Repeat After Me* is a play about decision-  
making and labels. (We)\* are left abandoned in  
the theater with a real mermaid: a fish incapable  
of being eaten and a woman incapable of  
seduction.

But the mermaid is real!

When does a stereotype stop being a stereotype?

When does a refugee stop being a refugee?

When does an actor stop being an actor?



8:00



**Cia Omkara**

Created and Performed by Oskar Mauricio Rojas Guasca (Colombia)

Original Music and Composition by

Lih Qun Wong (Australia),

Music by Johnny Kay (Germany),

Music by Emanuele Giannini (Italy),

Visual Art by Maximilian Mittermeier (Germany),

Counterweight by Bitschi Gernot (Austria),

Dramaturgical and Writing Contributions

by Lucila Prestâch (Argentina) and

Anna-Katharina Andrees (Germany),

Lighting Design by Josefina Cifuentes (Chile),

Costume Design by DYAO – Lan Behrendt (Germany),

Project Management by Achus Emeis (Germany),

Props by Dani Fornaguera (Spain) and

Marie Stanley (Germany)

Photography by Martin Mostert

(South Africa),

Digital Art by Maximilian Mittermeier

## VACIO

*Vacio*, created by Oskar Mauricio and Cia Omkara, deals with the need to connect the two contrasting worlds we are confronted with today: the digital and the organic world.

*Vacio* brings together physical theater, aerial dance, live music and visual projections in its attempt to forge this connection.





8:00



**Maayan Iungman**

Created, Directed and Performed by  
Maayan Iungman (Israel),  
Performed, Created and Produced by  
Philipp Rückriem (Germany),  
Music & Sound Design by Thomas Moked  
Blum (Brazil)

Photography by Kfir Harbi (Israel)

## BOXES

Boxes are her work.

Work is her life.

Her life is in boxes.

And they all look just the same.

Living a square life or breaking out of the box? One show, two performers, various techniques, and plenty of absurd situations.



**8:00**



**Mirjam Sögner**

Choreography and Performance by Mirjam Sögner (Austria/Germany)

Composition and Live Music by Jonathan Reiter (Germany),  
Lighting and Stage Design by Eva G. Alonso (Spain),  
Lighting Design Adapted by Martin Beeretz (Germany),  
Movement Research Coaching by Angela Schubot (Germany),  
Costume Design by Jana Wieland (Austria),  
Acting Coaching by Renae Shadler (Australia)

Coproduced by Imagetanz / brut Wien.  
Funded by the Cultural Department of Vienna and the Federal Chancellery of Austria. Kindly supported by Tanzfabrik Berlin.

Photography by Kjartan Manvelyan (Norway)

## **WAYS**

WAYS is an immersive experience, dedicated to the latent nervousness that increasingly permeates our existence. It strives to make visible what usually evades our senses: Wi-Fi signals, the electromagnetic fields of our smart phones, computers and power supply systems...

Working as an antenna, Mirjam Sögner lends her body to these immaterial waves that define the very core of our contemporary existence.

Using no other device than her own organic material, she attempts to receive, detect, synchronize with and amplify these omnipresent signals. She becomes vibration. Vibration becomes body. Energy becomes solid. The line between transmitter and receiver blurs. Will the body eventually dissolve?



**8:00**



**Howool Baek**

Concept and Choreography by Howool Baek  
(South Korea)

Sound Composition & Live Performance by  
Matthias Erian (Austria),  
Movement Research & Interpretation by  
Nicole Michalla (Argentina),  
Natalia Palshina (Russia) and  
Lorenzo Savino (Italy),  
Movement Research by Hyejin Shin  
(South Korea), Hwayeon Noh (South Korea),  
Misun Kim (South Korea), Viola Barner  
(Germany),  
Lighting Design by Hendrik Haupt  
(Germany)

Photography by Laurent Philippe (France)

Preproduction funded by Arts Council Korea  
Thanks to Acker Stadt Palast, Okju Son

**Followed by a post-performance  
discussion**

Supported by

**österreichisches kulturforum<sup>ber</sup>**

## **FOREIGN BODY\_TRIO**

Bodies that do not fit within the framework of society are treated as “foreign bodies” and are ultimately rejected.

The choreographer wants to look at society through three such bodies. The unfamiliar physical form that the three bodies create explodes stereotypes about the body.

This performance explores how the audience perceives them and questions the meaning of “foreignness” in our society.



# ENGLISH THEATRE BERLIN

International Performing Arts Center

**English Theatre Berlin** International Performing Arts Center  
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Platz der Luftbrücke: U6, Bus 104, 248, Mehringdamm: Bus M19

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**Günther Grosser** (Artistic Director)

**Bernd Hoffmeister** (Managing Director)

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**ZITTY**



**be**  **Berlin**

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