

# I LOVE EU? A PERFORMATIVE EXAMINATION



THEATER | WORLD PREMIERE

Friday, December 2, 2022, 8:00 pm

Additional Performances: December 3 & 4 | December 7, 9, 10 | 8:00 pm

[Tickets 16 € | 10 € (students)]

Exactly 10 years after the EU received the Nobel Peace Prize, a group of international actors sets off on a search for the status quo. They have collected the perspectives of EU citizens and non-EU citizens over the course of 50 interviews and bring them on stage in an open and interactive production directed by Daniel Brunet.

What remains of the “six decades that have contributed to the development of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe” that motivated the Nobel Prize Commission to make their decision in October 2021?

Voices from the center and margins of the EU alongside voices from, for example, Armenia, Bosnia, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Ukraine enter into conversation with each other in a scenic panorama, allowing us to share in their experiences, good and bad alike, as well as their tears and traumas, their analyses, prognoses and hopes.

Can the European Union be a global inspiration for a peaceful postnational world? Is it the *non plus ultra* of what the continent learned from two world wars? Or is it an incredibly strained construct that falls apart at the first signs of a crisis? In light of the human rights catastrophe at the external borders of the European Union, *I Love EU?* asks for a position.

“What is the first word that comes to your mind when you think about the EU?”

In English and other languages.

*A production by English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center, funded Fonds Darstellende Künste, Prozessförderung.*



**Gizem Akman** is a graduate of the Contemporary Dance program of Mimar Sinan State Conservatory in Istanbul, Turkey. She has been based in Berlin since 2016 and works as an interdisciplinary dance artist, performer, choreographer, voice artist and actor. Inspired by the movement research of Rudolf Laban, she focuses on the movement of space and the relation of movement to this space in order to create an ephemeral place. Her ongoing research project, *Body As a Witness, Evidence and Space*, explores the connection between society and architecture.



**Tomoya Kawamura** is an actor, director and production manager originally from Japan. He completed his studies in acting at the Tokyo Kandenchi Drama Academy in 2011. Since then, he has worked as an actor, director and production manager in a variety of productions in Tokyo, including *The Show Must Go On* by Jerome Bel and *The Valley of Astonishment* by Peter Brook. Tomoya Kawamura has lived in Berlin since 2018 and works as an independent artist in Europe.



**Patrick Khatami** is a graduate of the acting program at the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts. Follow his first engagements at repertory and ensemble theaters in Darmstadt, Pforzheim and Heidelberg, he decided to work in the independent performing arts community. Since then, he has collaborated and performed in numerous productions by a variety of groups, including Post Theater and Bernadette La Hengst at many theaters, including Sophiensæle, Forum Freies Theater Düsseldorf, Heimathafen Neukölln, Theaterdiscounter Berlin or Theater Rampe in Stuttgart. Patrick Khatami contributed a piece of writing on the topic of alleged foreignness to the anthology *Schaffen wir das?*, published by Armin Fuhrer and Christian Nawrocki.



**Ariel Nil Levy** was born in Tel Aviv in 1977 Tel Aviv and has been based in Germany for the last 22 years. Ariel is a producer, writer, actor and teacher who studied theater and voice work in Tel Aviv and Germany. Ariel is also known as the post-drag figure Anali Goldberg. Ariel played a lead role in the film *Murer: Anatomie eines Prozesses*, which won the 2019 Deutscher Schauspielpreis in for best ensemble. Ariel has worked at a wide variety of theaters, including Deutsches Theater, Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, Maxim Gorki Theatre, Radialsystem, HAU and Schauspielhaus Wien.



**Daniel Brunet** is a director, performer, producer and translator. He was born in Syracuse, New York in 1979 and received a BA in theater arts and film studies from Boston College. He moved to Berlin in 2001 with the support of a Fulbright Scholarship. He became Producing Artistic Director of English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center in 2012. Daniel Brunet has received multiple awards for his play translations. He was a guest director and instructor for German drama at the New School University in New York City in 2017. Brunet has served as the speaker for the performing arts within the Speakers' Circle of the Coalition of the Independent Arts and as a co-opted board member of LAFT – Landesverband freie darstellende Künste Berlin e.V.

since the end of 2018.

Concept and Direction by Daniel Brunet | Dramaturgy by Shlomo Lieberman und Marianne Ramsay-Sonneck | Performed by: Gizem Akman, Patrick Khatami, Ariel Nil Levy and Tomoya Kawamura | Stage Design by Isabelle Kaiser | Lighting Design by Christian Maith | Musik and Compositions by: Lenard Gimpel | Costume Design by Jeanne Louët | Design Assistance by Juliette Catelle | Assistant Direction and Stage Management by Rose Nolan | Production Assistance by Mihaela Horvath und Zain Qureshi | Photography and Key Visual by Stefania Migliorati

English Theatre Berlin | IPAC is supported by the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe.