

Press Release

BERLIN, January 9, 2024



**ENGLISH
THEATRE
BERLIN**

International Performing Arts Center



The Tenth EXPO Festival: A Showcase of Wahlberliner*innen

Festival | Anniversary Edition

February 15 – 29, 2024

Celebrating Berlin's international independent performing arts community! Over the last ten years, the Expo has been able to present more than one hundred performances of new work and work new to Berlin 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 practices, working methods and philosophies. One of the Expo's most important goals is to ensure that this is reflected in the performances that make up the festival.

Nearly 200 artists and groups based in Berlin applied to take part in the festival this year and receive a production budget. The interdisciplinary curatorial team of Daniel Brunet, Christin Eckart and Maque Pereyra have put together a schedule of programming based on the criteria of artistic quality, internationalism and creative diversity. Between February 15 and 29, 2024, the anniversary edition of the festival will present twelve different productions from the fields of dance, theater and performance, six of which as part of the newcomer's platform ExpLoRE, where new talents, shorter works and current projects are presented as works-in-progress.

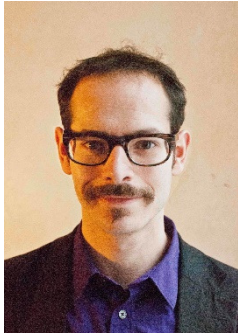
Amongst other highlights, the festival program includes world premieres by **Jemima Foxtrot and Chōri Collective**, **Alexander Cameltoe & The Mannequins**, **Sami Giron Dance** and **Yael Esther Mor**, an impressive performance by **Roman Škadra** (German premiere) from the world of contemporary circus and five dance productions by **André Uerba**, **Masha Sapizhak**, **Duos Duet (Niki Yaghmaee & Golsana Shenasaee)**, **Frida Giulia Franceschini** and **Sami Giron Dance**.

The annual Expo Festival: A Showcase of Wahlberliner*innen took place for the first time in 2013.

The Tenth EXPO Festival is funded by Berlin's Senate Department for Culture and Community using funds from the Spartenoffene Förderung program.

Media Partners: Exberliner, Theater der Zeit, Rausgegangen

Curators:

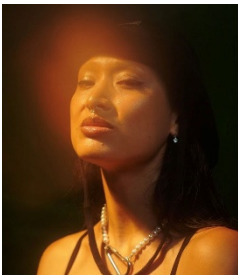


Daniel Brunet is a director, performer, producer and translator.

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. Brunet became Producing Artistic Director of English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center in 2012 and established an artistic concept there that mirrors his own work: English as a working language, used by non-native speakers and native speakers alike in bilingual or multilingual works exploring sociopolitical topics. Daniel Brunet has received multiple awards for his over thirty play translations, including the Literary Fellowship in Translation from the U.S. National Endowment of the Arts. 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.



Christin Eckart is a director, culture worker, theater scholar and linguist. During and after her studies at the Free University of Berlin and Université d'Orléans she worked on numerous productions as a director and production manager at the Orphtheater. After spending ten years abroad working linguistics and in alternative lifestyles, she returned to Berlin in 2018 as an instructor, translator and freelance writer. She has coordinated the Information Center of the Berlin Performing Arts Program (PAP) since 2019 and is responsible for its Mentoring Program. She supports artists in beginning to work as freelancers. Alongside her work as an adviser and instructor, she also currently works as a curator, production manager and freelance writer.



Maque Pereyra is a multidisciplinary artist, psychologist and pleasure/spiritual activist based in Berlin. In 2018 she finished the MA SoDA program at HZT. A DAAD scholarship in the field of performing arts was granted to her from 2016 until 2018. In her home country, Bolivia, she obtained a BA degree in Psychology in 2014. Her artistic work (performances, videos, workshops) has received awards and been presented internationally on platforms such as Tanztage Berlin, Tanzquartier Wien and HKW. The focus of her work is on healing, empowerment through pleasure and spiritual activism, decolonial/artistic aesthetics-practices and knowledge production/reflection with and from the body. <https://yoggaton.com/>

Schedule of Programming:



Four-Course Meal ~Hot Pot~

A performance by **Chōri Collective**

February 15, 2024 | 8pm | **World Premiere**

Chōri (調理, 조리, Kochen) is a collective of East Asian artists. Using culinary metaphors, Chōri Collective serves up a hot pot stage inspired by the Asian culinary culture where all dishes are placed together on one table, to get us through the long winter. Through the recipe, which is a living archive and a metaphor for score, three ingredients are simmering in the hot pot with the dreams of change. We welcome foodies and ingredients to our collective flavor journey.

In English, Korean and Japanese



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Best Funeral Ever (My Russian Funeral)

A performance by **Natasha Borenko & Co.**

February 17 | 5pm and 8pm

We die alone. We bury together.

A participatory performance that explores the political and theatrical nature of the funeral ritual and deconstructs its settled mechanism.

In English



ExpLoRE: Cynthia

A one-drag-king-one-puppet play by **Alexander Cameltoe & The Mannequins | World Premiere**

February 19, 2024 | 8pm

Cynthia was a model, an influencer, a socialite, a celebrity and a household name in the USA in 1933. But unlike other celebrities of her day, she got dismantled into pieces at the end of her day and stowed away in a body bag. Cynthia was a mannequin. Her creator, Lester Gaba, a window display designer in New York City, became her manager, puppeteer, and chaperone, taking her to dinner clubs, theater premieres and fashion shows, and performing for her and answering for her to her adoring fans. Let this duet between Berlin drag king Alexander Cameltoe as Lester Gaba and a puppet version of himself as Cynthia, take you down the slippery slope from entertaining spectacle into the uncanny valley. The play will be then performed at House of Yes in New York City in April.

In English



ExpLoRE: Retina Maneuver

A lecture-performance by **Ping-Hsiang Wang**

February 19, 2024 | 9pm

Retina Maneuver is a solo lecture-performance by theater maker Ping-Hsiang Wang. Fueled by an unexplainable obsession with Alicia Keys's song "Girl on Fire", Wang delves into his digital archives, uncovering a military past that clashes with the pop song's memory. As "Girl on Fire" transforms from a chart-topper to a battle anthem, witness Wang's exploration of memories threatened by the flames of war.

In English



Pleasure Incorporated

A performance by **Jemima Foxtrot | World Premiere**

February 21, 2024 | 8pm

Pleasure Incorporated is a lyrical account of one woman's experience of escorting in Berlin. In the corridors of a faceless, corporate office, Jemima finds her feet in the oldest profession in the world.

In English



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ExpLoRE: Play Bow

A dance performance von **Sami Giron Dance** | **World Premiere**
February 23, 2024 | 8pm

Play Bow utilizes a blend of street and contemporary dance, an original sound score, voice and costumes informed by Jung's theory of the animal self, to build a moving metaphor of canine play behavior.

<https://www.samigiron.dance/>

With very little spoken language (English)



ExpLoRE: Bypass Portal

A dance performance by **Niki Yaghmaee**, music by **Duos Duet**
February 23, 2024 | 9pm

This contemporary dance performance delves deep into the intricate relationship between human behavior, the experience of being observed, censorship, and disruptions within different spaces. Through a dynamic fusion of choreography, set design and thought-provoking storytelling, this performance invites audiences to reconsider how they perceive and interact with the environments that surround them.

In English, Farsi and Spanish

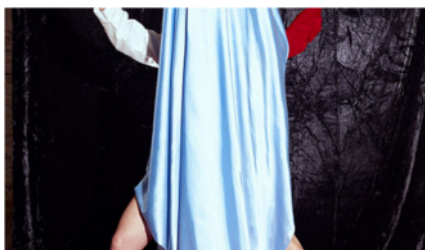


Girevik

A circus performance by **Roman Škadra** | **German Premiere**
February 24, 2024 | 8pm

A man dressed in a glam style manipulates twenty iron kettlebells. Dealing with the awkwardness forces his body into a new shape with every movement. This results in a fragile, ever-expanding composition implying effort and collapse. The piece challenges the historically hyper-masculine aura around the kettlebell and seeks an alternative poetics of labor.

Without spoken language



ExpLoRE: Tricks for Gold (T4\$)

A performance by **Frida Giulia Franceschini**
February 26, 2024 | 8pm

Tricks For Gold is a fable set in late capitalism in which the protagonist, a magician, discovers that she can become the object of her desires - money - and tries to transform herself into it.

With very little spoken language (English)



ExpLoRE: No Home

A performance by **Yael Esther Mor** | **World Premiere**
February 26, 2024 | 9pm

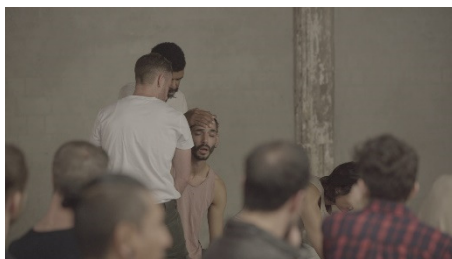
This is a mockumentary performance and a film. A diary and a fable. Yael is an artist who has immigrated to Berlin. She's broke, tired of babysitting, and afraid her big dreams won't be fulfilled. She gets an opportunity for a week's residency, but the night before it starts a sinister character appears in her nightmare, planting a seed of self-doubt that gets bigger and bigger, making her residency a living hell while she is losing grip on reality.
In English, German and Hebrew



InnerVoice-dot-ru

A documentary dance performance by **Masha Sapizhak**
February 27, 2024 | 8pm

This participatory documentary performance is about the boundaries of personality in terms of dictatorship and repressive state politics. It is based on the statements of citizens who have remained in Russia, who are against the regime and the war and who continue their resistance from the inside.
In English and German



Effective Choreography

February 29, 2024 | 8pm
A dance performance by **André Uerba**
With György Jellinek, Lea Fulton, Lyllie Rouvière, Manoela Rangel, Nattan Dobkin, Pedro Aybar and Kauri Sorvari

How does your body feel today? In this time of velocity and violence, choreographer and performer André Uerba explores intimacy as a practice of being together, along with seven performers and a musician. This work plays with the boundaries between sharing and withdrawing, movement and stillness, vulnerability and exposure. The performers structure their encounter through a slow pace, propelling their bodies to attune, sink and merge together, refining their present moment. The desire to make hidden things visible is unfolded by their intimate gestures. Collectively they turn their gaze to inner landscapes where slowness and touch become a main practice.

In English