



## **Pop! Andy Warhol & The Velvet Underground A Conversation with a Cultural Icon III**

### **Theatre**

**World Premiere: April 11, 2025 / 8 pm**

**Further Performances: April 12 + 15 + 16 + 17 + 18 + 19 / 8 pm**

In 1965 Pop artist Andy Warhol suddenly shapeshifted into a filmmaker. Flanked by his so-called “Superstars”, he shot crude, daring, offbeat black-and-white movies walking the fine line between pornography and arthouse film. Along with these “underground films”, he presented the ultra-wild and ultra-loud performance series *Exploding Plastic Inevitable* as well as produced the debut album of the rock band **The Velvet Underground** with the German singer Nico.

The art world responded with a collective shrug but was more than happy to serve as a permanent guest at Warhol’s hustling, bustling factory where the art was made in the front, the shagging was taking place in the back and amphetamines were taken everywhere. Hardly anyone wanted to see the films, the performance series earned scathing reviews and no one bought the album. Six decades later, however, they have become cherished cultural icons like the works of Picasso, Wagner or Fellini, while the Factory is now deemed a central historical site for queer emancipation. How did that happen?

**And today?** Five curators are planning an art exhibition: *Andy Warhol's Underground Years*. Tricky. What do they want to exhibit, what can they agree on? A Factory reenactment? Cover versions of Velvet Underground tunes played live in the museum? Underground films in video format? One thing is sure – just like the Velvets, there will be much more discord than harmony...

In English spoken language with dance and cover versions of Velvet Underground, played live by the band [Red Largo](#).

As the third installment in the series “**Conversations with a Cultural Icon**”, following *Jaws* and *Bowie in Berlin, Pop! Andy Warhol & The Velvet Underground*, attempts to provide a performative answer to the question of how pop became culture in the 1960s and 1970s.

Concept and Direction by Günther Grosser | Performed by Summer Banks, Priscilla Bergey, Maureen Gleason, Angharad Matthews, Kumar Muniandy and the band Red Largo | Set Design by Tomas Fitzpatrick | Costume Design by Heike Braitmayer | Lighting Design by Katri Kuusimäki | Video Design by Rebecca Shein | Choreography by Eva Günther

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