



A new work of music and dance theatre by Opera Lab Berlin

World Premiere: Sat, November 28, 2026 | 8pm

Further Performances: November 29 & December 1/2/4/5 | 8pm

Language of indication: English with German subtitles | Duration: 70 minutes

Tickets: 25 € (15 € reduced)

www.opera-lab-berlin.com | <https://www.etberlin.de/category/press-material/>

What is shown exists. What is not shown disappears. Opera Lab Berlin reimagines Steve Reich's It's Gonna Rain, Come Out and Piano Phase as a new work of music and dance theater, asking not what happens when history repeats itself, but what if it had never stopped.

In 1965, amid the Civil Rights Movement, racial conflict and profound social transformation in the United States, Steve Reich recorded the voice of Black street preacher Brother Walter declaring: "It's gonna rain." Walter's words warn of an approaching catastrophe and of the moment when escape is no longer possible. This warning became a loop in Reich's work: repeated, fractured and transformed.

Sixty years later, Opera Lab Berlin reimagines Reich's It's Gonna Rain, Come Out and Piano Phase as a new work of music and dance theater. Through choreography and Reich's radical musical experimentation, the piece follows the mechanics of attention itself: how

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International Performing Arts Center



repetition creates meaning, how visibility creates power and how a center of power emerges when attention repeatedly concentrates on the same people, voices and images.

1965, the present and an uncertain future collide in a society caught in permanent spectacle - a world where reality, representation and surveillance increasingly merge. Images do not simply document reality; they construct it. Repetition produces truth. Attention becomes power. Visibility becomes currency.

Who occupies the center? Who is heard? Who is seen? Who belongs? And who gets to construct the reality everyone else sees?

Opera Lab Berlin has staged over 30 independent productions since its founding in 2013, working with more than 40 contemporary composers and 18 directors. With *It's Gonna Rain*, the collective continues its mission to expand the possibilities of contemporary music theater to open space for exchange of diverse lived experiences.

Performers: Astan Meyer, Francesca Verga, Omí, Evan Gardner, Ruben Nsue | **Music:** Steve Reich & Opera Lab Berlin | **Director & Choreographer:** Ruben Nsue | **Musical Director:** Youka Snell | **Associate Director:** Ben Goldby | **Associate Choreographer:** Laura Alonso | **Dramaturgy:** Ben Goldby & Samuel Chalela Puccini | **Production Manager:** Christo Schleiff | **Costume & Stage Designer:** Ela Bahena | **Video:** Samuel Chalela Puccini | **Lighting Designer:** Jung Haesoo | **Live Sound Engineer:** Felix von Dohlen | **Makeup Artist:** Martin Rink | **Production Assistants:** Giuseppe Trovato & Ye Juntao | **Outside Eye:** Daniel Brunet | **Artistic Director:** Evan Gardner

It's Gonna Rain is a production of Opera Lab Berlin and English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center. Funded by the Hauptstadtkulturfonds.

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