

Open Call

International Forum at Theatertreffen 2015 by Berliner Festspiele

This call is aimed at theatre makers up to the age of 35 from the fields of directing, acting, design, dramaturgy, writing, music, video, performance, choreography and other artistic disciplines.

The International Forum is a two-week grant programme organised by the Berliner Festspiele's Theatertreffen and sponsors theatre makers from all parts of the world. The International Forum offers an opportunity for theatre makers with a few years of professional experience to question their own creative work, to expand their view beyond national contexts and to address the question of what the theatre of the future should be. Within the Theatertreffen's international context, it facilitates a comprehensive artistic practical and theoretical exchange.

Theatre makers up to the age of 35 can apply for a grant until 31.1.2015.

Information:

Berliner Festspiele – Theatertreffen – International Forum

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The Theatertreffen

For more than 52 years, the Theatertreffen of Berliner Festspiele has been gathering the ten most remarkable theatre productions from the German-speaking countries each year in May. An independent jury made up of seven theatre critics selects a total of ten productions from the wide spectrum of theatre currently being produced in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The determining criterion for a production's invitation to the Theatertreffen is its remarkable contentual and aesthetic quality.

For decades, the support of theatre makers, culture bloggers and dramatists at the outset of their careers has been a Theatertreffen tradition. The International Forum brings about sustainable working relationships and the exchange of artistic practice and theory; the Theatertreffen's Stückemarkt sets out to find innovative theatre languages and diverse forms of authorship and the Theatertreffen-Blog promotes new avenues of online cultural criticism.

Each year, the tableau of the productions invited to the Theatertreffen sheds light not only on the state of contemporary art of the German-language theatre and its current dynamics of development, but also on the state of society and politics. The Theatertreffen-Camp focuses the aesthetic, structural, topical and socio-political issues that arise from the ten selected productions, the Stückemarkt's presentations and the central themes of the International Forum. As the festival's discourse interface, it offers a platform for deeper analysis. A critical exchange between international grant holders and Theatertreffen-artists, jury, dramaturgs, publishers, Stückemarkt-authors, students, scientists, politicians, bloggers as well as international theatre directors and curators, the Theatertreffen-Camp facilitates a critical self-reflection and positioning of contemporary theatre against the backdrop of society and global politics.

The International Forum

▶ The International Forum's unique characteristic is the encounter of up to 38 young theatre makers from diverse cultural contexts. Half of these will be theater makers from German-speaking countries, the other half will come from all other parts of the world. Each of these theatre makers will bring their own cultural, social and political history of socialization to the gathering. Their varying stories of origin inform the specific way each of the artists produces and experiences theatre. The programme will use this diversity productively as a subject of exchange and joint artistic self-analysis. This makes every edition of the International Forum into a varied mixture of participants, issues and aesthetics. To adopt clear positions, to formulate convictions, to ask questions and to examine one's own views is the objective of the International Forum.

Traditionally, the theatre sees itself as a social space for the debate of society. But what is the present value of contemporary theatre as a social institution in a society that is undergoing a massive demographic change? How can a pluralistic society characterized by an ethnic, cultural, religious, sexual and social variety even be debated in the theatre? Are familiar narrative structures and vocabularies of form sufficient to express the stories of a heterogeneous society where trusted patterns of thought are dissolving? In a “society in transition”, which stories should be told as a narrative that will promote a sense of community? What new opportunities could be provided by new stories from different perspectives? Which aesthetic practices can be applied in the analysis of social processes? What are the effects of social changes on the working processes, production methods and structures of theatre? Can we describe the utopia of a “post-national”, “post-ethnic” and “post-gender” theatre?

For the purpose of these questions, the International Forum is a creative laboratory and a pioneering space for thought, where society, global politics and the resulting influences and purposes of the theatre can be reflected upon and utopias for society and theatre can be developed in a joint dialogue. Owing to the special constellation of its participants, the International Forum can be a platform for new content and aesthetic approaches.

The Programme

The International Forum's programme is based on four main elements:

Attendance at the performances of the ten productions selected for the Theatertreffen and at the **presentations** of the Stückemarkt

An exclusive practical workshop programme (residential workshops headed by experienced experts, lectures by grant holders, working groups on aesthetic and topical issues etc.)

A theoretical programme in exchange with students, professionals and external experts within the Theatertreffen-Camp (discussion panels, lectures, round tables etc.)

▶ **Excursions** to Berlin's cultural scene and to performances at theatres around Berlin.

Our Partners

The International Forum is a project of the Theatertreffen, division Berliner Festspiele / Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin GmbH. It takes place with the cooperation of the Goethe Institute and the Swiss cultural foundation Pro Helvetia. It is supported by the regional Ministries of Culture of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria (section: art), the German Stage Association and the regional associations of the German Stage Association in Bavaria and Baden Württemberg, the Cultural Administration of Berlin and the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony.

Information on the Grant Programme

1. Dates

The **Theatertreffen** takes place from 1 to 17 May 2015

The **International Forum** opens on Friday 1 May 2015 at approximately 15:30 and ends on Sunday 17 May 2015. (Day of departure: Monday 18 May 2015)

Jury decisions on the guest performances of the Theatertreffen: 1 February 2015

Deadline for applications for the International Forum: 31 January 2015

2. Programme

- Attendance at the Theatertreffen performances and Stückemarkt presentations
- Artistic practice in the areas of direction, dramaturgy, performance, conception
- Residential workshops with experienced artists
- Lectures by scholarship holders
- Events of productions invited to the Theatertreffen with input by participating artists
- Participation in the Theatertreffen-Camp
- Discussion with jurors of the Theatertreffen
- Working groups on overarching themes
- Audience discussions and premiere parties at the Theatertreffen
- Excursions and attendance of other performances in Berlin

A detailed programme of the International Forum will be announced in April 2015.

3. Benefits

The grant normally includes

- Travel expenses (using the cheapest means possible, absorption of costs or subsidy depend on the country of origin)
- Hotel accommodation with breakfast
- All costs of participation in the programme
- Tickets to theatre performances of the Theatertreffen and the Stückemarkt
- Per diem/ Catering

4. Conditions

Applicants should

- be no older than 35 years of age
- work in the theatre continually in a professional and creative capacity
- be available to participate for the entire period (1 to 17 May 2015)
- preferably have an adequate working knowledge of German

5. How to apply

Artists from all over the world may apply. You must apply via one of the following institutions. The main local focus of your work determines to which institution you should make your application.

I. Artists who **work mainly in Germany or Austria** should apply directly to the Berliner Festspiele.

II. Artists who **work mainly in Switzerland** should apply to the Swiss cultural foundation Pro Helvetia.

III. Artists who work mainly in countries other than the German-speaking countries should apply to the respective Goethe Institute.

Applicants who regularly work in several different regions should contact the International Forum directly.

I. Applications from Germany and Austria

Freelance artists can apply on their own initiative. Your application should include:

- age, profession, address(es) (including e-mail), telephone number(s)
- artistic curriculum vitae, reviews, links, DVDs and dossiers if available
- a text about your motivation to participate in the International Forum (maximum one page of A4)
- a letter of recommendation

Please also send a digital version of your CV, the application form, your motivation statement and a portrait photo to: internationales-forum@berlinerfestspiele.de

Theatre makers with fixed contracts can also be recommended by theatres and institutions. The content of the recommendation must include:

- age, profession, address(es (including e-mail), telephone number(s)
- artistic curriculum vitae, reviews, links, DVDs and dossiers if available
- a text by the applicant about their motivation to participate in the International Forum (maximum one page of A4)

Please also send a digital version of your CV, your statement of motivation and a portrait photo to: internationales-forum@berlinerfestspiele.de

A recommendation from the director of a theatre or institution automatically constitutes the applicant's leave of absence for the entire period.

Applications by post to:
Theatertreffen / International Forum
Berliner Festspiele

Schaperstraße 24, 10719 Berlin
or by e-mail to: internationales-forum@berlinerfestspiele.de

II. Applications from Switzerland

Applicants up to the age of 35 can apply to take part in the International Forum, regardless of whether they work independently or have fixed contracts. It is also possible for a theatre or institution to recommend an artist. This automatically constitutes the applicant's leave of absence for the entire period.

The application must contain:

- completed application form (Pro Helvetia)
- artistic curriculum vitae
- text about your motivation to take part in the International Forum (maximum one page of A4)
- letter of recommendation
- links, reviews, reports, dossiers and DVDs if available

For further information and the application form download: www.prohelvetia.ch
Contact and dispatch of documents: theater@prohelvetia.ch

Please send applications by post to:

Pro Helvetia, Kirsten Barkey
Hirschengraben 22, CH 8024 Zürich
or by e-mail to: theater@prohelvetia.ch

III. Applications from all non-German-speaking countries

Theatre makers should apply via the Goethe Institute in their country of origin. A full list of the institutes can be found here: www.goethe.de/ins/deindex.htm

Applications have to contain:

- a completed form (available from the Goethe Institute)
- a tabular curriculum vitae
- a photo/portrait (digital)
- a detailed description of your artistic career
- material concerning original artistic work (e.g. reviews, DVDs, dossiers, links, press articles, programmes etc)
- a text on your motivation to take part in the International Forum
- letter of recommendation

Further information at www.goethe.de/internationalesforum

Please also send a digital version of your CV, your statement of motivation and a portrait photograph to: internationales-forum@berlinerfestspiele.de

6. Invitations

Invitations will be issued to participants from March 2015. The detailed festival programme will be published in April 2015.

The documentation of the International Forum 2014 will give you a first impression.

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