

The International Visitor Programmes planned for the first half of 2020 with numerous partners could not take place due to cancelled events and the global travel warning due to the Covid 19 pandemic. A total of nine programs were planned from March to June, which were intended to offer creative artists, journalists, curators and festival directors from all over the world numerous opportunities in 2020 to get to know the diverse cultural scene of North Rhine-Westphalia and make contacts for future collaborations.

1

MARCH 2020

25 YEARS OF SCHRIT_TMACHER FESTIVAL IN AACHEN – CROSS-BORDER DANCE REGION OF NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA, THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM

From March 10 to 15, the first visitors group of the year 2020 was to travel to NRW on the occasion of the 25th Aachen schrit_tmacher festival and get to know the cross-border dance region of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Netherlands and Belgium better. In addition to the events of the festival, the trip included discussions with experts and organizers as well as visits to important institutions in the field of contemporary dance.

Confirmed guests:

Assen Assenov, director: One foundation for Culture and Arts, Sofia/Bulgaria

Irene Borguet-Kalbusch, artistic director and choreographer: Compagnie Irene K., Eupen/Belgium

Johanna Rajamäki, head of international relations: Tero Saarinen Company, Helsinki/Finland

Mengfan Wang, choreographer, Beijing/China

Yin Yue, founder and artistic director: YY Dance Company, New York/USA

MARCH 2020

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL DORTMUND | COLOGNE – FEMALE FILMMAKING IN LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXTS

The International Women's Film Festival Dortmund | Cologne, which was originally scheduled to take place in Cologne from March 24 to 29 in 2020, would have offered a group of visitors numerous opportunities from March 25 to 30 to explore women's filmmaking in local and global contexts. In addition to the events of the festival, it was planned that the guests would also hold discussions with experts, organizers and institutions from the field of women's media arts and filmmaking.

Confirmed guests:

Patrice Carter, board-member: Ladima Foundation, Cape Town/South Africa

Tamara Dawit, senior producer: Gobez Media, Addis Ababa/Ethiopia

María Paula Lorgia, head programmer: Cinemateca de Bogotá, Bogotá/Colombia

Julia Pühringer, film journalist: e.g. tele Zeitschriftenverlagsgesellschaft, Der Falter, Vienna/Austria

Daniella Shreir, founder: Another Gaze, London/UK

Melissa Silverstein, journalist, founder and publisher: Women and Hollywood, New York/USA

Sarah Turner, artist and filmmaker, London/UK

Heather Williams, co-editor: Another Gaze, London/UK

Samia Zaman, president: International Film Initiative Bangladesh (IFIB), Dhaka/Bangladesh

2

MAY 2020

10 YEARS OF ACHT BRÜCKEN FESTIVAL IN COLOGNE – BRINGING CONTEMPORARY MUSIC TO THE CITY

Conveying formats of contemporary music was to be the theme of the international guests who had been in NRW from April 29 to May 4 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the ACHT BRÜCKEN | Musik für Köln festival. In addition to the events, discussions with organizers, experts and musicians were planned as part of the trip.

Confirmed guests:

Nina Čalopek, executive producer: Hrvatsko društvo skladatelja/Croatian Composers' Society, Zagreb and Music Biennale Zagreb 2021/23, Zagreb/Croatia

Mehdi Hosseini, founder and president: reMusik.org – St. Petersburg Contemporary Music Center, artistic director: St. Petersburg International New Music Festival, composer: Saint Petersburg/Russia

Dugal McKinnon, deputy director: New Zealand school of music – Victoria university of Wellington, Wellington/New Zealand

Dardan Noka Selimaj, producer, Priština/Kosovo

Igor Toronyi-Lalic, artistic director: London contemporary music festival – lcmf, London/UK

Daniel Zea, composer: Ensemble Vortex, Geneva/Switzerland

MAY 2020

ALL IN – AESTHETICS AND METHODS FOR THE INCLUSIVE PERFORMING ARTS. INCLUSION AND CULTURE IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

Within the framework of the barrier-free theme tour "ALL IN - Aesthetics and Methods of the Inclusive Performing Arts. Inclusion and Culture in North Rhine-Westphalia", international cultural workers were to be invited to NRW from May 12 to 17 to exchange ideas with local actors in the field of "Inclusion and Culture" and to gain an insight into the inclusive-oriented work of institutions and organizers in NRW. This visitors programme has been postponed to October 2020.

Confirmed guests:

Henrique Amoedo, artistic director: Dançando com Diferença, Funchal/Portugal

Justyna Czarnota, head of: Instytut teatralny, Warsaw/Poland

Richard Forsberg, project manager: ShareMusic & Performing Arts, Gothenburg/Sweden
Riina Hannuksela, co-curator: Common Ground Festival, dance artist and artistic director:
Dance Group Ihanat, Helsinki/Finland

Julia Kouprienko, head of: Inclusive family theatre "I", Minsk/Belarus

Katharina Mead, VSA programmer: The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts,
Washington/USA

Paz Santa Cecilia, co-organizer: Conference in Social Inclusion and Education in the Per-
forming Arts, Madrid/Spain

Mairi Taylor, executive producer: Birds of Paradise Theatre Company, Glasgow/UK

3

MAY 2020

66. INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL OBERHAUSEN. FILM AND VIDEO ART IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

The 66th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen and film and video art in North Rhine-Westphalia were to be the focus of a visitor program from May 13 to 18. Beyond the festival, visits to museums and galleries dedicated to film, but also to media art in general, were planned for the international guests in order to gain an overview of the media scene in NRW.

Confirmed guests:

Belkis Elgin Akyildiz, cinema programming manager: Istanbul Modern, Istanbul/Turkey

Cecilia Barrionuevo, artistic director: Mar del Plata International Film Festival, Mar del Plata/Argentina

Ela Bittencourt, film critic, São Paulo/Brazil

Claire Hills, festival manager: Berwick Film & Media Art Festival, Berwick-upon-Tweed/UK

Magdalena Magiera, curator: Center of Contemporary Art Singapore/Singapore

Dina Pokrajac, programme coordinator: Dokukino KIC, Zagreb/Croatia

Maryia Senkina, film programme coordinator: Cultural Center Korpus, Minsk/Belarus

MAY 2020

FIDENA – PUPPET THEATRE OF THE NATIONS FESTIVALS. CONTRASTS AND DUALITIES

The Figure Theater Festival of the Nations FIDENA, which was to take place in Bochum, Recklinghausen, Herne and Hattingen in 2020, would have brought an international group of visitors to North Rhine-Westphalia from May 18 to 23. In addition to visits to the renowned festival, meetings with organizers, multipliers from the scene and visits to relevant institutions in the field of theater and puppet theater were planned.

Confirmed guests:

Ivo Baric, artistic director: Puppet Theatre Sampo and SAMPO Festival, Helsinki/Finland

Pol Eggermont, director: Feikes House, Amsterdam/Netherlands

Denise Greber, puppet series director and marketing manager, international relations: La

MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, New York City/USA
Miguel Angel Guitierrez, director: Luna Morena Festival, Guadalajara/Mexico
Takaki Kida, general secretary: Iida Puppet Festa Executive Committee, Nagano/Japan
Claire Latarget, artistic director, puppeteer: Anima Théâtre, Marseille/France
Liliane Xavier, performer, puppeteer producer: PeQuod Teatro de animação, Rio de Janeiro/Brazil

4

MAY 2020 META MARATHON 2020 – DIGITAL FESTIVAL AND REAL LAB IN NRW-FORUM DUSSELDORF

A visitor program for the META Marathon 2020 was planned from May 21 to 25. The digital festival and real laboratory in the NRW-Forum Düsseldorf is a digital happening and an invitation to the participants* to dive into the near future and to participate in an open, critical and creative process. The visit of the festival should be complemented by discussions with experts, artists and organizers as well as visits to relevant institutions, exhibitions and museums.

Confirmed guests:

Fabián Barros, senior professor: Multimedia and Digital Arts, ORT University Uruguay, Montevideo/Uruguay

Philippe Bertrand, BeAnotherLab.org/France

Paula Perissinotto, co-founder and co-curator: FILE – Festival International de Linguagem Electronica, Sao Paulo/Brazil

Doreen Ríos, chief curator: Centro de Cultural Digital, Mexico City/Mexico

Dr Tamara Russell, founder: Mindfulness Centre of Excellence, London/UK

MAY/JUNE 2020 CIRCUSDANCEFESTIVAL COLOGNE AND RUHRFESTSPIELE RECKLINGHAUSEN – CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS-DANCE IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

The CircusDanceFestival Cologne, first planned for 2020 by the label Overhead Project, is the first festival internationally to focus on the hybrid artistic form between circus and dance. As part of the visitor trip from May 28 to June 2, the CircusDanceFestival and the Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen as a partner festival invited visitors to explore the circus scene on the Rhine and Ruhr. In addition to visiting the events, there were to be meetings with the initiators and artistic directors of both partner festivals as well as with other relevant institutions, artists and companies from the field of new circus and circus dance in NRW.

Confirmed guests:

Andy Beecroft, marketplace manager: Adelaide Fringe Festival, Adelaide/Australia

Danielle Hoover Costa, founder and curator: Festival de Circo do Brasil, Recife/Brazil

Ivan Kralj, researcher, journalist: Den Haag/Netherlands

Kikki Muukkonen, artistic head of programme, artistic director circus: Subtopia, Norrborg/Sweden

Stéphane Segreto-Aguilar, head of international development: ARTCENA – Centre national des arts du cirque, Paris/France

Ruth Wikler, deputy director of programming: Circus Arts, TOHU, Montréal/Canada

JUNE 2020

5 30 YEARS OF IMPULSE THEATER FESTIVAL – INDEPENDENT THEATRE IN GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

As part of a press trip to "30 Years Impulse Theater Festival", the focus would have been on independent theater in German-speaking countries from June 3 to 8. The visitors' programme included performance visits to the Showcase at Cologne and the site-specific Impulse city project in Mülheim an der Ruhr, visits to the Impulse Academy in Düsseldorf with exclusive background discussions, meetings with the festival team and visits to cultural institutions in the region.

Confirmed guests:

Amitha Amranand, theatre critic: Bangkok Post, Bangkok/Thailand

Paulo Bio Toledo, theatre critic: Folha de São Paulo, professor of literature and theatre: Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte/Brazil

Noémi Herczog, editor: SZÍNHÁZ, theatre critic: Budapest/Hungary

Sebastián Pérez Rouliez, journalist: Revista Hiedra/Chile

Parfait Tabapsi, chief editor: Mosaïques, Arts & Cultures d'Afrique, Yaoundé/Cameroon