

Open Call

International Forum at Theatertreffen 2016 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.

The programme consists of workshops with artists invited to the Theatertreffen, the attendance at performances of the Theatertreffen and Stückemarkt, as well as the attendance at the Theatertreffen-Camp, the festival's discursive platform. Participants will receive a grant.

Theatre makers up to the age of 35 can apply for a grant until 15.12.2015.

Information:

Berliner Festspiele – Theatertreffen – International Forum

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The International Forum of the Theatertreffen

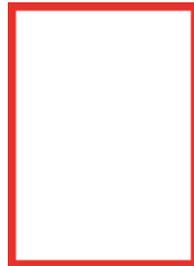
For more than 53 years, the **Theatertreffen of Berliner Festspiele** has been gathering the ten most remarkable theatre productions from German-speaking countries each year in May. An independent jury made up of seven theatre critics selects a total of ten productions from the wide spectrum of theatre currently being produced in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The determining criteria for a production's invitation to the Theatertreffen is its remarkable content based 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 on 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, dramaturges, 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's** unique characteristic is the encounter of up to 36 young theatre makers from diverse cultural contexts. Half of these will be theatre 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 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.

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 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 with residential workshops headed by experienced artists and art clusters, scientists, and external 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

Deadline for applications for the International Forum: 15 December 2015

Invitations of the participants from February 2016

Jury decisions on the guest performances of the Theatertreffen: 3 February 2016

The **Theatertreffen** takes place from 6 to 22 May 2016

The **International Forum** opens on Friday 6 May and ends on Sunday 22 May 2016. (Day of departure: Monday 23 May 2016)

2. Programme

- Attendance at the Theatertreffen performances and Stückemarkt presentations
- Artistic practice/workshops and art clusters in the areas of direction, dramaturgy, performance, conception
- Lectures by scholarship holders
- Exclusive discussions and presentations about 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 at other performances in Berlin

A detailed programme of the International Forum will be announced in April 2016.

3. Benefits

The grant normally includes

- All costs participation for the programme
- Tickets to theatre performances of the Theatertreffen and the Stückemarkt
- Travel expenses (depend on the country of origin, use of the cheapest travel option possible, absorption of costs, subsidy or no costs are assumed)
- Hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Per diem (depending on the country of origin and with the exception of the participants from Berlin)
- 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 (6 to 22 May 2016)
- have an adequate working knowledge of German (at least B2); exceptions are possible, if the local Goethe-Institut applies for it



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 German-speaking countries should apply to their respective Goethe Institute.

I. Applications from Germany and Austria

Artists with the main local focus of their work in Germany and Austria can apply directly to the Berliner Festspiele. The application should include:

- the application form
- artistic curriculum vitae, reviews, links
- a portrait photo
- a letter of recommendation
- personality profile: answering the following questions (maximum two A4 pages):
 1. What is your statement of motivation to participate in the International Forum?
 2. What are the characteristics of your theatre projects or working methods?
 3. What impact does socio-political development have on your theatre practice?

Please also send a digital version of the application to:
internationales-forum-bewerbung@berlinerfestspiele.de.

We ask for your understanding that due to the number of applicants we cannot send individual rejections. Please check our website to see who has been invited starting in February 2016.

II. Applications from all non-German-speaking countries

Theatre makers apply via the Goethe-Institut in their country of origin. Please contact them before applying to get information about the procedure.

A full list of the institutes can be found here: www.goethe.de/de/wwt.html

Further information at www.goethe.de/internationalesforum

III. Applications from Switzerland

Artists with the main local focus of their work in Switzerland can apply directly to Pro Helvetia.

The application must contain:

- the application form
- artistic curriculum vitae, reviews, links
- a portrait photo
- a letter of recommendation
- personality profile: answering the following questions (maximum two A4 pages):
 1. What is your statement of motivation to participate in the International Forum?
 2. What are the characteristics of your theatre projects or working methods?
 3. What impact does socio-political development have on your theatre practice?

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

All applicants from Switzerland will be informed in writing whether or not they get an invitation to participate in February 2016.

6. Invitations

Invitations will be issued to participants from February 2016. The detailed festival programme will be published in April 2016.

The documentation of the International Forum 2015 will give you a first impression:

www.berlinerfestspiele.de/media/2015/theatertreffen_13/download_22/tt15_dokumentation.pdf

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