

FIGURE IT OUT

24 to 30 June 2024
Showcase figure theatre



Let's figure it out together

In the training and theatre practice of figure theatre and in current dance productions, forms that merge both genres can be found more and more frequently. The field of tension between human and artificial bodies seems to offer a fascinating space to find an artistically adequate expression for our present.

In our showcase "Figure it Out", we want to explore this space: What additional dimensions does the figurative open up for the human body? And how does the staged player's body expand and change the practice of figure theatre?

We have brought together seven productions for adults and children from the FITZ's current repertoire under this focus.

These are complemented by a guest performance by the award-winning mask dance company El Cuco Projekt, the current edition of "Shorties" with short formats from dance, theatre and film and a special edition of the interdisciplinary improvisation format "Saal frei".

Discussion and encounter formats between the audience and artists invite further dialogue and in-depth exploration.

"Figure it Out" is a project series of the Alliance of International Production Centres for Figure Theatre, founded in 2020. Following the two editions at Westflügel Leipzig and Schaubude Berlin, the annual travelling showcase is making a stop in Stuttgart this year.

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FIGURE IT OUT

24 to 30 June 2024

Vormittag Morning			10:00-10:40 Woanders, 4+ O-Team FITZ-Studio	10:00-10:40 Woanders, 4+ O-Team FITZ-Studio			11:00-11:40 Woanders, 4+ O-Team FITZ-Studio	
						12:00-16:00 ZO-ON feisel&toepfer Kirche »St. Maria als«		
Nachmittag Afternoon	15:00-19:00 Diskurstag#3 Studiengang Figurentheater						18:00-19:00 Kippen Li Kemme JES Studio	16:00-20:00 ZO-ON feisel&toepfer Kirche »St. Maria als«
	20:30 - 21:30 Just before falling El Cuco Projekt FITZ Bühne	19:30 - 21:00 Shorties FITZ Bühne	20:00-21:20 Saal frei Instant PIG Theater tri-bühne	20:00-21:00 Put the roots down Helga Lázár FITZ Bühne	19:00-19:50 Replik A Meinhardt &Krauss FITZ Bühne	20:00-21:00 Kippen Li Kemme JES Studio	19:30-20:30 Nadezhda Eva Baumann FITZ Bühne	
Abend Evening					21:00-22:00 Untiefe Jan Jedenak Theater Rampe			

FITZ Bühne / FITZ Studio / Theater tri-Bühne / JES Studio

Cultural area "Unterm Turm" | Eberhardstr. 61 | 70173 Stuttgart

Public Transport: VVS: S 1-6; U 2, 4, 14; Bus 43 (stop Rotebühlplatz/Stadtmitte)

Studiengang Figurentheater

Urbansplatz 2, 70182 Stuttgart.

Public transport: VVS: U 5, 6, 7, 15 (Charlottenplatz stop)

On foot from the FITZ: 30 minutes

Theater Rampe

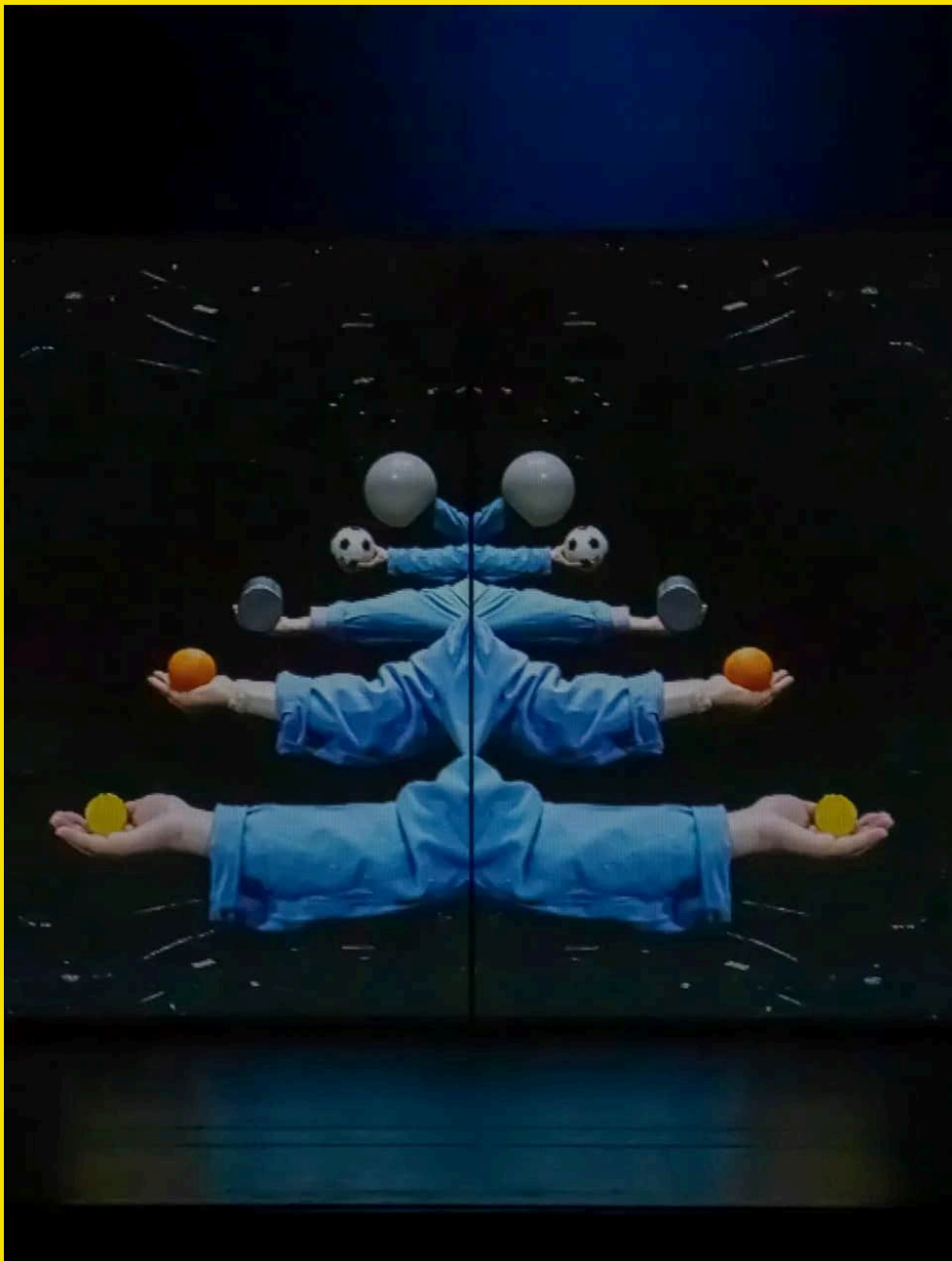
Filderstraße 47, 70180 Stuttgart

Public Transport: VVS: U 1, 14 (Marienplatz stop) | On foot from FITZ: 20 minutes

St. Maria

Tübinger Str. 36, 70178 Stuttgart

Public Transport: VVS: U 1, 14 (Österreichischer Platz stop) | On foot from FITZ: 10 minutes



Mon 24 June 24 15:00 to 19:00

DiscourseDay#3 **School as a place of transformation**

German language

In its third discourse day, the figure theatre course at the HMDK Stuttgart takes a look at itself: How can a place of teaching, learning, research and teaching be understood and designed today? What role do current events, the political and social context play in this? How can craftsmanship be conveyed and individual creativity awakened?

The discourse day is a teaching module for students, but is also open to interested laypeople and guests of the showcase.

With lectures by Dr Laurette Burgholzer, Dr Petra Szemacha, Prof Stephanie Rinke, Prof Julika Mayer and Prof Florian Feisel.

Studiengang Figurentheater HMDK Stuttgart

Stephanie Rinke, Julika Mayer and Florian Feisel form the management team of the Stuttgart figure theatre degree programme. In addition to their educational work, they pursue their own art projects in various formations.

Laurette Burgholzer has been teaching the history of the performing arts and contemporary creation at four universities and colleges in France, Germany, Switzerland and Austria since 2011. From 2017 to 2020, she researched the professional training of puppeteers. Together with Pierre Blaise, she is leading the research project "Apprendre à créer" on mediation practices in the art of puppetry.

Dr Petra Szemacha has worked as head dramaturge at Puppentheater Magdeburg since 2021. She was editor of the theatre magazine "Journal PUPPE" and is strongly committed to the genre of puppet theatre. In her theatre work, she seeks to cross genres, borders and theatre structures.



Mon 24 June 24 20:30

Just before falling

Mask and movement theatre
Easily understandable English
50 minutes

"Just before Falling" is dedicated to the hidden in-between moments of everyday actions. The dancers wear deceptively real-looking animal masks and dissect our everyday routines in a bizarre way as human-animal creatures. Seemingly paradoxical images oscillate between sculpture and movement and play with our understanding of time and space.

Is it reassuring to know that things that fall break in an infinite number of ways - but never in the same way twice?

El Cuco Projekt, Köln

Idea, choreography, text, masks, stage design: Sonia Franken & Gonzalo Barahona | Performance: Carla Jordão, Jimin Seo | Voice: Ann Geraldine Franken | Lighting: Roman Sroka | Composition: Valerij Lisac | Costume: Lena Thelen

"El Cuco Projekt" - that's the choreographer Sonia Franken (DE/UK) and the visual artist Gonzalo Barahona (CHL) with changing guests. They have been working together since 2015 on interdisciplinary performances with (animal) masks. Their bizarre human-animal hybrid creatures are human, animal and thing. In this way, they open up aesthetic approaches to various topics such as humans, nature and digitality in a very unique way. The absurd encounters on stage are characterised by the varied and finely interwoven play with different forms of representation, such as dance, performance, mask, sculpture, painting, miniature models, video and animation (film).

In 2020, her production SCREAM!NG MATTER was nominated for the Cologne Dance Award. The production CAPTCHA was honoured with the Cologne Dance Award in 2022.



Tue 25 June 24 19:30

Shorties

FITZ PZ Filmwinter
Largely without words
120 minutes incl. break

"Shorties" is a collaboration between the FITZ, the Stuttgarter Filmwinter - Festival for Expanded Media and the Produktionszentrum Tanz und Performance. For over three years, they have been working together to develop an event concept that presents thematically linked contributions from figure theatre, dance and film. The result is a multifaceted evening that combines lightness and artistic seriousness and helps to connect different audience groups.

Stella Covi: ORDYH

Concept, choreography, direction: Stella Covi | Photography, videography: Rowan Schratzberger | Music selection and live recording: Kosmas Dinh

ORDYH is a moment in which two bodies, one warm and containing life and one completely frozen and lifeless, come into relationship with each other to complete what could intimately be called the 'extinction process': Inevitably, the warmth of the human body will cause the icy mass to slowly disappear. What will be left then?

Marius Alsleben & Arnaud Grandjean: 20 LITER O

Idea, play and concept: Marius Alsleben, Arnaud Grandjean | Thanks to: François Duconseille, Stephanie Rinke, Julika Mayer

A performer and 35 plastic canisters search for common ground and build communities that collapse before they are stable. Awarded the Rudolf von Ems Small Art Prize by the jury and audience at the Homunculus Festival 2018.

Luis Hergón, Daura Hernández García: ROPA TENDIDA

Idea & performance: Daura Hernández García and Luis Hergón | Musical collage: Luis Hergón

The dancers Luis Hergón and Daura Hernández García, both born in Tenerife, have lived in Germany for 17 and 9 years respectively and outside the Canary Islands for 21 years. "Ropa Tendida" is a lovingly playful, dance and drama-mixing advance to a past place of life and longing: roofs.

Thematically selected short films

curated by the director of the Stuttgart Filmwinter Giovanna Thierry



Wed 26 June 24 10:00

Thu 27 June 24 10:00

Sun 30 June 24 11:00

Elsewhere (Woanders)

Object theatre without words
'5 to 9 | 50 minutes

Early in the morning, huge garbage trucks rattle through the streets and swallow up our rubbish before disgorging it elsewhere. What happens to our trash there, and who takes care of it? Elsewhere, completely different rules apply, different beings live there, different things happen. Elsewhere, cleaning sponges whizz around gleefully, witches concoct enchanted slime in bins and a plastic mound gracefully pirouettes. It's a realm both magical and vibrant, but also a bit dirty, smelly and scary.

Theater group O-Team challenges us to embark on a journey, transporting us to this alternate realm. Their stage is populated by small robots, an inquisitive vacuum cleaner and all kinds of creatures fashioned from trash. Through a vibrant object theater, they weave a tale of this captivating dimension without words but with lots of music.

O-Team, Stuttgart

Director, Set: Nina Malotta, Samuel Hof | Play, Objects: Antje Töpfer, Nina Malotta | Music: Christoph Mäcki Hamann | Dramaturgy: Antonia Beermann | Production: Lisa Ticar | Graphics: Markus Niessner

The theatre company O-Team was founded in 2007 and is based in Stuttgart's Wagenhalle. Under the direction of Samuel Hof and Nina Malotta, the team has developed over 30 interdisciplinary projects, which have been presented at numerous guest performances and festivals in Germany and abroad. Their pieces range between performance, figure and object theatre, visual theatre and immersive formats.



Wed 26 June 24 20:00

Open space #31 (Saal frei #31)

**Interdisciplinary improvisation art:
dance, music, performance, figure and material theatre
Little or no language
60 minutes**

Artists from the performance improvisation group Instant PIG//Stuttgart from the fields of dance, music and performance create an interdisciplinary work of art live together with colleagues from puppet and material theatre.

At the 'Open Space'- event, the audience experiences the creation of a performance in the flesh, sees how the artists communicate and come together to create an artistic product across disciplines.

Instant PIG, Stuttgart

in Kooperation mit PZ & FITZ

Artistic directors: Claudia Senoner, Oliver Prechtl, Alexandra Mahnke, Lisa Thomas, Anja Füsti, Martina Gunkel

Instant PIG//Stuttgart - PerformanceImprovisationGroup - is an independent ensemble whose members have been working together in the SAAL FREI platform since 2018. Here, artists from the independent scene practise improvisation as their own art and stage form and research the quality of the unique, spontaneous and unexpected.

Instant PIG//Stuttgart works and trains at the Stuttgart Production Centre for Dance and Performance, constantly opening itself up to new artists. The process includes continuous artistic research, quality, evaluation and documentation of the format 'Improvisation and Instant Composition'.



Thu 27 June 24 20:00

(1.) put the roots down (2.) then push them deep into the ground

Material Theatre/Physical Theatre
German and Hungarian language | English surtitles or written english summary
60 Minutes

Do It Yourself! Root yourself! Helga Lázár's integration how-to is intended to be simple, clear and easy to understand. She interprets the social network literally for the sake of simplicity: with the help of ropes, carabiners and pulleys, she weaves the stage space and puts down roots in the room. Interview sequences and Hungarian folk songs create a strange sound space around it. In this way, a comprehensive fabric of thoughts, images, sounds and movements is created, offering the audience the opportunity to familiarise themselves with their own feelings of foreignness.

Not only for people with a migration background.

Helga Lázár, Stuttgart/Budapest

Concept/direction/play/text: Helga Lázár | Choreography: Domokos Kovács | Set design/build: Léa Duchmann | Music: Petra Szászi | Dramaturgy: Sára Gábor

HELGA LÁZÁR studied directing at the Academy of Theatre and Film Arts Budapest (SZFE), puppet theatre at the HMDK Stuttgart and theatre studies at the Free University of Berlin. She has lived in Germany since graduating in 2017 and has travelled as a director, stage designer and performer in Germany, Hungary and Serbia. She has been a lecturer at SZFE Buda-pest since 2018, where she has been doing her doctorate since 2020. In her artistic practice, she prefers to work with experimental puppet techniques and the possible combinations of physical theatre and puppet theatre.



Fri 28 June 24 19:00

Replik A

Dance theatre & robotics
Little German language | English surtitles
60 Minutes

Current scientific advances in the fields of genetic engineering, AI and robotics are putting the motif of the doppelgänger on the agenda. As if we can't wait to abolish ourselves, we are moving towards that mythical moment when artificial intelligence surpasses and replaces human intelligence. Is man an obsolete system?

REPLIK A confronts its hero with various images of himself. Disturbed and fascinated at the same time, he dares to take a look behind the mirror, at the back of himself, in order to learn to be creeped out by the sight of his shadow, his other self, his dark twin.

Meinhardt&Krauss, Stuttgart

Play, dance: Ludger Lamers | Video design: Lieve Vanderschaeve | Music, sounds: Thorsten Meinhardt | Robotics conception, robotics construction: Nils Bennett, Michael Krauss | Robotics programming: Michael Krauss | Silicone moulding, silicone painting: Jörg Steegmüller/Steegmüller Skulpturen | Costume: Katharina Ruprecht | Scenography: Iris Meinhardt, Michael Krauss | Lighting, technology: Alexander Schmidt | Director: Iris Meinhardt

MEINHARDT & KRAUSS have been the puppeteer/director Iris Meinhardt, the director/video artist Michael Krauss and the composer/musician Thorsten Meinhardt since 2003. The Stuttgart-based company's plays thrive on the intensive exchange between puppet theatre, film, new media and contemporary music. They skilfully merge high-tech and poetry, virtuality and the body to create their own theatrical language that invites us to perceive the seemingly unreal with a vital sense of the surreal.



Fr 28 June 24 21:00

Untiefe - a depthless place

Object Theatre/Physical Theatre
Without words
50 Minutes

A hole, bottomless. It leads down into the shallows, past the faces of grief. Falls down, is swallowed up by emptiness, emptiness from which the lost emerges. - The visual and vocal mastery of human disturbance opens up the abyss to manifestations of horror.

"Precise, handcrafted play with body, sound, light and shadow. The pull works on this intimate journey into the deepest interior with all its demons of the soul." (Leipziger Volkszeitung)

Jan Jedenak - Theatre of figural forms, Leipzig

Concept, performance, set design | Jan Jedenak | Music: Ekheo | Coaching for voice & body: Noemi Fischer | Choreographer: Nicole Mossoux | Director: Jonas Klinkenberg

Jan Jedenak studied puppetry at the Stuttgart State University of Music and Performing Arts' figure theatre programme and theatre, film and media studies at the University of Vienna. Since 2011, he has been working as a freelance theatre director and puppeteer with artists from the fields of music, dance, performing arts and puppetry. His productions are characterised by an exploration of the unconscious, dreams and dealing with the 'uncanny'.



Sat 29 June 24 12:00 to 16:00
Sun 30 June 24 16:00 to 20:00

ZO-ON (zo-on : Greek for living being)

Installation
Little german language
A visit can last between 5 and 30 minutes

"ZO-ON" is a planetary research laboratory in the sky-high rooms of St Mary's Catholic Church. An invitation to an artistic cosmos with the largest possible inner world, paradoxical gravity and acoustic temptations.

"ZO-ON" is the result of recombining old stage elements with new ideas. It creates a world that is aesthetically decided and yet remains open to interpretation, a concrete nowhere right in front of your eyes.

toepfer/feisel, Stuttgart

By Antje Töpfer & Florian Feisel with sounds by Augustin Lipp & Anouk Neyens, with thoughts by Judith Siegmund and the view of Joachim Fleischer

The qualified puppeteer Antje Töpfer has been working as a freelance theatre and art creator since 2003. Artistically based at the Stuttgart Wagenhallen and the FITZ! Centre for Figure Theatre in Stuttgart, she is present with her work both as a player and puppet/object maker at home and abroad. She is committed to the development of contemporary formal language in figure theatre and has been exploring the boundaries between animated material and the body for over 20 years. In co-productions with other branches of the performing and visual arts, she constantly explores the interfaces between these art forms within her projects. This can be experienced not only in her solo works, but also in her long-standing collaboration with the o-team/Stuttgart.

Florian Feisel studied acting at the "Theaterwerkstatt Mainz e.V." from 1995 to 1998 and puppetry at the "Hochschule für Schauspielkunst Ernst Busch" in Berlin from 1999 to 2003. After completing his studies in puppetry, he travelled halfway around the world with numerous productions. Since 2006 he has also been working as a freelance director, experimenting with theatrical border crossings and installation formats. Since 2012, he has held a professorship in figure theatre at the HMDK Stuttgart.

Sa 29 June 24 20:00 PREMIERE
 So 30 June 24 18:00

TIP\|/_PING (KIP\|/_PEN)

Object theatre
German language | English handout
60 minutes

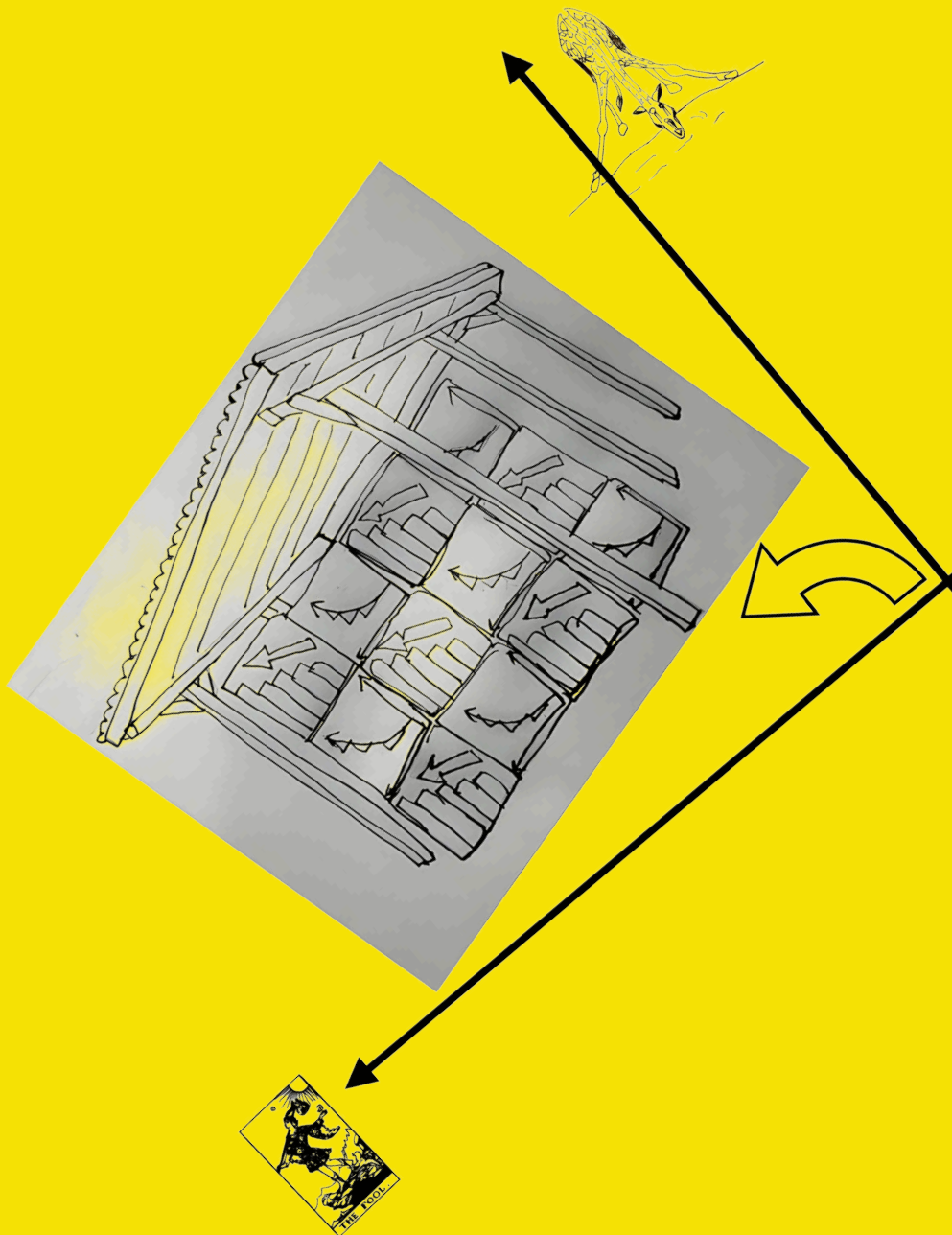
How fascinating when something becomes an opportunity that simultaneously represents a great danger! Humans, perceiving themselves as the measure of all things, always on the move, between fear and euphoria, examine the environment, explore their own livelihood and often only realise in retrospect: this was a tipping point.

With object constructions in a setting rich in quotations, performer Li Kemme's TIP\|/_PING questions our attitude to irreversible processes in times of crisis. TIP\|/_PING invites us to play with physics and politics in a creative and pleasurable way and turns the evening on its head. A multidisciplinary team creates a theatrical arrangement between laboratory, construction site and playground for an intergenerational audience.

Li Kemme, Leipzig

Play, set and idea: Li Kemme | Director: Franz Schrörs | Dramaturgy: Sandra Bringer | Text: Judith Engel | Artistic supervision: Tim Spooner

Li Kemme, born in Erlangen, studied figure theatre at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart. Since graduating in 2019, Li Kemme has been working as a freelance artist in the field of puppet theatre with a focus on performance, construction and music. Li Kemme combines performing and visual arts with a performative approach in which the audience is integrated as part of the action. In 2019, Li Kemme received the Fritz Worttelmann Prize for young professionals in figure theatre.





So 30 June 24 19:30

Nadezhda

Figural dance theatre
Without words
70 minutes

Nadezhda no longer exists. Disappeared from the map, the place exists only as a memory. A fragment, fallen out of time into nowhere.

Based on family storytelling and the inheritance of trauma, "Nadezhda" deals with the loss of home and identity. At the centre of the choreographic research is the psychology of being a stranger, but also the hope of arriving in a foreign land, told through dance and with the means of figure and object theatre.

Eva Baumann / Cie. ZEIT/GEIST, Stuttgart, Berlin

Creation, dance, puppetry: Eva Baumann, Bar Gonen, Aurora Bonetti | Music, sound editing: Roderik Vanderstraeten | Research, objects, costume design: Katrin Wittig | Puppetry: Verena Waldmüller | Stage: Eva Baumann, Katrin Wittig | Lighting, technology: Ingo Jooß | Coaching puppetry, Outside Eye: Julika Mayer | Artistic direction, research, choreography: Eva Baumann

The dancer and choreographer Eva Baumann has been working inter/nationally in various constellations and artistic formats since 2006. Her dance work is characterised by movement research, which she contributes in a variety of ways as a member of ensembles and as a solo artist. She has also been teaching in various contexts since 2009, most recently as a lecturer in contemporary puppetry at the Ernst Busch Academy of Dramatic Arts in Berlin. With "Schattenkind" (online premiere 20 May 2021 at the FITZ) and "alieNation" (premiere 30 March 2023 at the FITZ), the artist has developed groundbreaking, cross-genre formats.