

PRESS RELEASE

FESTIVAL THEATERFORMEN 2022

June 30 – July 10 in Braunschweig

19 productions from 12 countries, a new festival center and a gathering of artists and audiences in a better world

The artistic director Anna Mülter and her team have announced this year's program for Festival Theaterformen in Braunschweig today. After she celebrated a great success with the first festival edition under her direction in Hannover in 2021, Mülter says she is excited about her second time directing the festival, this time in Braunschweig:

"This year we have invited topical plays by artists who take a relentless look at our present and create their own imaginations. Many of them deal with different forms of violence and at the same time invent their own counter-worlds. They let us feel their rage and pain, but also the power of solidary community and care for each other. They fight for their own empowering poetry and find forms of resistance that we do not expect as audience in this way.

I am very much looking forward to engaging with the citizens of Braunschweig, for example in our new festival centre."

The program for the 2022 festival, which will take place at the Staatstheater Braunschweig, LOT-Theater, and around Herzogin-Anna-Amalia-Platz, comprises 19 productions, two of which will be shown for the first time. The festival team is relieved to finally be able to present a full festival programme with many international guests after the restrictions of travel and assembly of the last two years.

Björn Thümler, Lower Saxony's Minister for Science and Culture, says of the programme: "I am very pleased that the Theaterformen 2022 in Braunschweig can finally once again be a festival where performing arts from a wide variety of countries can be experienced live! Anna Mülter and her entire team have put together a great programme at the highest level. It will open up new perspectives on the question of what theatre can be for all visitors."

Mayor of Braunschweig **Dr. Thorsten Kornblum** says he is looking forward to the third festival installment during the pandemic:



**Niedersächsische Staatstheater
Hannover GmbH
Festival Theaterformen**
Ballhofplatz 5
30159 Hannover

Fon +49 (0)511 9999 2500
Fax +49 (0)511 9999 2989

**Staatstheater Braunschweig
Festival Theaterformen**
Am Theater
38100 Braunschweig

welcome@theaterformen.de
www.theaterformen.de

“Festival Theaterformen can look back on over 30 years of history. Now that the pandemic situation allows us to hold this event in our city again, we welcome all culture-lovers from Braunschweig and beyond to come and celebrate this theater festival together with us. I hope that the people in our city and our guests will enjoy Festival Theaterformen as much as they did before the pandemic.”

Dr. Anja Hesse, Head of Cultural Affairs of the City of Braunschweig, says she is especially thrilled about the event *GATHERING IN A BETTER WORLD* in the Großes Haus:

“It is a special pleasure to welcome Festival Theaterformen back to Braunschweig. I find the artistic assembly *A GATHERING IN A BETTER WORLD* especially notable. In the context of this year’s and next year’s festival, this project aims to establish an international network of artists with disabilities. The responsibility for realizing this artistic project will also be in the hands of artists with disabilities. This is an exemplary approach to practicing inclusion in the performing arts.”

Kickoff with a political thriller from Broadway

The festival will begin on June 30 in the Große Haus (Large Theater) with *Is This A Room* by **Tina Satter** and her theater collective Half Straddle from New York. The play shows the highly topical fall of the whistleblower Reality Winner, who was accused by the FBI of having leaked evidence of Russian influence on the US presidential election in 2016. *Is This a Room* stages the official FBI script, word for word.

First coproduction with the Staatstheater Braunschweig

The first coproduction between Festival Theaterformen and JUNGES! Staatstheater Braunschweig is a dance piece by the Moroccan choreographer **Taoufiq Izeddiou** called *SAWTIK. Deine Stimme*. This work looks at the effects of two years of the pandemic on young people today and explicitly targets young audiences and school classes.

Dagmar Schlingmann, General Director of the Staatstheater Braunschweig, says: "It is impressive how the Festival Theaterformen always manages to offer new perspectives on theatre with its invitations. We are very happy not only to host the festival in Braunschweig this year, but also to present the world premiere *SAWTIK. Your Voice* in cooperation with our JUNGES! Staatstheater."



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Theater as a place to get together in the Großes Haus

In **GATHERING IN A BETTER WORLD**, three disabled artists will focus on their own perspectives as part of an international project of the Goethe Institute. On the second weekend of the festival, from July 7 – 10, **Edu O.** (Brazil), Jess Thom from the **Touretteshero** project (UK), and **Alexandrina Hemsley** aka Yewande103 (UK) will occupy the rooms of the Große Haus of the Staatstheater, where they will offer a multifaceted workshop and performance program for adults, families and children. Admission to the four-day program is free.

Multiplayer game in the city center

The multiplayer game *Radio Ghost* by the British theater collective **ZU-UK** invites festival visitors to play in the city center. As agents, they go on a mission in the Schloss-Arkaden. Game players must follow the directions of a mysterious voice leading them through the world of price tags, behind which the true costs of the products have been hidden until now.

Visually powerful finale

The French based director and autor **Rébecca Chaillon**'s performance in the Großes Haus on July 9 – 10 will wrap up the festival. *Carte Noire nommée Désir* is a bittersweet commentary on the comparison of Black bodies with sweets and hot beverages in which eight Black women performers criticize the hyper-sexualization and exoticization of Black bodies as well as the ongoing racist stereotypes and attributions in our society.

The new festival center downtown: a place to hang out

Festival Theaterformen's new center can be found on Herzogin-Anna-Amalia-Platz, between Schloss-Arkaden and the Kleines Haus. It will be designed by **The DisOrdinary Architecture Project** with Deaf architecture experts. The design is based on the circular arrangements that evolve when Deaf people meet and communicate. The restaurant REYNA will provide food and drinks.

A key goal of the festival: More accessibility

Festival Theaterformen has been working to improve accessibility since 2021. After making the festival accessible to people with visual impairments and chronic pain last year, this year we will also make the festival accessible to neurodivergent people (for example, people with autism) and a first offer for Deaf people as well.



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Elements that should make the festival more accessible to everyone include **audio descriptions** (*SAWTIK. Your Voice* by Taoufiq Izeddiou and *The Way You Look (at me) Tonight* by Claire Cunningham & Jess Curtis) as well as beanbags, which can be used as **alternative seating**. Also new will be the translation into **German Sign Language** (*The Way You Look (at me) Tonight*) and **relaxed performances**, meaning special emphasis is put on making viewers feel welcome who, for example, make noises or movements unintentionally or who are otherwise left out by the strict conventions of performance venues (such as having to be silent, and sitting still).

For more information or to buy tickets, please go to: www.theaterformen.de
Presale starts May 5, 2022.

Festival Theaterformen 2022 is an event organized by the Staatstheater Braunschweig and sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony, the City of Braunschweig, the Lower Saxony Foundation (Stiftung Niedersachsen), and the Braunschweig Cultural Heritage Foundation (Stiftung Braunschweigischer Kulturbesitz). *A GATHERING IN A BETTER WORLD* is a collaboration with the Braunschweig University of the Arts and is sponsored by the Goethe Institute and the Karin and Uwe Hollweg Foundation.

Free **images**, including of the press conference, and this year's **program** in German language can be downloaded [here](#).

You can find an [overview of all events](#) on our website.

You can also find free images under [Press](#) on our website.

Press contact

Frederieke Tambaur

Head of Press and Public Relations

Office: +49 152 566 319 42

Mobile/cell: +49 157 3308 9071

tambaur@theaterformen.de

presse@theaterformen.de



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