

# Open Call

## International Forum at Theatertreffen 2020 by Berliner Festspiele

Besides presenting ten remarkable productions from the German-language region, Berliner Festspiele's Theatertreffen invites 35 young, progressive artists from across the world each year to participate in the International Forum, an 18-day exclusive scholarship programme.

The International Forum sees itself as a field for creative experimentation, an interdisciplinary laboratory and a self-reflective element of the Theatertreffen. In this spirit, it endeavours to open hybrid spaces in which the boundaries between performing arts and visual arts, media arts and science become fluid.

The programme includes the presentation of the invited artists and an exchange of their artistic practices, opportunities to see productions invited to the Theatertreffen as well as the staged readings and performances of the Stückemarkt and to attend workshops held by renowned artists, experts and researchers from various disciplines, open space events and discussions on current trends in contemporary art as well as excursions into the diverse cultural landscape of Berlin.

The creative and discursive spectrum of each edition of the International Forum results from the respective constellation of the invited artists and their specific experience and knowledge, from the artistic positions presented by the Theatertreffen as well as developments in the contemporary art scene.

The International Forum's Open Call is aimed at artists up to the age of 35 from all fields, especially directing, acting, stage design, costume design, dramaturgy, text production, music, video, performance, media, choreography and theatre education.

## The International Forum of the Berlin Theatertreffen

For the past 56 years, the support of young artists through the International Forum has been a permanent feature of Berliner Festspiele's Theater-treffen, which presents ten remarkable theatre productions of German-language subsidised theatres as well as independent production houses, produced in the German-language region, from the past year each May. The determining factor for an invitation to the Theatertreffen is a production's outstanding quality of content and aesthetics. The tableau of the ten productions that are invited to the Theatertreffen is considered to reflect the state of the art of theatre in the German-language region.

In this context, the Theatertreffen's International Forum is a focal lens for current trends in theatre and society. With its 35 progressive young artists from various nations and diverse aesthetic, cultural and political backgrounds, it is a space for political thought and experience regarding the art of tomorrow. As a transnational network, it enables the circulation of socio-political knowledge and artistic practice beyond national or aesthetic boundaries. Creating artistic alliances and collaborative working processes in the sense of a democratic artistic practice are the International Forum's essential aims.

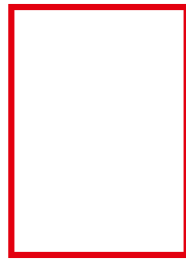
Around half the participants are artists from German-speaking countries, the other half comes from all parts of the world. The variety of ways in which the artists produce and perceive theatre in their respective working contexts will contribute to a wide spectrum of points of view. Engaging in forms of international cooperation is an essential element of this congregation of fellows.

### The Programme

The International Forum's programme is based on five elements:

- **Attending performances** of the ten productions invited to the Theatertreffen as well as selected Stückemarkt events
- **An exclusive programme of theatre practice** consisting of workshops held by experienced artists, researchers and experts, lectures given by the fellows and task groups working on a range of different issues of content and aesthetics

- **A programme of theatre theory** consisting of an exchange of ideas with international theatre makers and external experts within the context of discursive events organised by Theatertreffen (lectures, reflection rounds, artists' talks)
- **Excursions** exploring Berlin's cultural scene, with opportunities to visit museums and see performances at various theatres in Berlin
- **Networking programmes** which will promote international connections, both between the artists and with cultural institutions (Work Café, Open Spaces, Reception Goethe-Institut)



# Information on the Scholarship Programme

## 1. Dates

**Deadline for Applications for the International Forum 2020: 8 December 2019**

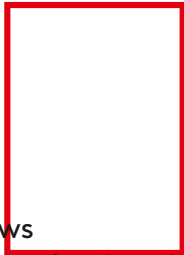
Announcement of the selected fellows: late February 2020

The jury decision concerning the 10 selected productions of the Theatertreffen will be announced on 28 January 2020.

The Theatertreffen will take place from 1 to 17 May 2020.

The International Forum will begin on Friday, 1 May 2020, in the afternoon and end on Sunday, 17 May 2020 (day of departure: Monday, 18 May 2020).

## 2. Programme

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- introductory lectures by all fellows
  - attending performances of the productions invited to the Theatertreffen as well as selected Stückemarkt events
  - workshops with artists, experts and researchers
  - exclusive artists' talks and events related to the productions invited to the Theatertreffen, featuring artists involved in these productions
  - participation in the discursive programme of the Theatertreffen
  - discussions with the Theatertreffen's directors and members of the jury
  - working groups on overarching issues
  - exchange with international theatre directors and curators in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut
  - audience discussions and opening night parties at the Theatertreffen
  - excursions and attendance at additional performances in Berlin

The detailed programme of the International Forum will be announced in late April 2020.

## 3. Benefits

In general, the scholarship includes all costs for participation in the programme:

- tickets to Theatertreffen-performances and selected Stückemarkt-events
- travel expenses (full coverage / partial coverage / no coverage – depending on country of origin, most economic travel option)
- expenses for travel within Berlin by public transport
- hotel accommodation incl. breakfast (excluding fellows who are residents in Berlin)
- per diem (according to the performance agreement, this depends on the country of origin and does not apply to fellows who are residents in Berlin)
- catering

## 4. Conditions of Participation

Applicants should

- be no older than 35 years
- have several years of independent professional experience
- be working continually in a professional artistic capacity
- be available to participate over the entire period (1 to 17 May 2020)
- have an adequate knowledge of German (at least B2, a certificate is necessary); exceptions for non German-speaking participants are possible at the suggestion of a Goethe-Institut
- have a good or very good knowledge of English, because a large part of the events will be held in English

## 5. Application

Artists from all parts of the world may apply.

They will submit the application via various institutions.

**The current main location of their work is the determining factor.**

**Deadline for applications for the International Forum 2020: 8 December 2019**

## I. Main Location of Work in Germany and Austria

Artists whose **current main location of work is in Germany and Austria** can apply directly to Berliner Festspiele.

Please send us only digital applications, which have to include the following:

- a filled-in application form (see website)
- an artistic curriculum vitae, reviews, links (to visual, sound and text media)
- a portrait photo (minimum size: 300 dpi at approx. 500 KB)
- a letter of recommendation from professionals in the field of theatre / art / culture, or from alumni of the International Forum
- a confirmation of release from the employing theatre or institution for the entire period of the International Forum (this only applies to artists in permanent employment)
- a letter of motivation with written answers to the following questions (max. three A4-pages):

1. What do you hope to gain from the exchange at the International Forum and what is the perspective that you will contribute?
2. What characterises your projects or working methods and why would they benefit from international exchange?
3. How are socio-political developments reflected in your work?

Applications from Germany and Austria should be sent per e-mail to: [internationales-forum-bewerbung@berlinerfestspiele.de](mailto:internationales-forum-bewerbung@berlinerfestspiele.de)

Applicants from Germany will be notified by telephone in late February. Due to the large number of applicants, we regret that we will not be able to send individual notifications of rejection. Please refer to our website [berlinerfestspiele.de](http://berlinerfestspiele.de) for the final decision in late February 2020.

## II. Main Location of Work in Switzerland

Artists with a **current main location of work in Switzerland** apply via the Swiss Cultural Foundation Pro Helvetia.

The application should be submitted via the application portal [myprohelvetia.ch](https://myprohelvetia.ch) eingereicht werden. The application should include the following documents:

- an artistic curriculum vitae
- a letter of recommendation from a professional in the fields of theatre / art / culture
- a letter of motivation with written answers to the following questions (max. three A4-pages):

1. What do you hope to gain from the exchange at the International Forum and what is the perspective that you will contribute?
2. What distinguishes your projects or working methods and why would they benefit from international exchange
3. How are socio-political developments reflected in your work?

Further information: [prohelvetia.ch](https://prohelvetia.ch)

Contact: Larissa Bizer, [lbizer@prohelvetia.ch](mailto:lbizer@prohelvetia.ch)

Thibault Genton, [tgenton@prohelvetia.ch](mailto:tgenton@prohelvetia.ch)

All applicants from Switzerland will receive notification about the selection in writing in February 2020.

## III. International

Artists with a **current main location of work outside the German-language countries** should apply via the Goethe-Institut responsible for the region of their main location of work.

Please contact the respective Goethe-Institut, preferably before you apply, to find out the exact application formalities.

A full list of Goethe-Institut locations: [goethe.de/de/wwt.html](https://goethe.de/de/wwt.html)

Further information on the application formalities [goethe.de/internationalesforum](https://goethe.de/internationalesforum)

## 6. Invitations

The invitations will be issued to selected applicants in late February 2020.  
The detailed festival programme will be announced in late April 2020.

Information on the Theatertreffen, respectively on the International Forum:  
[berlinerfestspiele.de/theatertreffen](http://berlinerfestspiele.de/theatertreffen)

## Contact

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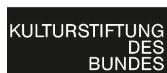




## Our Partners

The International Forum takes place in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut and the Swiss Cultural Foundation Pro Helvetia. It is supported by the German Stage Association and the regional association of the German Stage Association in Baden Württemberg. Further sponsors are the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria, the regional Ministries of Culture of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Cultural Administration of the City of Munich and the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony.

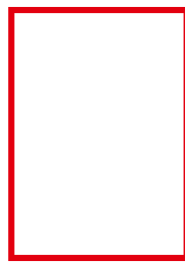
Theatertreffen  
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The International Forum is  
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Supported by



Die Kultusministerien  
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