

# Open Call

## International Forum at Theatertreffen 2023 by Berliner Festspiele

An international, equally responsible, multilingual, female team started to work on a new formula for the next editions of Berliner Festspiele's Theatertreffen: It will traditionally present long awaited theatre with its ten remarkable performances from the German-language region, and at the same time increase the emphasis on the "Treffen" (encounter) aspect creating a new narrative in transdisciplinary formats which are still under construction. In 2023 the festival will celebrate its 60th anniversary and focus on diverse, multilingual aspects and formats of "Treffen". As an important aspect of this programme Theatertreffen continues with its renowned tradition of International Forum and invites artists from across the world to participate in an 18-day exclusive scholarship programme.

The International Forum sees itself as a field for creative experimentation, a transdisciplinary 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 in its various formats, 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 International Forum's Open Call is aimed at professionals from all fields, especially directing, acting, stage design, costume design, light design, dramaturgy, text production, music, video, performance, media, choreography, production management and theatre education.

## The International Forum of the Theatertreffen

For the past decades, the support of young artists through the International Forum has been a permanent feature of Berliner Festspiele's Theatertreffen and is a focal lens for current trends in theatre and society. With its invited 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. 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. During the 2023 Theatertreffen the International Forum fellows are welcome to introduce and discuss their own artistic practice in diverse formats.

### The Programme

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

- **attending performances** and other formats of the 2023 Theatertreffen
- **an exclusive programme of performing arts practice** consisting of workshops held by experienced artists, researchers and experts, presentations given by the fellows and task groups working on a range of different issues of content and aesthetics
- **a programme of performing arts theory** consisting of an exchange of ideas with international theatre makers and external experts within the context of discursive events organised by Theatertreffen (presentations, reflection rounds, artist talks)
- **excursions exploring Berlin's cultural scene**, with opportunities to visit museums and other venues 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, Goethe-Institut)

# Information on the Scholarship Programme

## 1. Dates

**Deadline for applications for the 2023 International Forum: 9 December 2022**

Announcement of the selected fellows: late February 2023

The Theatertreffen will take place from 12 to 28 May 2023.

The International Forum will begin on Wednesday, 10 May 2023  
and end on Sunday, 28 May 2023 (day of departure: Monday, 29 May 2023).

## 2. Programme

- attending performances and other formats of Theatertreffen
- workshops with artists, experts and researchers
- exclusive artist talks and events related to Theatertreffen
- participation in the discursive programme
- discussions with members of the jury
- working groups on overarching issues
- exchange with international theatre directors and curators  
in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut
- introductory presentation by all fellows in a format of the "Treffen" programme
- out of the box formats, audience discussions and parties
- excursions and attendance at additional performances in Berlin

The detailed programme of the International Forum will be announced  
in late April 2023.

## 3. Benefits

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

- tickets to Theatertreffen events
- travel expenses (full coverage / partial coverage / no coverage – depending on country of origin, most economic travel option)
- expenses for travel within Berlin on public transport
- hotel accommodation including 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

- have several years of independent professional experience
- be available to participate over the entire period (10 to 28 May 2023)
- be able to understand and communicate in English – even if not fluent – as English will be our common working language and 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.**

When selecting the fellows, we pay attention to the individual backgrounds, personalities and abilities of the applicants.

We encourage artists with children, BIPOC, people with a migration history, queer people and people with disabilities to apply.

We are not completely barrier-free, but strive to create individual solutions.

**Deadline for applications for the 2023 International Forum: 9 December 2022**

## 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)
- two contacts of professionals who can provide us with references of your artistic work
- 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. two A4-pages):

1. What was your most impressive artistic experience in the last years?
2. How do you relate to the question "Who has the privilege to not know?"

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.  
Please refer to our website [berlinerfestspiele.de](http://berlinerfestspiele.de)  
for the final decision in late February 2023.

## II. Main Location of Work in Switzerland

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

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

- an artistic curriculum vitae
- two contacts of professionals who can provide us with references of your artistic work
- a letter of motivation with written answers to the following questions (max. two A4-pages):

1. What was your most impressive artistic experience in the last years?
2. How do you relate to the question "Who has the privilege to not know?"

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

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

All applicants from Switzerland will receive notification about the selection in writing in late February 2023.

## III. International

International artists **currently professionally based in any other country** should apply through the Goethe-Institute's application portal.

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 2023.  
The detailed festival programme will be announced in April 2023.

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

## Contact

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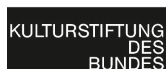
## Our Partners

The International Forum takes place in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut and the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia.

It is supported by the German Stage Association.

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.

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