

NRW KULTURsekretariat International Visitors Programme

The International Visitors Programme is aimed at international cultural operators, journalists, curators and festival directors. In 2021 many international guests were again able to make contacts in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) as part of the cooperation between the Goethe-Institut's visitors' programme and the NRW KULTURsekretariat's International Visitors Programme.

For the first time, visitors' programmes took place partially or fully online: these included programmes as part of the VIDEONALE.18 in Bonn, the CircusDanceFestival Cologne and the Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen, Photoszene United in Cologne as well as the Impulse Theatre Festival. Programmes were once again able to take place face to face in the second half of 2021, for example, on occasion of WESTWIND 2021, the 37th theatre meeting for young audiences NRW, the Cologne Jazzweek, and the interdisciplinary literature festival WESTOPIA at Burg Hülshoff - Center for Literature (CfL).

We continue to keep a close eye on the global situation in terms of the Covid-19 pandemic and to follow government guidelines in order to safeguard the wellbeing of our guests and the general public. Therefore, it is still possible that visitors' programmes will be partly or entirely transferred to digital formats. For the first half of 2022, however, we are assuming that the visitors' programmes will be able to take place on the ground in NRW and will otherwise inform you of any changes.

Call for Participants for the first half of 2022

Event Trip:

"c/o pop Festival and Convention 2022 - Networks and New Discoveries in North Rhine-Westphalia's Pop Music Scene"

20th to 25th April 2022, Cologne

c-o-pop.de/festival and c-o-pop.de/convention

The 18th edition of c/o pop festival will take place from 20th to 24th April. Since 2004 the festival has brought national and international acts performing electro, indie, hip-hop/rap and associated styles to Cologne's stages. More recently the focus has shifted to national emerging artists as c/o pop understands itself as a festival of discoveries! And previous years have shown that the concept works: countless national acts played at the festival long before they broke through, which goes to show that the c/o pop festival is an ideal springboard - for international success too.

In 2019 the organisers reworked the entire c/o pop concept and added a double twist: for the first time the festival moved to the beginning of the season, i.e. to the month of May, and physically it moved from the Belgium quarter to multi-cultural Ehrenfeld. At c/o Ehrenfeld more than 100 artists from Cologne, North Rhine-Westphalia and Germany perform in various locations across this hip Cologne district.

In addition to attending numerous concerts, participants in the visitors' programme will also take part in the special events at c/o pop: the c/o pop convention, the showcase programme, label evenings and networking events enable discussions to be held with the international specialist audience as well as key regional figures from North Rhine-Westphalia. Visits to further relevant institutions in Cologne and North Rhine-Westphalia as well as exclusive meetings with the organisers and musicians of c/o pop will round off this trip.

For this programme there are up to 2 places for international festival directors and organisers, as well as multipliers and (specialist) journalists from the fields of (pop) music, media and communication.

Please send in your suggestions by **Wednesday, 19th January 2022**.

Press Trip:

“ACHT BRÜCKEN | Music for Cologne 2022 – Music Amnesia Memory”

29th April to 3rd May 2022, Cologne

www.achtbruecken.de

The twelfth edition of the festival “ACHT BRÜCKEN | Music for Cologne” (“ACHT BRÜCKEN | Musik für Köln”) will take place in the city of Cologne from 29th April to 3rd May. Since 2011, the beginning of May marks the transformation of the Cologne Philharmonic into a genre-transcending podium for renowned artists and ensembles from the international contemporary music scene, whether it be New Music, jazz, world music, or pop. The programme also includes concerts in urban spaces and in other venues featuring representatives from the independent music scene. Connections to other artforms are reflected in performances, exhibitions and film screenings.

Under the banner “Music Amnesia Memory”, ACHT BRÜCKEN | Music for Cologne 2022 connects up the central nervous system, targets the human senses and neurological signal processing and interrogates music as a memory store. Themes such as remembering and forgetting, ecstasy and ritual, dream and sleep are at the heart of the programme and its 50 concerts – from early morning contemplation with Morton Feldman in the church, to virtual realities in Alexander Schubert's sleep laboratory, and to a rapturous connection to the transcendental in the five-hour long “Symposion” by Klangforum Wien. Furthermore, 2022 ministers to sound interpretations of the highest order with Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Musikfabrik, Bochum's Symphoniker, Concertgebouworkest, the Swiss ensemble Vortex with Ensemble Garage, as well as the Canadian ensemble, Constantinople.

The visitors' programme also offers participants the possibility of holding discussions with the festival organisers and artists as well as with other representatives of ensembles and institutions in the field of New Music in Cologne and North Rhine-Westphalia.

For this programme there are up to 4 places for multipliers and journalists specialising in music (with the focus on New Music, improvised music, jazz) as well as, where appropriate, festival directors, curators and organisers.

Please send in your suggestions by **Wednesday, 19th January 2022**.

Event Trip:

“68th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen – Traditions and New Approaches to Film and Media Arts in North Rhine-Westphalia”

4th to 9th May 2022, Oberhausen

www.kurzfilmtage.de

The Oberhausen International Short Film Festival was founded in 1954 and is considered not only the oldest short film festival in the world but also one of the largest international platforms for the short film form. It is unique for the range of forms and genres on display, and especially for its attention to experimentation. Countless film makers and artists, from Roman Polanski to Cate Shortland, from George Lucas to Pipilotti Rist, presented their first works here. Even today the Short Film Festival Oberhausen leads the way: The equal treatment of video in the competitions since the end of the 1980s, the ongoing consideration of advertising and industry films and the introduction of the MuVi prize as the first festival prize worldwide for music videos from Germany at the end of the 1990s or the festival’s own film submission platform are regarded as ground-breaking and have proved unequivocally innovative.

For its 68th edition, the festival will organise a total of seven competitions in 2022. Last year two new competitions – the International Online Competition and the German Online Competition – were added to the five existing competitions: the International Competition, German Competition, NRW Competition, Children and Young People’s Film Competition as well as the MuVi prize for the best German music video. The two online competitions will take place during the festival’s extended timeframe starting 30th April and will be online only. The traditional competition programme will continue to be shown on the large screen in the cinema from the 4th to 9th May.

The trip not only includes attendance of the festival’s events but also discussions with film makers, event organisers and institutions from the field of (short) film and media arts in North Rhine-Westphalia.

For this programme there are up to 2 places for film makers, curators, cultural mediators, event organisers and journalists specialising in film and video.

Please send in your suggestions by **Wednesday, 26th January 2022**.

Event Trip:

“FIDENA – Puppet Theatre of the Nations Festival. Interrogating the World”

4 to 5 days in the period 5th to 10th May 2022, Bochum

www.fidena.de

“FIDENA – Puppet Theatre of the Nations Festival” is, without doubt, one of the most popular activities of the German Puppet Theatre Forum (“Deutsche Forum für Figurentheater”) in Bochum. Over the course of more than 60 years, there have been well over 1,000 presentations by theatre groups and solo artists from 47 countries. The list of important artists who have been guests of FIDENA or whose commissioned productions premiered here, is huge. For both local and global audiences who find their way here, FIDENA signifies artistic adventure, aesthetic provocation, subversive tradition and intelligent pleasures.

This year the biennial festival is planning a wide selection of events and performances, including 8 international productions from Canada, Belgium, Australia, Austria, the Netherlands and Germany, that will take place in a number of performance venues across the Ruhr region.

In addition to visiting the events of the festival, the programme includes meetings with event organisers and multipliers from the local scene as well as visits to institutions in the field of object and puppet theatre in North Rhine-Westphalia.

For this programme there are up to 2 places for curators, journalists, theatre makers and organisers from the field of puppet and object theatre.

Please send in your suggestions by **Wednesday, 26th January 2022.**

Event Trip:

“WESTWIND 2022 – 38th Theatre Meeting for Young Audiences NRW”

4 to 5 days in the period 10th to 15th June 2022, Bochum

www.westwind-festival.de

WESTWIND is considered one of the most renowned theatre festivals for young audiences throughout Germany. Each year it is organised by a different theatre in North Rhine-Westphalia. Alongside a variety of local performances from North Rhine-Westphalia, the festival includes international productions and a comprehensive accompanying programme of workshops, discussions and conversations.

WESTWIND 2022 will take place from 11th to 17th June in the newly opened “Theaterrevier” in Bochum. This means that after 30 years, Schauspiel Bochum is once again hosting the festival and inviting key players from North Rhine-Westphalia as well as international guests to come along, hold discussions and network with each other. One of the key aims of the festival is to encourage a non-European perspective.

The heart of the visitors’ programme – aside from attending festival events – includes conversations with experts and organisers from the field of children and young people’s theatre as well as in depth discussions with participating artists and the organisers of WESTWIND 2022.

For this programme there are up to 2 places for artistic directors, programme directors, organisers and theatre makers, specialising in children and young people's theatre.

Please send in your suggestions by **Wednesday, 2nd February 2022**.

Online-Meetings and Event Trip:

"Impulse Theatre Festival. Independent Theatre between Political Activism and Politically-engaged Art"

Online-Meetings from the end of February 2022 + optional 4 days in the period from 9th to 19th June 2022, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Düsseldorf, Cologne

www.impulsefestival.de

Impulse Theatre Festival has been the most important platform for independent theatre in the German-speaking world for more than 30 years. It presents around ten outstanding works produced outside the apparatus of civic theatres and interrogates and expands on theatre as a medium through alternative working methods and aesthetics. These include established positions as well as discoveries – in all, a wide variety of different theatrical forms.

One of the thematic focal points of the upcoming festival is the relationship between the performing arts and activism. Many visiting productions to be shown at the Impulse Theatre Festival take a political stance. The festival's own annual production, the site-specific "City Project", takes a critical look at the social fabric of each city and aims to initiate a political discourse within the urban community. With the "Impulse Academy", the festival offers theatre makers a forum to probe, amongst other things, political questions around production and the aesthetics of independent theatre. The festival has a political objective.

What overlap is there between politically engaged art and activism? Do both fields inspire each other in their forms of action and strategies? How effective can political art actually be? How are possibilities, risks and experiences different when compared internationally? This year's Impulse Academy looks at these questions over the course of a 4-day programme of presentations and workshops.

Starting already at the end of February 2022, the visitors' programme begins with an extended exchange between the participants via online meetings. An additional 4-day visit at the festival in person is optional. The visit in North-Rhine Westphalia includes attending the performances of the Showcase in Mülheim an der Ruhr as well as the site-specific City Project in Düsseldorf, participating in the Impulse Academy's lecture programme and in depth discussions with the festival team, as well as visits to the region's cultural institutions.

The programme takes place in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut.

For this programme there are up to 4 places for artists, curators and dramaturgs.

Attention: Please send in your suggestions by **Wednesday, 19th January 2022** to be in time for the start of the Online-Meetings.

Event Trip (early announcement for the second half of 2022):

“International Symposium: Permaculture in Residence – Sustainability and Future-oriented Transformations of Artist Residency Programmes”

4 to 5 days in the period from 9th to 18th July 2022, Künstlerdorf Schöppingen (near Münster)

stiftung-kuenstlerdorf.com

The Künstlerdorf Schöppingen Foundation is organising a symposium on future-oriented transformation together with key operators from cultural institutions, networks, academia and practice. Based on initiatives and models that already exist, “Permaculture in Residence” sees itself as a networking meeting that aims to take stock of, and to work out, a model of governance designed specifically for residencies.

The project will interrogate how far initiatives from permaculture can be carried over to structures within the cultural sector, in particular to the residency programme model. What might an institution offering residencies look like in the future? Structures are to be reconsidered based on the design principles, ethics and values of permaculture. Societal values, basic ethical considerations, and political practices (“earthcare”, “peoplecare” and “fairshare”) play a key role in the design principles of permaculture – alongside the properties of sustainability. Aspects such as “hospitality” and “caretaking” are central components of residency programmes, a temporary form of cohabitation that enables people to learn from and hold dialogues with each other.

In this sense, they offer a production basis for sustainable, reciprocal exchange and to road test innovative forms of organisation. The aim of the project is to develop a model for other residencies or cultural institutions on the basis of an exemplary restructuring of the Stiftung Künstlerdorf.

The project is aimed at key operators within the cultural sector who deal with sustainable and alternative structures and transformation processes. These could be producers, cultural managers or other organisers. Alongside attendance at the symposium in Schöppingen, participants of the visitors’ programme will meet with representatives of further residency programmes in the region.

For this programme there are up to 2 places, in particular for experts and cultural operators in the field of internationally oriented artist residency programmes.

Please send in your suggestions by **Wednesday, 9th March 2022.**

Please note: it is possible to propose participants for every trip who, for various reasons, had to be turned down for previous trips.

The following costs for the participant will be covered by the NRW KULTURsekretariat: travel, accommodation, transfer and programme costs. The participants undertake to providing detailed feedback on the programme (by filling in a feedback form) following the trip for the purposes of internal evaluation. Participating journalists undertake to write a report.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the International Visitors Programme can only issue invitations with the proviso that the execution of each visitor's programme is possible and that the guest is able to travel. Alternatively, programmes can be realized in digital or hybrid formats.

Criteria for participants

When recommending participants, the following criteria set out by the NRW KULTURsekretariat's International Visitors Programme must be taken into consideration:

- Strong networks in the relevant field in the home country and beyond
- An interest in sustainable contacts and future collaboration as well as interest in the cultural landscape of North Rhine-Westphalia
- A good mastery of English (see also additional information in the individual programme descriptions)

Contact

Please send one completed form per proposed participant to:

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