

NRW KULTURsekretariat International Visitors Programme

The International Visitors Programme is aimed at international cultural operators, journalists, curators, and festival directors. Over recent years, a cooperation between the Goethe Institut's visitors' programme and the NRW KULTURsekretariat's International Visitors Programme has enabled numerous international guests to make connections within North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). From this has emerged a network of alumni which since 2009 has expanded to include more than 1200 cultural operators in 112 countries. The International Visitors Programme supports and extends this network via different formats in order to encourage long-term contacts.

2023 saw programmes realised around the 69th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, the International Women's Film Fest Dortmund+Cologne, the VIDEONALE.19, as well as the tanz nrw 23 festival and WESTWIND 2023, a children and young people's theatre festival. The year was rounded off with the "Spotlight on popular music in North Rhine-Westphalia: Highlights, Networks and New-comers" research trip, which brokered contacts and offered insights into the pop music scene in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Call for Participants

2024

Event Trip:

"70th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen – Film and Media Arts in North Rhine-Westphalia"

1st to 6th May 2024, Oberhausen (includes arrival and departure days)

www.kurzfilmtage.de

The International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, founded in 1954, is considered one of the oldest short film festivals in the world and one of the largest international platforms for the short form. It is unique due to the breadth of form and genres shown, but above all for its focus on experimentation. Countless filmmakers and artists from Roman Polanski to Cate Shortland, from George Lucas to Pipilotti Rist, presented their first works here. Both political and aesthetic developments are initiated through the Short Film Festival, such as the Oberhausen Manifesto, which is perhaps the most important group document of German film. To the present day the Short Film Festival continues to lead the way: the equal treatment of video in the competition since the end of the 80s, the ongoing engagement with advertising and industry films, the introduction of MuVi – the first festival prize in the world for music videos from Germany – at the end of the 1990s, or its own film submission platform, are all considered innovative and precedent-setting.

In 2024, the 70th edition of the annual festival will organise five competitions: the International Competition, the German Competition, the NRW Competition, the Children's and Young People's Film Competition and the MuVi Prize for the best German music video.

As well as attendance at festival events, the trip also includes conversations with film makers, event organisers and institutions involved in (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 (specialist) journalists from the film and media art sector.

Please send in your proposals by **Thursday, 1st February 2024.**

Event Trip:

“CircusDanceFestival – Re-Inventing Circus: Between Heritage and Renewal”

15th to 20th May 2024, Cologne (includes arrival and departure days)

www.circus-dance-festival.de

The CircusDanceFestival Cologne, initiated in 2020 by Overhead Project, is the first international festival to focus on the hybrid artform that is part circus part dance. The Cologne-based Overhead Project was founded in 2008 by Florian Patschovsky and Tim Behren and represents works on the border between contemporary circus and dance.

To mark the inclusion of circus in Germany's intangible cultural heritage this year as well as its recognition as an independent discipline within the performing arts, the CircusDanceFestival Cologne looks at questions of heritage and renewal under the banner "Re-Inventing Circus" in this upcoming edition. A special focus of the programme is on ageing bodies and the contemporary revival of the figure of the clown. Round table talks with important representatives of contemporary circus will reflect on "Innovation, heritage and change in all forms of circus". In addition, the Archive Lab and the CircusDance CreationLab project, a collaboration between the festival, the Center for Contemporary Dance at the Cologne University of Music and Dance / ZZT and a professional European circus school, will be presented as part of the festival.

Alongside visiting the events attached to the CircusDanceFestival in Cologne, there will be meetings with the festival's initiators and artistic director as well as with other relevant institutions, artists and companies from the field of new circus and circus dance in North Rhine-Westphalia.

For this programme there are up to 2 places for dance curators, artistic directors, organisers and (specialist) journalist from the New Circus sector.

Please send in your proposals by **Thursday, 8th February 2024.**

Press Trip:

“53rd Moers Festival – Crossing the Borders of Jazz and Contemporary Music between the Lower Rhine and the Ruhr Region”

16th to 21st May 2024, Moers (includes arrival and departure days)

www.moers-festival.de

The moers festival, which takes place annually at Whitsun, stands for all forms of music that are not 'mainstream'. This makes it a stage for the 'unheard', and at the same time it represents the top echelons of international jazz and the avant-garde. Even in what is probably the world's densest cultural and festival landscape that is the Ruhr region, the moers festival stands out as a 'beacon of structural transformation' with international appeal. After three festival editions heavily impacted by the pan-

demic, 2023 marked a festival comeback in Moers: regional and international fans were kept busy with more than 70 concerts in the main programme, including around 20 sessions and ANNEX concerts, countless pop-up events, guerrilla concerts, and workshops for children and young people. Analogue formats, alongside digital formats that emerged during the pandemic, stood side by side on an equal footing and will also be expanded in the future.

From 17th to 20th May, the 53rd Moers festival wants to confront a world overwhelmed with crises, wars and uncertainties in a provocative and yet unpretentious way. With smart ideas, courageous projects and critical self-reflection, the festival aims to adopt the philosophically-profound and humorously-loving outlook of Moers cabaret artist Hanns Dieter Hüsch, who would have celebrated his 100th birthday this year.

In addition to attending the festival, the visitors' programme will give participants an opportunity to talk to the organisers of the festival and its artists as well as with other representatives and institutions working in the field of New Music and jazz in North Rhine-Westphalia.

There are up to 4 places for multipliers and specialist music journalists (New Music, improvised music and jazz), possibly also festival directors, curators and organisers.

Please send in your proposals by **Thursday, 8th February 2024.**

Event Trip:

“internationale tanzmesse nrw 2024 – Global Networking of Contemporary Dance in North Rhine-Westphalia”

26th to 31st August 2024, Düsseldorf (includes arrival and departure days)

www.tanzmesse.com

The internationale tanzmesse nrw is organised by nrw landesbuero tanz and is the largest professional gathering for contemporary dance. Launched in 1994 as the NRW Tanzmesse, in its founding years it concentrated primarily on the marketing and distribution of dance productions. Today, it has developed into the most important international gathering for contemporary dance; it represents an important meeting place for international dance professionals and functions as a forum for interaction, knowledge exchange, and networking. Every two years at the end of August, nearly 1,500 international exhibitors and visitors come together in Düsseldorf and present a broad spectrum of aesthetic styles and artistic practices.

The four sectors: Agora, Talk & Connect, the performance programme, and the Open Studios and Insights, form the core of the internationale tanzmesse nrw. Within the building of the former Central Düsseldorf Library, the opened-up areas of the Agora function as meeting places for companies, artists, institutions and organisations and as spaces for all kinds of encounters: to arrange guest appearances for example, finalise collaborations or initiate new projects. The Talk & Connect discussion programme, in the form of keynote speeches, panel discussions and new discussion formats, allows for the exchange of knowledge and for discussions to take place. Here the current social issues and values of the global dance community can be pondered. For the performance programme, artists will present selected works on stage, outdoors and digitally. In the Open Studios and Insights, artists and dance professionals reflect on their artistic productions and projects. And even before the tanzmesse starts, the NRW Pre-Day will use Fabrik Heeder in Krefeld as an example to highlight NRW's inde-

pendent dance scene; here the focus will be on their choreographers' work as well as the venue's work and programming.

In addition to visiting the internationale tanzmesse nrw, the trip includes meetings with the creative directors as well as with other important dance institutions, artists and companies from North Rhine-Westphalia.

For this programme there are up to 2 places for dance curators, artistic directors, organisers and (specialist) journalists from the dance sector.

Please send in your proposals by **Thursday, 7th March 2024.**

Press Trip:

"FELIX Historically Informed Festival of the Cologne Philharmonic"

27th August to 1st September 2024, Cologne (includes arrival and departure days)

www.felix-originalklang.koeln

Since 2019, the Cologne Philharmonic has opened its season with the festival FELIX: Internationally renowned artists present historically informed music from the 12th century to the present day at the Cologne Philharmonic and other venues in the heart of Cologne. The festival is named after German composer and pianist, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. It was Bartholdy's interpretation of Johann Sebastian Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" that laid the foundation for historical performance practice. The FELIX festival focuses on renowned ensembles and young musicians whose fresh eyes lend classical pieces an extraordinary charm.

Following the focus on France (2022) and England (2023), the 2024 edition of the FELIX festival turns its attention to Flanders. As in previous years, the focus is not only reflected in its themes, but also in the renowned participants: Anima eterna Brugge with Pablo Heras-Casado, the Collegium Vocale Gent under the direction of Philippe Herreweghe, the Ensemble B'Rock, the Huelgas Ensemble with Paul van Nevel, and Holland Baroque. In terms of the topic, they will explore music from Flanders, or composers and their relationship to Flanders. What's more, some programmes are curated exclusively for FELIX 2024: the final concert of the Huelgas Ensemble, for example, will consider the Flemish landscape (De Lage Landen) choreographically, incorporating the concert hall of the Cologne Philharmonic. Also conceived specifically for FELIX 2024 are shorter concerts and evening concerts with emerging artists to take place in unique venues, such as the Baptisterium or the Stiftersaal of the Walraff-Richartz Museum in Cologne. In addition, the FELIX urban! day on 31st August also offers performances by young artists in various smaller venues around the Cologne Philharmonic building and open-air performances in front of it. In 2024 too, the FELIX urban! day will carry on its cooperation with the Göttingen International Handel Festival.

In addition to the FELIX festival programme events, visitors will have an opportunity to hold discussions with the festival's initiators and other directors of important classical music institutions as well as musicians from North Rhine-Westphalia.

For this programme there are up to 4 places for multipliers and specialist journalists from the classical music sector, also possibly festival directors, curators and organisers.

Please send in your proposals by **Thursday, 21st March 2024.**

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

The NRW KULTURsekretariat will cover travel, accommodation, transfer and programme costs for each guest. Following the trip, the participants undertake to provide detailed feedback (filling out a feedback form) on the programme for internal evaluation. Participating journalists undertake to report on the programme.

Criteria for participants

When recommending participants, the following criteria 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
- Interest in sustainable contacts and future collaboration as well as curiosity about the cultural landscape of North Rhine-Westphalia
- A good mastery of English
(see also additional information in the description of the respective programme)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to your recommendations!

Contact

Please fill in one form per proposed participant and send it to:

Eva Lenhardt

Tel.: +49 (0) 202 - 698 27 222

Fax: +49 (0) 202 - 698 27 203

lenhardt@nrw-kultur.de

www.nrw-kultur-international.de