

NRW KULTURsekretariat International Visitors Programme

The International Visitors Programme attracts international cultural operators, journalists, curators and festival organisers. As a result, in 2019 a wide variety of international guests were able to make professional contacts in North Rhine-Westphalia as part of a cooperation between the Goethe-Institut's visitors programme and the International Visitors Programme run by the NRW KULTURsekretariat. During the second half of 2019 programmes took place that were attached to the Ruhrtriennale in Essen, Bochum and Duisburg, to the festival "Natur am Bau" (Nature in Architecture) at Burg Hülshoff - Centre for Literature in Havixbeck, the CityLeaks Urban Art Festival in Cologne as well as the Soundtrips NRW Festival in Wuppertal, Bonn and Münster. In addition, there was a themed trip on the occasion of "100 Jahre Bauhaus im Westen" (100 years of Bauhaus in the West).

During the first half of 2020 the International Visitors Programme was majorly affected by global developments regarding the COVID-19 pandemic: events in North Rhine-Westphalia had to be cancelled or postponed. In light of this we are following government guidelines and are closely monitoring the situation in order to ensure the well-being of our guests as well as the public in general. We hope that the visitor programmes planned for the second half of the year are able to take place and we will keep you up to date with any changes.

Call for Participants for the second half of 2020

Event trip:

„FAVORITEN 2020 - WHILE WE ARE WORKING. Festival for the Independent Performing Arts in North Rhine-Westphalia"

16th - 20th September 2020, Dortmund

www.favoriten-festival.de

FAVORITEN, the festival for the independent performing arts in North Rhine-Westphalia, will take place in Dortmund from 10th to 20th September this year. Every two years FAVORITEN invites practitioners from the independent scene in North Rhine-Westphalia to Dortmund to present and discuss aesthetically-innovative artistic working methods and forms of expression. Founded in 1985 under the name Theaterzwang, the FAVORITEN Festival is one of the oldest festivals representing the independent scene and views itself as not only a regional forum but also as a supra-regional platform that brings together artists, curators and scientists for ten days of joint discussions.

Under the working title WHILE WE ARE WORKING, this year's festival edition will focus on the theme of work. This title allows for an open discussion forum to explore forms of working and not-working both within society and within the artistic practice of theatre, dance and performance itself. Viewpoints on and questions around this theme are exciting, diverse and critical. On the one

hand, in direct relation to the festival location, they reflect the history of industrialisation and the labour movement as well as the specific industrial culture of the Ruhr area that emerged from it. On the other hand, they also open up discussions that include ways of working in the digital age, excesses of the globalised world of work, human rights, and the post-colonial responsibility of western societies.

As a result, this thematic definition enables the festival to discuss artistic working practices. It is in this context that we would like to integrate international perspectives into the festival's discourse so that interrogations and working practices can be compared and developed.

Within the framework of festival events and beyond, what is at the centre of the trip is a rigorous exchange with the artists and creators of FAVORITEN 2020 around flexible, interdisciplinary, artistically-pioneering forms of collaboration within the independent performing arts, also in terms of the potential of technological change but frequently marked by precarious working realities. To this end, visits to other venues within the independent theatre scene in North Rhine-Westphalia are also planned, as well as networking and discussion opportunities with organisers, artists and decision-makers.

For this programme there are up to 5 places for festival directors, artistic directors, directors and specialist journalists from the performing arts sector.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Friday, 17th July 2020.**

Research trip:

“ALL IN - Co-production and Cooperation in the Inclusive Performing Arts. Inclusion and Culture in North Rhine-Westphalia”

19th - 23rd October 2020, Cologne (postponed due to COVID-19, original dates 12th - 17th May)

www.ibk-kubia.de

This fully-accessible themed trip invites international creative artists to come to North Rhine-Westphalia to meet and hold discussions with local activists working within the field of 'Inclusion and Culture' as well as to look at the work being undertaken by North Rhine-Westphalia's institutions and event organisers in terms of inclusivity. During the course of this trip the Visitors Programme will be a guest at the symposium “ALL IN - Co-production and Cooperation in the Inclusive Performing Arts” in Cologne and will have an opportunity to hold close talks with the event's organisers “kubia - Kompetenzzentrum für Kulturelle Bildung im Alter und Inklusion“ (Centre for Cultural Education in Ageing and Inclusion), “Un-Label Performing Arts Company” and “Sommerblut Kulturfestival e.V.” This themed trip aims to create networking opportunities on both sides and give the broadest overview possible of the work of NRW partner institutions within Inclusion and Culture. Through discussions and visits to events, points of contact are to be found for the development of formats of visualisation, for the promotion and professionalisation of disabled artists, as well as for the expansion of the spectrum of methods and inclusive formats of cultural education in the performing arts.

In addition to attending the symposium, guests will visit and meet with further partner institutions in NRW, such as tanzhaus nrw in Düsseldorf and the accessible “Schauspielstudio der Wuppertaler Bühnen“ (actors' studio at the Theatre of the City of Wuppertal).

For this programme there are up to 4 places for artistic directors and producers of inclusive festivals, inclusive dance and theatre ensembles, employees of cultural institutions and cultural administration working specifically with inclusivity and who are interested in:

- the promotion and professionalisation of artists with a disability
- the development of formats for making creative artists with a disability visible
- the development and broadening of inclusive methods within the performing arts
- inclusive formats within the cultural development of the performing arts
- inclusive structural development within cultural institutions

Please note that possible additional costs for the travels and hotel stay of an assistant / accompanying person or necessary interpreter could also be covered.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Friday, 24th July 2020**.

Event trip:

“Next Level Festival for Games – Games and Digital Culture in North Rhine-Westphalia”

12th – 16th November 2020, Essen

www.next-level.org

Last year was the tenth anniversary of Next Level – Festival for Games and marked the beginning of a three-year partnership with the city of Essen and the Stiftung Zollverein that will be continued and expanded for this year's festival edition and will also include many other partners. For its 2020 edition the festival will again take place against the impressive backdrop of the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site Zeche Zollverein in Essen and will highlight mainly an artistic, but also educationally-relevant potential and perspective on digital culture and games.

Embedded within the process of the digitalization of everyday life, the manifold aspects of altered perception enable digital games culture to generate new forms of interaction and participation. The significance of games for artistic, cultural and social processes in the digital age is considerable and as such requires both inspiring observation and a critical outlook. From 12th to 15th November 2020, the eleventh edition of the Next Level Festival invites both fans of and experts in digital game culture to engage with the topic of games as a cross-sectional arena for aesthetic, cultural and socio-political work and development – in conversation as well as in playful interaction. Spatial installations and performances will also continue to be a central component of the festival. Next Level brings games to life and promotes discussion among gamers as well as artists, cultural operators, educators, game designers and journalists.

In addition to visiting the festival, the event trip will also include visits to further cultural institutions and operators in NRW that deal with the aesthetic component of games, media art and other forms of digital art.

For this programme there are up to 10 places available for curators, exhibition organisers, specialised journalists, and multipliers from the field of games and digital art.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Wednesday, 12th August 2020**.

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

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

Criteria for the visitors

When recommending visitors, the following criteria set out by the NRW KULTURsekretariat's 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 potential collaborations as well as a curiosity about 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 (attached) per proposed visitor directly to:

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