

# Open Call

## International Forum at Theatertreffen 2017 by Berliner Festspiele

This call is aimed at theatre makers up to the age of 35 from the fields of directing, acting, design, dramaturgy, writing, music, video, performance, choreography and other artistic disciplines.

The International Forum is a two-week scholarship programme organised by the Berliner Festspiele's Theatertreffen and sponsors theatre makers from all parts of the world. As a field for creative experimentation and a space for utopian thought, it provides performative and discursive exchange in an international context and endeavours to open hybrid spaces in which the boundaries between performing arts, visual arts and science become fluid. Engaging in forms of international cooperation is a defining element of this congregation of fellows.

The programme includes the presentation of the invited theatre makers and their aesthetic practice in lectures, workshops held by renowned artists, experts and scholars, attendance at performances and artists' talks of Theatertreffen and Stückemarkt, open space events and discussions on relevant topics of contemporary art as well as excursions into the varied cultural landscape of Berlin.

We are particularly interested in artists who feel committed to the theatre as a socially engaged art form and whose creative work sets out to find new aesthetic forms of expression, strategies of negotiation and superordinate narratives which will facilitate new ways for the theatre to encounter actual social reality. This Open Call is aimed equally at artists and actors from established institutions and artists and performers who work in independent contexts.

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

## Contact

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[www.berlinerfestspiele.de](http://www.berlinerfestspiele.de)

## Our Partners

The International Forum is a project of the Theatertreffen, division Berliner Festspiele / Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin GmbH. It takes place with the cooperation of the Goethe Institute 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 (section: art), 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 and the German Stage Association and the regional associations of the German Stage Association in Bavaria and Baden Württemberg.

The Theatertreffen is funded by



The International Forum will be realised in cooperation with



swiss arts council  
**prohelvetia**

Supported by



BUNDESKANZLERAMT ÖSTERREICH

Die Kultusministerien  
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## International Forum – Theatertreffen

For 53 years, the support of young theatre makers in form of the **International Forum** has been a permanent feature, besides Stückemarkt and Theatertreffen-Blog, of the **Theatertreffen of the Berliner Festspiele**, which presents a showcase of the ten most remarkable theatre productions of each season from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Outstanding quality of content and aesthetics is the deciding criterion for an invitation to the renowned Theatertreffen.

The Theatertreffen's **International Forum** is a focal lens for trends of contemporary development. With its 36 theatre makers from various nations and diverse aesthetic, cultural and political influences, it is a space for political thought and experience and a utopian laboratory for an unbounded society. As an intercultural network, it facilitates transfer between socio-political knowledge and aesthetic practice. One half of the participants are theatre makers from German-speaking countries, the other half come from all over the world. The variety of ways in which the artists produce and receive theatres in their home countries will contribute to a wide spectrum of points of view. In this sense, the foreign will become a way of challenging habitual perceptions and perspective, a difference from habitual social and aesthetic practice.

The International Forum strives to promote the intercultural exchange between emerging interdisciplinary artists, thus accommodating contemporary trends in the performing arts drama, choreography and musical theatre, in the visual arts, performance art and in science. Traditional boundaries between disciplines and countries must be overcome in order to open a new space for opportunities for complex narratives about the upheaval of society and the world in the age of globalization.

The fellows of the International Forum will receive a scholarship for the duration of the festival.

## The Programme

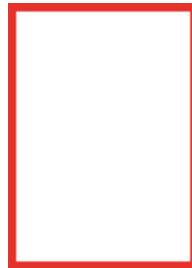
The International Forum's programme is based on four elements:

**Attendance at the performances** of the ten productions selected for the Theatertreffen and at the **presentations** of the Stückemarkt

**An exclusive practical workshop programme** with residential workshops headed by experienced artists and art clusters, scientists, and external experts, lectures by scholarship holders, working groups on aesthetic and topical issues, etc.

**A theoretical programme** in exchange with students, professionals and external experts within the Theatertreffen-Camp (discussion panels, lectures, round tables etc.)

**Excursions** to Berlin's cultural scene and to performances at theatres around Berlin.



# Information on the Scholarship Programme

## 1. Dates

**Deadline for applications for the International Forum: 15 December 2016**

Invitations of the participants from mid-February 2016

Jury decision on the guest performances of the Theatertreffen:  
7 February 2017

The Theatertreffen takes place from 5 to 21 May 2017

The International Forum opens on Friday 5 May and ends on Sunday 21 May 2017. (Day of departure: Monday 22 May 2017)

## 2. Programme

- Attendance at the Theatertreffen performances and Stückemarkt presentations
- Artistic practice/workshops with experienced artists
- Lectures by scholarship holders
- Exclusive discussions and presentations about productions invited to the Theatertreffen with input by participating artists
- Participation in the Theatertreffen-Camp
- Discussion with jurors of the Theatertreffen
- Working groups on overarching themes
- Exchange with international theatre directors and curators in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut
- Audience discussions and premiere parties at the Theatertreffen
- Excursions and attendance at other performances in Berlin

▶ A detailed programme of the International Forum will be announced in April 2017.

### 3. Benefits

The scholarship normally includes:

- All costs of participation for the programme
- Tickets to theatre performances of the Theatertreffen and the Stückemarkt
- Travel expenses (depending on the country of origin, the costs for the use of the cheapest travel option possible, will be completely or partially covered, or no travel costs will be covered at all)
- Hotel accommodation with breakfast (excluding fellows resident in Berlin)
- Per diem (depending on the country of origin and with the exception of the fellows resident in Berlin)
- Catering

### 4. Conditions

Applicants should

- be no older than 35 years of age
- have several years of independent professional experience
- work in the theatre continually in a professional and creative capacity
- be available to participate for the entire period (5 to 21 May 2017)
- have an adequate working knowledge of German (at least B2, a certificate is necessary); Exceptions for non-German-speaking participants are possible exclusively at the suggestion of a Goethe-Institut.

## 5. How to apply

Artists from all over the world may apply. You must apply via one of the following institutions. The main local focus of your work determines to which institution you should make your application.

**Deadline for applications:** 15 December 2016

### I. Germany – Austria

Artists with the main local focus of their work in Germany and Austria can apply directly to the Berliner Festspiele.

The application should include:

- the application form
- artistic curriculum vitae, reviews, links
- a portrait photo
- a letter of recommendation
- personality profile: answering the following questions (maximum two A4 pages):
  1. What is your statement of motivation to participate in the International Forum?
  2. What are the characteristics of your theatre projects or working methods?
  3. What impact does socio-political development have on your theatre practice?

Please also send a digital version of the application to:  
[internationales-forum-bewerbung@berlinerfestspiele.de](mailto:internationales-forum-bewerbung@berlinerfestspiele.de)

We regret that due to the large number of applicants we cannot send individual notifications of rejection. Please check our website to see who has been invited. The information will be posted in February 2017.

## II. Applications from all non-German-speaking countries

Theatre makers apply via the Goethe-Institut in their country of origin. Please contact them before applying to get information about the procedure.

A full list of the institutes can be found here: [www.goethe.de/de/wwt.html](http://www.goethe.de/de/wwt.html)

Further information at [www.goethe.de/internationalesforum](http://www.goethe.de/internationalesforum)

## III. Switzerland

Artists with the main local focus of their work in Switzerland can apply directly to Pro Helvetia.

The application must contain:

- the application form (from Pro Helvetia)
- artistic curriculum vitae, reviews, links
- a portrait photo
- personality profile: answering the following questions (maximum two A4 pages):
  1. What is your statement of motivation to participate in the International Forum?
  2. What are the characteristics of your theatre projects or working methods?
  3. What impact does socio-political development have on your theatre practice?
- a letter of recommendation
- links, reviews, reports, information material, if applicable

For further information and the application form download:

[www.prohelvetia.ch](http://www.prohelvetia.ch)

Contact: [theater@prohelvetia.ch](mailto:theater@prohelvetia.ch)

Please send applications by post to:

Pro Helvetia, Kirsten Barkey, Hirschengraben 22, CH 8024 Zürich

or by e-mail to: [theater@prohelvetia.ch](mailto:theater@prohelvetia.ch)

All applicants from Switzerland will be informed in writing whether or not they will be invited to participate in February 2017.



## 6. Invitations

Invitations will be issued to participants from mid-February 2017. The detailed festival programme will be published in April 2017.

The documentation of the International Forum 2016 will give you a first impression:

[www.berlinerfestspiele.de/media/2016/theatertreffen\\_2016/downloads\\_tt\\_2016/tt16\\_dokumentation.pdf](http://www.berlinerfestspiele.de/media/2016/theatertreffen_2016/downloads_tt_2016/tt16_dokumentation.pdf)

