

RUHRTRIENNALE

FESTIVAL DER KÜNSTE _____ 21 22 23

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PRESS RELEASE

**Published: The programme of the Ruhrtriennale 2021
Advance ticket sales have begun
First season of artistic director Barbara Frey**

Bochum 26/5/2021 – Confidently and with great anticipation, the Ruhrtriennale 2021 is announcing its artistic programme. From **14 August to 25 September**, the annual festival of the arts will celebrate a programme spanning musical theatre, concert, theatre, dance, performance, installation, literature and dialogue at nine venues in the cities of Bochum, Duisburg, Essen and Gladbeck. This year's Ruhrtriennale is the first under the directorship of Swiss theatre director Barbara Frey.

Together with her team, **Barbara Frey** will examine current fault lines, unsettled historical constructions of identity, collective and individual memory processes and the complex relationship of human beings to nature. The festival makers are looking forward to an intensive live experience: with the multitude of new productions being created in the monumental industrial architecture of the Ruhr region, with much curiosity about the people living in the region and their stories, and with the invitation to visit a circuit of up to five events in a row on selected days.

Digital audio and video formats, for instance, in cooperation with the ARD Radiofestival as well as the Kulturradio WDR 3 in the frame of WDR 3 Kulturpartnerschaft, complement the programme.

Thirty-seven productions and projects are planned, including eleven in-house and co-productions. With eight world premieres, five German premieres and four adaptations from the programme of the Ruhrtriennale 2020, the internationally oriented festival invites its audience to a wide variety of artistic experiences.

Against the backdrop of current and expected official requirements, the festival team's plans include reduced seating capacities. A comprehensive hygiene and infection control concept has also been developed together with experts from the fields of medicine and hygiene – always in a responsible approach to the health of both the audience and all those involved in the Ruhrtriennale. **All available at www.ruhrtriennale.de.**

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The programme highlights of the Ruhrtriennale 2021 include artistic statements in music theatre as well as in drama, for example during the opening weekend on 14 and 15 August. With the **music theatre** "Bählamms Fest", composer Olga Neuwirth will be creating an unreal visual and musical border crossing together with a multitude of collaborators, including the Ensemble Modern. The dissolution of aesthetic boundaries is exemplified by the convergence of three greats in the arts, the composer Michael Wertmüller, the painter Albert Oehlen and the writer Rainald Goetz, in the world premiere of the piece "D • I • E".

Barbara Frey will be performing the world premiere of a play creation at the festival opening. Together with an ensemble of eight, she will be inviting the audience to her view of the thought cosmos of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" – conceived especially for the monumental space of the Maschinenhalle Zweckel in Gladbeck. Further opportunities to experience Barbara Frey as a director: with the German premiere of her production of "The Dead" as well as the concert "Spettro" by percussionist Fritz Hauser as part of the Ruhrtriennale cult series MaschinenHausMusik, which will take place in Duisburg's Gebläsehalle in 2021.

Choreographer and extreme performer Florentina Holzinger's latest throw, "A Divine Comedy", is dedicated to questions about a possible spirituality in the 21st century. Her point of departure: the afterlife realms from Dante's "Divine Comedy".

More intimate installation works are by choreographer Mette Ingvartsen and artist Mats Staub, whose "21 – Erinnerungen ans Erwachsenwerden" (21 – Memories of Growing Up) is a cross-generational collection dedicated to the stories of 200 people, including some from the Ruhr region.

The extensive **concert programme** holds great promise, for example with "Stil ist Gewalttat" (Style is Violence), in which the utopian approach of composer Patricia Alessandrini to the music of Luciano Berio, Claude Debussy and Arnold Schönberg can be experienced. With their programme "Visionary Architects", the Bochum Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of their new general music director Tung-Chieh Chuang, will be presenting music by composers of great sound projects.

The Junge Triennale addresses a young audience with two guest performances, complemented by the project "Teens in the House", which invites young people to explore, intervene and dialogue. A reading and dialogue series led by the Swiss playwright, novelist and essayist Lukas Bärfuss, accompanied by academics and actors, including Fritz Haberlandt and Corinna Harfouch, poses questions about the nature of human beings. There's more: beyond the halls, free of charge, around the clock, by tram, regional express, bicycle or on foot, alone or together, local artists invite us to experience the routes between the venues of the Ruhrtriennale in Bochum, Duisburg, Essen and Gelsenkirchen.

The Ruhrtriennale will open shortly before sunrise with a concert at dawn followed by a communal breakfast at the Maschinenhalle Zweckel in Gladbeck. The finale will be a long night of outstanding compositions in the Jahrhunderthalle Bochum.

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