

# Festival of the Performing Art Hamburgs

SAVE THE DATE

22. JUNI — 02. JULI 2022

Dear Fellows of the Independent Performing Arts of Hamburg, Dear Friends of the Festival Hauptsache Frei

Even with all the current uncertainties, it is clear that the 2021/22 theater season will be a dense one. Many productions from the last year and a half will be performed this season. We have therefore decided to place HF#8 at the end of the season. On the one hand, because then we can expect less restrictions due to the pandemic. On the other hand, because more pieces could have premiered by that time.

DATE HF#8: 22 June — 2 July 2022

Like last year, we are planning to host the festival over two weekends and due to the still ongoing special situation, we would like to continue to allow submissions of productions that have not yet premiered by the closing date.

In the HF#7 edition, including the digital program, we had 24 productions presented over 9 days in 10 different venues. For the upcoming festival we have set the agenda to deepen the focus of the last edition, to continue the program, VERMITTLUNG & TEILHABE, BEYOND DIGITAL and WE PRESENT and to make the art of Hamburg's independent scene accessible to a broad local and national audience.

We look forward to receiving your applications,  
The festival team

Jens Dietrich, Elisabeth Doernbrack Bell, Hark Empen, Christine Grosche, Zengqiang He, Anja Kerschewicz, Lars Kracht, Joshua Lerp-Petersen, Jeanne Charlotte Vogt, Christopher Weymann

### WHAT IS HAUPTSACHE FREI?

Hauptsache Frei is an interdisciplinary festival of the independent performing arts in Hamburg. The aim is to make the independent scene visible and tangible, to present special productions to a broad audience, and to offer the members of the independent scene networking opportunities in the form of workshops, lectures, and discussion formats (national and local). Hauptsache Frei makes the lively and versatile art of the Hanseatic city accessible to actors and the general public, and helps to create structures in which new processes can be created and consolidated.

### WHO IS HAUPTSACHE FREI?

The current festival team consists of: Jens Dietrich, Elisabeth Doernbrack Bell, Hark Empen, Christine Grosche, Zengqiang He, Anja Kerschewicz, Lars Kracht, Joshua Lerp-Petersen, Jeanne Charlotte Vogt, Christopher Weymann. Hauptsache Frei is supported by the Bündnis für Festivals der freien Tanz- und Theaterschaffenden Hamburgs e.V., an association consisting of institutions of Hamburg's independent performance scene.

### WHEN IS HAUPTSACHE FREI?

The eighth edition will be taking place from 22 June to 02 July 2022.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO HAUPTSACHE FREI?

All members of the independent scene are invited to apply with productions created in 2020 or 2021, if they can answer yes to at least one of the following three points:

- The production had its premiere in Hamburg or will have it before the festival starts
- The majority of the production team is based in Hamburg
- The production was supported by a Hamburg institution

For up-and-coming artists who are still at the beginning of their career and/or for productions that have been created in college, Hauptsache Frei is once again cooperating with the LICHTHOF Theatre's young talent platform WE PRESENT.

- Young artists can also apply for the Open Call of the festival and their work will be shown at WE PRESENT during the festival

Since Hauptsache Frei is a regional festival of Hamburg's independent scene, we unfortunately have to exclude productions that do not meet any of the above criteria from the application process.

## ARE THERE SPECIAL REGULATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC?

If your productions verifiably couldn't be realised in 2020 or 2021 due to the Corona-related restrictions, you can submit the following application alternatives:

- The artistic concept with a staging idea
- An alternative digital production
- An alternative design variant viable under corona restrictions (e.g. site specific, open air, intervention, installation)
- If you have already launched your production and have also developed an alternative that works under Corona restrictions, you can submit both variants.
- You can also apply with a premiere that is planned until the beginning of the festival, which has been postponed due to the pandemic.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

The application form can be found on our website: [hauptsache-frei.de](https://hauptsache-frei.de).

**IMPORTANT:** Please download the form, fill it out, and send it by e-mail to: [bewerbung@hauptsachefrei.de](mailto:bewerbung@hauptsachefrei.de) Please write a short description of the topic and artistic approach. Our evaluation will be based on this short description and the additional video material (or concept paper)!

## UNTIL WHEN CAN I APPLY?

The application deadline is 5 January 2022.

## WHEN DO I KNOW IF I CAN PARTICIPATE?

We'll send out acceptances and rejections by February 2022 at the latest.

We plan a total of 8 — 12 festival productions.

## WHO DECIDES ON PARTICIPATION?

The festival team reviews the applications and submits a selection to the artistic advisory board. Taking into account the recommendations of the artistic advisory board, the festival team creates the festival program.

The members of the advisory board are Mahmut Canbay (MUT! Theater/Hamburg), Friederike Jaglitz (MEINE DAMEN UND HERREN/Hamburg) and Anna K. Becker (Schwankhalle/Bremen).

## CAN PRODUCTIONS THAT WERE CREATED IN THE CONTEXT OF A COLLEGE PROGRAMME TAKE PART IN THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE?

For the main programme, Hauptsache Frei focuses on professional artists in

Hamburg, whose work is produced independently. Productions by students who produce independently alongside their studies and/or by students who can prove that they have been artistically active for many years can apply for the WE PRESENT young talent programme. In the case of a production as part of a college programme, the decisive factor is whether the driving force is an up-and-coming artist or someone who is already well-established in Hamburg's theatre scene.

#### **WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS IF I MY PRODUCTION IS CHOSEN?**

Hauptsache Frei covers travel, accommodation, transport, and production costs. On the day of the festival food and drinks will be provided, and in the run-up to the festival we can provide you with rehearsal space free of charge. In addition, we pay a lump sum of EUR 300,00 for rehearsals and a lump sum of EUR 300 for each actor/dancer/performer and, by agreement, for other members of the production.

#### **WHERE DOES MY PRODUCTION TAKE PLACE IF I AM INVITED?**

The allocation to the six venues (LICHTHOF Theater, monsun.theatre, K3 I Tanzplan Hamburg, Kampnagel, Sprechwerk, Gängeviertel) or to further locations or site-specifics is done in cooperation with the festival team and under consideration of your personal and festival interests. If required, we will be happy to help you search for suitable spaces.

#### **WHAT ELSE HAPPENS TO MY APPLICATION?**

As part of the seminar »How to curate a Festival after Corona« at the Hafen City University Hamburg, students will evaluate the applications for the festival in WS 2021/22 and create their own fictional festival program. The resulting five different festival concepts will be presented in HF #8.

#### **WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR NEWCOMER PRODUCTIONS?**

With productions by young artists which are shown in the format WE PRESENT, conditions, rehearsal times and fees are negotiated individually depending on the scope and effort involved.

#### **WHERE DO I TURN TO WITH FURTHER QUESTIONS?**

All questions can be sent to [info@hauptsachefrei.de](mailto:info@hauptsachefrei.de). We will try to answer as soon as possible.