

ANNOUNCEMENT FESTIVALAKADEMIE
22. INTERNATIONALE SCHILLERTAGE
22.06.-02.07.2023

Schöne Welt, da bist du! – Beautiful world, there you are!

Organisation: Johanna-Yasirra Kluhs und Laura Strack

“Beautiful world, where are you?” is the question posed by the festival “Internationale Schillertage” in 2023. The verse originates from a poem by Friedrich Schiller. The Festivalakademie (“festival academy”) offers an accompanying framework for reflecting on the artistic programme and exploring the festival theme in depth.

There are different possible interpretations for the festival topic. For example: “Beautiful world, you have once been there then disappeared, where are you *now*?” There is a glimpse of melancholia in the phrase, a nostalgic pity, maybe a conscious or unconscious feeling of guilt. Or: “Beautiful world that has never been, where are you and how do we get to you?” which sounds like utopia and the dream of the unknown heavenly island beyond the horizon. It reminds us of the great, mighty ship of western modern age whose crew crosses borders, occupies territories and exports the so-called progress.

The Festivalakademie chooses a third option of interpreting the topic in the context of our time. It does not summon utopias or mourns for the lost paradise but calls out “Beautiful world, *there* you are!” and gathers concrete, aesthetic and real life practices that affirm our present time and are constantly transforming it.

The experimental and militant micro-institution **École des Actes** (Aubervilliers, FR) develops forms of socialisation, practical politics, scenic art and poetry in the precariat of Parisian suburbs. In “Assemblées”, it works locally on an existential practice of living together, which does not understand peace as the opposite of war.

Daphné Achermann (Tours, FR) is a dancer, choreographer, pianist and non-medical practitioner. In her work, she searches for options to enhance our human perspective for other living and not-living beings. It is about attentiveness for the disregarded, about weeds, undergrowth, the cosmic in the tiniest things – and our own swarming in it.

Gérald Kurdian is a non-binary musician, performer, radio artist and DJ whose performances with people and machines create hybrid rooms in which the common boundaries of identity, gender and genre liquefy. In different performative and musical projects, they work on alternative forms of sexualities and queer micro-policies as in his latest play “X! (Un opera fantastique)”: Can love and alternative sexualities contribute to healing capitalism?” **Alexis Rodríguez Suárez** (Bochum, DE), who is a cultural anthropologist and a queer cis man of colour living in the diaspora, works on practical, interdisciplinary, participative projects of research and creation since 2008. In the last couple of years, he has developed multiple literary approaches to *Borderlands / La Frontera: The New Mestiza* by US-American author Gloria Anzaldúa. The author combines writing about queerness with history, examination of landscapes and economic conditions and, by that, creates a poetry of hybridity.

The Festivalakademie consists of three two-day workshops that each discuss a concrete artistic or political practice. Furthermore, the participants attend the showings and events of the festival together, meet artists and organizers, dive deep into literature and reflection and enjoy lively breaks.

The invitation addresses students of artistic and cultural studies as well as people who work or have worked in artistic jobs or professions of cultural studies. Participants from other occupations are welcome too. All participants receive a scholarship for the Festivalakademie that includes staying with a host family in Mannheim, a grant for travelling expenses and catering.

The Festivalakademie and the festival itself take place in German, French and possibly English. It is mandatory to know at least one of these languages to participate.

Your application

We ask all interested people to hand in a letter of motivation (ca. one page). You can base it on the following questions:

- What is your practical artistic, scientific, critical or transformative experience and what are you currently working on?
- Why are you interested in the festival and / or its theme?

Please send your applications to **ntm.festivalakademie@mannheim.de until 30 April 2023.**

About the festival and the Festivalakademie

The "Internationale Schillertage" are a biannual festival for theatre organized by the Nationaltheater Mannheim since 1978. Curated by Christian Holtzhauer since 2018, the Schillertage not only discuss Schiller's dramatic works but the world of his ideas and their reflection in modern times.

From the first edition on, the Schillertage are known for their diverse theoretical, historical and practical additional program accompanying the festival. Since 2019, theater scholar Laura Strack and dramaturg Johanna-Yassira Kluhs head the Festivalakademie. They have developed a democratic place for interdisciplinary learning and exchange of ideas.