

Open LAB & GET-TOGETHER 12-7-2024

ITI / ITI Academy invites

Open LAB: Collective Strategies of Resilience and Resistance in the Performing Arts & Get-Together 12-7-2024_10:00 - 18:30

One year ago, the ITI annual conference was held under the title "Conflict & Care: dispute as a part of transformation within the performing arts and its institutions". Today this topic has become even more charged and the potential for conflict has increased. This makes it even more necessary to stay in touch, come together, and hold conversations.

On 12 July 2024, the office of ITI Germany is very pleased to open its doors, and invites members, alumni and mentors of the ITI Academy, and friends to the Open Lab of the ITI Academy about "Collective Strategies of Resilience and Resistance" and their impact on the Performing Arts, followed by the ITI's summery Get-Together in the afternoon.

We will give the floor to alumni of the ITI Academy, running three workshops in parallel, to investigate aspects of collective resilience in the Performing Arts from a transcultural, and activist perspective, and re-measure the terrain of (peaceful) resistance within the arts and its institutions, as well as in civil society – in their respective contexts: in Germany, in Europe, in Iran, and China. We will listen to stories of resistance, explore ideas, which could contribute to more justice, and look at forms of collective organisation, which are more resilient against repression, and restrictions on human rights.

In the afternoon we will engage in the lecture performance "The Journey of Becoming Barbaric Female Poets", an insight into the transcultural project from Dora Yuemin Cheng, Sara Amini, and Jaber Ramezan who will come together for an artistic research process at the ITI throughout the week, followed by a conversation about the project. Afterwards, at the Get-Together, there will be the opportunity to meet the team of the ITI, learn about our different projects, have a consultation at the touring artists pop-up stand, socialize and (re-)connect over a cool summer drink, waffles, and snacks.

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Programme overview

10:00 – 10:30 Arrival & Welcome

10:30 – Beginning of the Workshops

10:30 – 14:00 – Workshop I _Studio II

Collective resistance and resilience

Dora Yuemin Cheng, Sara Amini & Jaber Ramezan

10:30 – 13:00 – Workshop II _Mediathek

Care and collectivity in the Performing Arts

LIK_Nora Tormann & Lonnie Jasper

10:30 – 13:00 – Workshop III _E 29

Theatre as institutional fabric & political responsibility of justice

BIPoC ensemble network; conceptualised and facilitated by Berfin Orman

13:00/14:00 – 15:00 Individual Lunch Break

15:00 – 15:15 – Welcome to the Afternoon & Review of the Workshops _Mediathek

15:15 – 16:30 – Lecture Performance and Talk _Mediathek

The journey of becoming Barbaric Female Poets

Work in progress of the female collective resistance theatre project initiated by Dora Yuemin Cheng and Sara Amini in collaboration with Jaber Ramezan

16:30 – 18:30 _Office/Terrace

Get-Together and Open House

Please register your participation at:
www.iti-academy-openlab.eventbrite.de

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Programme

10:00 – 10:30 Arrival & Welcome

10:30 – Beginning of the Workshops

10:30 – 14:00 – Workshop I _Studio II

Collective resistance and resilience

Dora Yuemin Cheng, Sara Amini & Jaber Ramezan

Let's come together to explore, remember, and experience different ways of resistance and resilience. In this workshop, we will delve into the essence of resistance and resilience within our collective and individual memories. We will examine how to share our historical and personal experiences and cultures of resistance, to discover the connections and similarities that unite them into a collective action.

The workshop will be conducted in English.

10:30 – 13:00 – Workshop II _Mediathek

Care and collectivity in the Performing Arts

LIK_Nora Tormann & Lonnie Jasper

How can we design artistic work processes to be needs-oriented? How do practices of care and collectivity shape collaboration in the Performing Arts? And what is their significance in contexts with different responsibilities and power positions? In this hands-on workshop, LIK shares methods from their own care-based artistic practice and experiences with collectivity. In the projects and productions initiated by LIK, care is the foundation of collaboration from conception through implementation to post-processing. In the workshop, we will collectively explore how appreciative interaction, open communication, participatory planning, and flexible work processes can strengthen groups and contribute to constructive conflict resolution.

The workshop will be conducted in German and/or English, depending on the participants' needs. Please specify your preference when registering.

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10:30 – 13:00 – Workshop III _E 29

Theatre as institutional fabric & political responsibility of justice

BIPoC ensemble network; conceptualised and facilitated by Berfin Orman

The BIPoC ensemble network demands "Equal! Pay for BIPoC employees" and the "disclosure of salaries", as well as a "quota (30%) of BIPoC within an ensemble". In this workshop, we will discuss descriptions of the state of the theatre scene in Germany and link these to the demands of the BIPoC Ensemble Network. The workshop is not a lecture or structured as a presentation of information, but a space for questions, discussion, and constructive dialogue. We will talk about how theatres are the pillars of German society..., how the institutional fabric of a theatre and society relate..., how we could and can weave exclusions out of theatres..., what it means that every art institution lives a political stance..., as well as how our understanding of art is connected to western and colonized patterns of perception.

The workshop will be conducted in German and/or English, depending on the participants' needs. Please specify your preference when registering.

13:00/14:00 – 15:00 – Individual Lunch Break

15:00 – 15:15 – Welcome to the Afternoon & Review of the Workshops_Mediathek

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15:15 – 16:30 – Lecture Performance and Talk_Mediathek

The journey of becoming Barbaric Female Poets

Work in progress from the female collective resistance theatre project initiated by Dora Yuemin Cheng and Sara Amini in collaboration with Jaber Ramezan

The creative journey of the "Barbaric Female Poets" began with an encounter and a spontaneous conversation between Chinese playwright Dora Yuemin Cheng and Iranian director Sara Amini during the ITI Academy Week at Theater der Welt in July 2023. Their shared compassion for feminism, collective resistance, and poetic theatrical forms was revealed and subsequently explored. This was the beginning of a new, transcultural, and cross-border collaboration.

The Inspiration for their work came from a compelling, fictionalized article titled "A Letter from the Prison in Tehran," published anonymously online after the abolition of the zero-COVID policy in January 2022. Written in Chinese, the article documented the experiences of young protesters in a Chinese prison, adapting real figures, locations, and events from the Jin Jiyan Azadi women's movement in Iran. The letter became the starting point for this collaboration.

During the lecture performance Dora Yuemin Cheng and Sara Amini will review the history of female resistance in China and Iran. Dora will also share her documentation and personal observations of Iranian female activists during her residency in Tehran in April 2024. Through this presentation, the team of "Barbaric Female Poets" aims to reach a collective understanding and experience of resistance through our individual historical experiences. This effort is not limited to a specific geographical location or historical events but targets the essence of resistance. They will share texts and materials, which have been developed during their research week followed by an conversation with the audience.

The lecture performance & the conversation will be held in English.

16:30 – 18:30_Office / Terrace

Get-Together and Open House

Exchange with the team and learn about current projects with cool drinks, waffles & snacks

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Workshop facilitators

Berfin Orman

Berfin Orman studied Philosophy and Languages and Cultures of the Islamic World at the University of Cologne. In the 2022/23, she staged 'Der Sturz der Kometen und der Kosmonauten' at the Thalia Theatre Garage. Berfin works as a transnational artist and was a fellow of the ITI Academy of the International Theatre Institute (ITI Germany) from 2022-2023. At Theater Bremen she is directing 'Hawaii' by Cihan Acar (premiere 13 June 2024, Kleines Haus). In general, Berfin Orman likes to stage post-migrant and intersectional feminist stories and also deals with the decolonisation of canon plays. In addition to her directing work, Berfin is also active at the intersection of activism, curation and theatre. She is a member of the bipoc network and is committed to making theatre more transnational, tackling structural problems and implementing decolonisation beyond buzzwords.

Dora (Yuemin) Cheng

Dora (Yuemin) Cheng is a trilingual playwright and theatre worker, currently working and living in Berlin, Beijing, Shanghai, and Nanjing. Born and raised in Nanjing, China, she graduated from Shanghai Theatre Academy with a bachelor's degree in playwriting and from Wimbledon College of Art with a master's degree in visual language of performance, receiving a full international scholarship for Asia students. She worked as a dramaturg in the online production Qingdao - a messy archive. Deutsche Kolonialvergangenheit in China for Junges National Theater Mannheim, which was nominated by nachtkritik.de for Theatertreffen 2021. Her first play written in German, Epiphanie 顿悟, has been shortlisted in the Theatertreffen Stückemarkt 2022 and was read in Germany, China, and Denmark. She is a fellow of ITI Academy Germany 2022-2023.

Jaber Ramezan

Jaber Ramezan is an Iranian-born Writer/Director. He has a BA in Dramatic Literature from Sooreh University, Tehran/Iran and an MA in Directing from Tarbiat Moodares University, Tehran/Iran. He has been working as a director and author both in the theatre and movie industry ever since. He also researches contemporary forms of playwriting and experiences these new contents as a dramaturge.

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His published plays are translated into English and French. Jaber was the visiting professor of "The Advanced Theatre Directing" at Tehran University of Fine Arts in 2022. His debut play "Slow Sound of Snow" (2014) performed in Tehran had up to 100 sold-out shows. This established his name as an Iranian young talent directing innovative plays. In 2015, the play brought him the Best Director award at ITSELF International Theater Festival (Warsaw/Poland) and Best Performance of the Year from The Iranian Association of Theater Critics. His play "The Audience" which was about domestic violence against Iranian women was censored and shot down by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. The play was accused of being vulgar and promoting sexual violence according to the Islamic Republic laws. The movies and plays that Jaber has written and directed were selected by many international festivals.

Lonnie Jasper

Lonnie Jasper works between dramaturgy, curation, and network design. As a social scientist and dramaturg, they want to actively contribute to shaping sustainable theater structures. Lonnie developed the documentary object theater piece "und samstags staubsaugen" with Josephine Hock, was co-host of the podcast "umgedacht" on power at theater for young audiences, and was a project manager at the Alliance of International Production Houses, where they curated and realised qualifying measures, consulting and networking formats for emerging artists. They also advise on concept development and feedback methods for artistic practices.

Nora Tormann

Nora Tormann is a Berlin-based choreographer, dance dramaturg, and curator. With a background in political philosophy and contemporary dance, their practice navigates the intersections of artistic and theoretical research. Latest choreographic works include the site-specific audio-walk "TURN - cartography of a movement" (2022), and "physical prospects" (2021+22) performed as a trio and solo. They have co-curated festivals, conferences, and collective research laboratories - a.o. the annual conference of the ITI „Conflict & Care" (2023) and formats within the frame of Celestial Bodies - a traveling platform for artistic exchange and research throughout performing arts practices.

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Sara Amini

Sara Amini is a performer, singer and the artistic director of Seemia Theatre. Sara is from Iran, and is now based in London. She studied BA Theatre Directing at Tehran University and MA Performance Making at Goldsmiths, University of London. She also trained with Teatr Pieśń Kozła (Song of the Goat) Theatre Company and Ariane Mnouchkine, director of Theatre du Soleil. For Seemia Theatre, she has Directed different shows including 'Evros | The Crossing River', which won Summerhall Lustrum Award 2018, Nominated for Amnesty International Freedom of Expression and featured on BBC world Service, as well as TAKE ON THIS which has been chosen by Barbican as part of Open Lab 2022 and has been mentored by Katie Mitchell. Seemia is an associate of the theatre company at Oxford Play House on 2024. She wrote, directed and performed her solo show at Camden people's Theatre London 2024. She is now working as assistant director on ENGLISH by Sanaz Toossi, a Pulitzer prize winning play, directed by Diyan Zora at the Royal Shakespeare Company. She also trained as a classical and jazz singer. Recently she sang at the opening of the famous Iranian music band Dammahi at London Jazz Festival 2023.

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Registration is kindly requested at:

www.iti-academy-openlab.eventbrite.de

Notes on accessibility

The event is free of charge. The Mediathek and room E29 are on the ground floor and wheelchair accessible. The Studio 2 is on the second floor and has limited barrier-free access. Childcare will not be provided. Don't hesitate to contact us with your individual access needs or questions.

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