



KREATIV-TRANSFER



PERFORMING
ARTS MADE IN
GERMANY

German Dance
Association

THEATRE (DRAG/OPERA)

High res images can be found [here](#)
Trailer coming soon

Anne Welenc in association with the Performing Arts: Made in Germany Showcase
presents

QUEENS

WORLD PREMIERE

A contemporary exploration of regency, gender and power reimagining
historical figures Mary Stuart and Elizabeth as undead drag queens

PART OF: Performing Arts: Made In Germany Showcase

Performed by Shlomi Moto Wagner, Daniel Hellman, Annina Machaz and Valerie
Renay

Main Hall, Summerhall, Tuesday 13 - Sunday 25 August 2024 (not 19), 21:15 (22:15).

14+

REVIEWABLE FROM: Wednesday 14 August 2024

“Welenc is a commanding force on the stage, and this presence immediately asserts the authority of her argument...this is an outstanding example of show-don’t-tell.” The Skinny on Traumgirl (2019)

“For fans of dramatic queens, drag and absurd-comic musical theatre.” Anne Brammen, Dramaturg at Ballhaus Oost

Anne Welenc returns to Summerhall with this arresting new production following 2019’s critically acclaimed Traumgirl. Moving between opera, drag and drama, *Queens* is based on critical feminist research on queens in German drama. It plays with literary, historical and pop-cultural legacies to enable new readings of the relationship between gender and power.

In *QUEENS*, the historical figures Mary Stuart and Elizabeth I are two washed-up, undead drag queens. Joined by Penthesilea and Valkyrie, they have been living a shared existence in limbo for centuries, ruling over various sub-and parallel worlds. However, a powerful force has now opened the gates to the present, thrusting them into a confrontation with their earthly past. As they grapple with their shared history and the enduring patriarchal power structures, the idea of a joint regency emerges, sparking a bold and provocative exploration of gender, power, and identity.

Director Anne Welenc said: *“QUEENS marks my debut as both an author and director, a journey I enjoyed a lot. The genesis of this project lies in a classical theater motif: Mary Stuart (Queen of Scots), inspired by Friedrich Schiller’s play. F. Schiller, obviously a product of his era, interpreted the intriguing relationship between these historical figures through a patriarchal lens, depicting Mary Stuart and*

Elizabeth I as too emotional to rule. Viewing this through a contemporary critical feminist lens, Schiller's exploration of gender and power cried out for a makeover. I found myself pondering how these characters would be portrayed in contemporary times, and what they might say and do in our present age. Being drawn to absurd, over-the-top theatrical decisions, I decided to take this question quite literally in the production: the two Queens are resurrected as 400-year-old undead drag queens in a theater in Edinburgh. Among the performers, two are opera singers and drag artists (Daniel and Schlomi), while Valery, embodying a third dramatic queen, is a self-taught musician, who rounds out the ensemble on stage. The result is a multidisciplinary fusion of post-punk music theater, drag, and opera, all set within a theatrical framework!

Queens is one of four performances as part of the inaugural **Performing Arts: Made in Germany showcase** which will be staged at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2024 from 13 - 25 August 2024 (not 19 August). The other performances are Sawdust Symphony at ZOO Southside's Main House from 10:00 (11:00), Hanschitz & Beierer's **IIIII - the art of letting go** at Underbelly's Circus Hub in the Meadows from 11:00 (12:00) and Miller de Nobili's **PACK** at Dancebase's Studio 1 from 14:40 (15:40).

A production by Anne Welenc in cooperation with Ballhaus Ost. Supported by the Fonds Darstellende Künste with funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media within the framework of NEUSTART KULTUR, by the Bezirksamt Pankow von Berlin Amt für Weiterbildung und Kultur Fachbereich Kunst und Kultur and by the aid program DIS-TANZEN of the Dachverband Tanz Deutschland within the framework of NEUSTART KULTUR.

Special thanks to Kreativ Transfer, Made in Germany Showcase

Company Information

Performed by (in order of appearance) Valerie Renay (Penthesilea), Shlomi Moto Wagner (Mary Stuart), Daniel Hellmann (Elizabeth Tudor), and Annina Machaz (Erie Valkyrie)

Written and directed by Anne Welenc

Produced by Ruby Glaskin for the Made in Germany Showcase

Set and costume design by Michel Wagenschütz

Sound design by Valerie Renay

Video design by Annalena Fröhlich

Musicians Valerie Renay, Shlomi Moto Wagner and Daniel Hellman

Production management by Tom Oliver Jacobson

Web and social media links:

performing-arts-made-in-germany.com/home

annewelenc.com | **Instagram:** @anne_wlnc | @anarchistsuperstar | @cnoize

| @daniel_hellmann | @shlomimoto | @val_renay | @annalenafröhlich |

@anninamachaz @joneseitz | @swede.hollow | @hannaschaich | @_kim_walz

@summerhallery | @kreativtransfer | @fondsdarstellendekuenste

Hashtags: #queens #berlinunderground #limbo #inbetween #schiller #kleist #nibelungen #nonazis #mariastuart #highculture #yourhighness #universe #multiverse #succession #marystuart #covergirl #queenelizabeth1 #virginqueen #penthesilea #horsepower #valkyrie #valkyrieoffroad #longmaytheyreign #noreignnopain

NOTES TO EDITORS:

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Biographies

Anne Welenc

Anne Welenc is a director, writer, actress based in Berlin. With *Queens*, she made her writing and directing debut at Ballhaus Ost Berlin in 2023. While she previously appeared as an actress in transdisciplinary performance projects, with *Queens* she continues this practice by expanding classical theater material with impulses from related performing arts. Welenc's work explores playfully the themes of gender, sexuality and power dynamics and how they are mirrored in dramatic narratives from the past and the lived present.

Welenc completed BA Theater and MA Scenic Arts Practice at the HKB in Bern. Since then she has collaborated with artists coming from different performative backgrounds such as opera, dance, video art, fine art and sound researchers: Daniel Hellmann, Annalena Fröhlich, Annina Machaz, Marc Streit, Gina Haller, Sam Hertz, Michel Wagenschütz, Renae Shadler, Matthaei & Consorten and Layton Lachman. Their works were shown at Edinburgh Fringe Festival, CCS Paris, NEXT Festival Belgium, Tanzhaus Zurich, Gessnerallee Zürich, Sophiensäle Berlin, Tanzfabrik Potsdam, Schlachthaus theater Bern, Dampfzentrale Bern. Her next directorial works will premiere in autumn 2024: GRGRLZZZ [gargirls] in Berlin and QUEERE TIERE in Zürich.

Michel Wagenschütz (Stage/costumes) (he/him)

Michel Wagenschütz is a queer artist with an interdisciplinary practice. He works conceptually and playfully with the means of staging in film, photography, costumes and space. Important here are reflections on class, representation, work and its conditions. He studied at the Universität der Künste in Berlin and at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

As part of the Fond Daku #TakeHeart research grant and the DIS-TANZEN SOLO funding program, he investigated the performance and video practices of the cosplay community in social media and their influence on costumes, video & film. His short film "Gute Arbeit, gute Nacht" premiered at the Oberhausen Short Film Festival in 2022. He developed the costume and stage design for the drag opera "QUEENS" by Anne Welenc (premiere at Ballhaus Ost, Berlin February 2023). At the Berliner Ensemble he is currently designing costumes and stage for the production "Mann ist Mann" directed by Max Lindemann.

Shlomi Moto Wagner (Performer / Musician)

Shlomi Moto Wagner is an interdisciplinary performer and singer based in Berlin. He was born in Israel and studied at the Tel Aviv Music Academy and the Manhattan School of Music in NY, earning an MA in Interdisciplinary Arts. As an opera singer, Shlomi was a member of the Opera Studio of the Israeli Opera and performed as a soloist with orchestras worldwide. Since moving to Berlin in 2012, he has collaborated with various opera ensembles and experimental theater makers, including Philine Rinnert and Johannes Müller. He is the founder of House of Mazeltov, a drag performance group that explores the performative boundaries of voice, gender, tradition, and identity.

Daniel Hellman (Performer / Musician)

Daniel Hellmann (born in 1985 in Zurich) is a dance and theater creator, singer, and performer. He studied philosophy at the University of Zurich, singing at HEMU Lausanne, and theater/performance at HKB Bern. Since 2012, Hellmann has been creating pieces in collaboration with his association 3art3 that intricately weave together performance, language, music, and movement. His works explore bodies, body relationships, and desires, questioning societal norms in the fields of sexuality, human rights, and animal rights. Since 2017, Hellmann has increasingly focused on animal-human relationships in his work. For the music-theater performance "*Requiem for a piece of meat*" (2017), he was awarded the June Johnson Dance Prize and invited to the Swiss Dance Days 2019. With his alter ego "Soya the Cow" - a sex-positive, feminist, vegan drag cow - he performs in theaters, discussion panels, and nightclubs. He has recorded his first music album and created the solo piece "*Dear Human Animals*" (2020).

Valerie Renay (Sound designer / Musician)

Valerie Renay is a French-Caribbean artist who has lived in Berlin since 2006. Within her practice, she crosses genre boundaries again and creates a fascinating connection between music, performance, art and fashion. Valerie released her first solo album "Your Own Shadow" at the end of 2018. She is one half of the art-pop duo Noblesse oblige (with Sebastian Lee Philipp/ Die Wilde Jagd), which released four studio albums between 2004 and 2017 and played over 500 international

concerts. Winner of the Russian Steppenwolf Music Award. Valerie was trained as an actress by Phillippe Gaulier in London and regularly practices Contact Improv, Body Weather and Butoh. Recent solo works have been presented at Hebbel am Ufer as part of the Geister, Dschinns & Avatare Festival and at Galerie-P6-Berlin a duet for 4 hands and 2 headphones. Recent collaborations as a performer were Flipper (24h Happening) - Ballhaus Ost (Heinrich Horwitz) and Sanatorium Rainbow Hills -Pleasure & Leisure Festival Sophiensaele (Neo Hülker).

Annalena Fröhlich (Video designer)

Annalena Fröhlich's artistic practice covers a broad spectrum of music, video, scenic installations, choreography and visual experimentation, both live and virtual. With her alter ego JAMES, she explores new forms between DJ set, concert, performance and political statement. Her video language combines animation with composed imagery and low-fi videos from the pool of internet platforms. Fröhlich creates scenarios between everyday life and catastrophe, and by playing with time, sound and the representation of bodies, she challenges our habits of observation. Her performative, multidisciplinary universe invites the audience to immerse themselves in a questioned world and position and is always irritating. She moves internationally in the institutionalized theatre/dance and underground performance and club scene. Annalena Fröhlich's artistic base is in Brussels.

COLLABORATIONS: Peeping Tom, Fhunyue Gao robinrobin.ch , DANCE DIVINE; Claudia Bossard, arp: (Julia Reist), Marie Gyselbrecht, Mohamed Toukabri, Gao/Kacirek, deRothfils.com, Romy Springsguth, Odd Beholder, Robin Adams, Yara Bou Nassar, Paed Conca, Moritz Alfons, Giulin Stäubli, Yannick Mosimann. Decoratelier, Brussels; Dampfzentrale, Bern; Theater Basel; Roxy Theater Basel; Ballhaus Ost, Berlin; Station, Beirut; Espace Libre, Biel

About the Performing Arts: Made in Germany showcase

Performing Arts Made in Germany, established in 2024. is the Edinburgh Fringe Festival's first-ever German Showcase.

With a programme selected by an international jury, the showcase offers an overview on the German performing arts scene, with four shows featuring some of the best contemporary dance, circus, and theatre Germany has to offer.

Performing Arts Made in Germany supports artists before, during and after the festival and aims to offer them a platform to present their work within the vibrant, international environment of Fringe.

The showcase is managed by Kreativ Transfer who are supported by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media to support stakeholders in the fields of the performing arts, visual arts and games in establishing and expanding their international networks to improve their visibility on the international market.

Listings information

Summerhall, 1 Summerhall, Edinburgh, EH9 1PL

Tuesday 13 - Sunday 25 August 2024 (not 19)

Previews: 13 August | £10.00

14-18,20-25 21:15 August | £17.00 (£14.50)

Box Office: 0131 560 1580 | www.summerhall.co.uk

Supported by



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien

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