

Bauhaus Dessau

Press release

F e s t i v a l  
S t a g e T o t a l

A multi-faceted festival will run from 11-15 Sept. 2019 that explores the issue of experiments in the “total stage”

P r e s s c o n t a c t

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Dessau Rosslau,  
9 September 2019

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*How can theatre experiments with totality be realized today? The Festival Stage Total asks what purpose the stage experiments originally developed at Bauhaus primarily by architects and visual artists might serve today.*

Festival Stage Total: 11 – 15 September 2019: Immersion in experimental arrangements involving forms, colours and bodies in motion

When Walter Gropius developed his “design for a total theatre” back in 1927 it was about creating a spatial device for innovative multi-media stage performances. There was to be a fluid boundary between the place of performance and the auditorium. This new spatial concept incorporated the audience in a synthesis of acting, dance and acrobatics, of moving images, forms and colours with the aim of processing the speed and technical advancements of large modern cities and the intense experiences of popular entertainment. In der stage workshop headed by Oskar Schlemmer “totality” was seen as something holistic. Consequently, in Dessau students practiced how spaces can be experienced and developed for example in the guise of formal and material dances.

Through their performances and workshops international performers, choreographers, musicians and artists, architects and designers but also teachers and students at international universities make suggestions as to what total stage experiments might be like today. Specifically, the Festival *Stage Total* offers a wide range of motion games, formal, spatial and colour experiments, opportunities for diverse experiences and discussions but also entertainment.

The Festival kicks off in Bauhaus Museum Dessau, on Wednesday 11 September with the Geometric Ballet by Ursula Sax, which was inspired by Schlemmer’s Triadic Ballet, and features dance sculptures as sculpting in motion. The interactive VR installation The Total Dance Theatre by Interactive Media Foundation and Filmtank lets visitors immerse themselves in dance machinery choreographed by Richard Siegal.

From Thursday to Sunday three times a day “The Betrayal of Images – La trahison des images” will be performed in the Masters’ Houses. This augmented reality project by Nico and the Navigators addresses the credibility of appearance and the blind spots of transmission.

The performance Futura by Hedwig Dances Chicago uses the Bauhaus stage as a place for experimentation. The result is a dance performance and a moving composition of continually arising images and danced atmospheres. It can be experienced on Thursday on the stage in the Bauhaus building.

With the premiere of “Violett” Friday Anhaltisches Theater Dessau presents a total stage inspired by Wassily Kandinsky’s own compositions by the same name and the total stage utopias of the Bauhaus.

Following a preview on Friday, on Saturday the annual Bauhaus Festival will be celebrated. To name just a few items it will feature video creations by Philipp Geist, poetic theatre installations by Theater Anu, artistic performances by international universities and it will allow ample scope for interaction, encounters and dance.

On Saturday and Sunday respectively, the Festival will be brought to a close by two versions of Alexandra Weierstall’s choreography Bodies and Structure on the arena by Rita McBride.

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The entire Festival will be accompanied by performances and workshops with Dessau schools which were developed as part of the Bauhaus Agents Program

You can find a version of the much more comprehensive entire program [here](#).

*Stage Total* is the third and final Bauhaus Festival Dessau as part of events to celebrate the centenary of the founding year of Bauhaus. The festivals [School Fundamental](#), [Architecture Radical](#) and [Stage Total](#) each explore different aspects of the pedagogic, architecture and performative concepts of Bauhaus from a current perspective.



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Nico and the Navigators, „Der Verrat der Bilder – La trahison des images“, Augmented Reality Project to mark the Bauhaus centenary. Raises questions about the credibility of imagery an the depth an blind spots of what is told. Photo: Oliver Proske

Funded by:

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The Festival Stage Total is generously funded by:



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