



Performance Lab Berlin

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Artistic Director: Shannon Sullivan

Dramaturgy: Joey Juschka

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Performance Lab Berlin:

Performance Lab Berlin was founded in 2006 by Shannon Sullivan (Artistic Director) and Joey Juschka (Dramaturgy). The founding of Performance Lab Berlin was inspired by the wish to create a forum in which professional artists from different disciplines can come together to continue to train, learn, experiment and create work together.

Performance Lab Berlin productions are created through a series of structured experiments. The participating artists as well as the focus of the production varies from project to project. The goal however of creating work which is personally touching, socially relevant and artistically challenging remains the same.

Both Sullivan and Juschka are truly multidisciplinary artists. Sullivan originally trained as a professional dancer before attending the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, where she received her training as a professional actor. After graduating from AMDA she worked free-lance in New York as both an actor and dancer before moving to Berlin in 2004 to concentrate on producing her own work. She met Juschka in the same year, and the two began writing, staging and producing shows together in 2005. In recent years Sullivan's focus has moved increasingly toward writing her own texts, which she brings to the stage in the context of Spoken Word performances, plays and interdisciplinary pieces.

Juschka comes originally from language and writing and has published several short stories, poems, plays and articles. After meeting Sullivan in 2004 she began bringing a number of her literary works to the stage. She also works in the areas of photography, film, web design and project management.

Both Sullivan and Juschka have trained for several years in a method of physical improvisation created by Ruth Zaporah, a system which explores the vast possibilities for combining movement, voice and speech. Performance Lab Berlin productions are characteristically difficult to put into any single category; rather they are more reminiscent of theater and performance's origins in which the art forms were not separated.

Since its founding Performance Lab Berlin has brought several productions to the Berlin stage: "Hearing Voices" (2006), "Gate Theory" (2007), "Form/losigkeit" (2007), "SWAN Day Berlin 2008", "SWAN Day Berlin 2009", "Emergence" (2009) and "Ode to a knee" (2009). The production "13 poems in a body" was invited to premiere at the "frisch eingetroffen" festival in Mannheim, Germany, in July 2009. Since 2009, we also host the new series *Trial and Error*, a platform that presents pieces in the make to an audience and critics.

The latest production by Performance Lab Berlin, "Broken: Part I", will premiere in March 2010 at SWAN Day Berlin 2010.

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