



cie. toula limnaios

»staubkinder«

artistic director
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about »staubkinder«

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»staubkinder«

this new creation by cie. toulalimnaios is inspired by the music of gustav mahler and is dedicated to the children of dust that we are. they are deeply embedded in our individual and universal memories.

in »staubkinder« (children of dust) we let ourselves be carried away into an absurd and confusing world. a world similar to ours, with the critical aspects of the present, today's complexity and this uncertain space called future. the children of dust are looking for a hold – the ground on which their feet stand is foreign to them. disturbing and poetic at the same time...

»there is a painting by paul klee called ›angelus novus‹. it depicts an angel who looks as if he is about to move away from something he is staring at. [...] he would probably like to linger, wake the dead and put together what has been shattered. but a storm is blowing from paradise, caught in his wings and so strong that the angel can no longer close them. this storm drives him inexorably towards the future, to which he turns his back, while the heap of ruins before him grows towards heaven. that which we call progress is this storm.«

(walter benjamin, »on the concept of history«)

o mensch! gib acht!
was spricht die tiefe mitternacht
»ich schlief, ich schlief -,
»aus tiefem traum bin ich erwacht: -
»die welt ist tief,
»und tiefer als der tag gedacht.
»tief ist ihr weh -,
»lust - tiefer noch als herzeleid:
»weh spricht: vergeh!
»doch alle lust will ewigkeit -,
»- will tiefe, tiefe ewigkeit!«

»das trunkene lied«, friedrich nietzsche

concept/ choreography: toula limnaios
music*: gustav mahler
dance/ creation: rafael abreu, daniel afonso, francesca bedin, félix deepen, karolina kardasz,
enno kleinehandig, amandine lamouroux, alessia vinotto
assistance: alice gaspari
technical director/ lightdesign: felix grimm
space/ costumes*: toula limnaios
lighting/ stage technics: domenik engemann
public relations: sarah böhmer
touring/ cooperations: marie schmieder

*4th and 6th movements of the 3rd symphony, played by new york philharmonic, soprano christa ludwig and conducted by leonard bernstein, recording from 1989.

*thanks to: kristina weiß-busch for the construction of the coat.

length: 60 minutes

premier: 7 december 2022

tours: germany (bremerhaven), italy (catania, rome), finland (imatra), northern macedonia (skopje), rumania (timisoara), slovenia (nova gorizia)

the cie. toula limnaios is supported by the senate department
for culture and social cohesion, berlin.

Senate Department
for Culture
and Social Cohesion

BERLIN



trailer »staubkinder«

full length video »staubkinder«

making of »staubkinder«



press review »staubkinder«

»toula limnaios has again gone into these sometimes uncanny abysses of human existence. this is a piece full of pain and despair and also love, but without superficial emotionalisation. so the language of movement it rather reduced and sparse, tells of a lack of support when the dancers stagger and lurch and fall to the floor as if struck down, when the bodies are yanked backwards or when a couple can't find their way to each other.«

»what is shown here is just honest! this is this pain of being thrown by us humans, it's an expression of our longing and also our search for meaning and for security, there is some of that here in the group. (...) it is really fascinating how life is told here, in harmony and in conflict with the music, which is framed by such disturbing electronic whirring and whispering voices, and in the final movement is also simply broken off brutally. (...) there is no sentimentalism, no pompous drama, but an unsparingly clear view of the fears that threaten to overwhelm us through the crises, as in our present, except that here, unlike in gustav mahler's work, there is no transfiguration at the end, no god into whom everything flows and thanks to whom everything will be all right again. a truly powerful piece. it takes a while until the audience can free itself from a kind of self-consciousness. and then cheers.«

(extract frank schmid, rbb-kulturradio)



toula limnaios (choreographer/ artistic director)

toula limnaios (*1963, athens/ greece) is trained in classical and modern dance, m. alexander and laban technique as well as music and followed a dance education in brussels, she worked as an interpreter with claudio bernardo, régine chopinot and as an assistant with pierre droulers. later she continued her education at the folkwang hochschule in essen, where after a short time she became a member of the folkwang tanzstudio under the direction of pina bausch. from 1995-2003 she danced in live improvisations with the musicians konrad bauer and peter kowald. 2007/2008 she was guest professor for choreography at the hochschule ernst busch in berlin and was guest choreographer at various theatres. since 1996 she has founded and directed the cie. toula limnaios together with ralf r. ollertz.

ralf r. ollertz (music/artistic director)

ralf r. ollertz (*1964, mönchengladbach/ germany) studied composition, electroacoustic music and conducting in italy and at the folkwang hochschule in essen. in addition to chamber and orchestral music, he has also written electroacoustic music and radio plays, for which he has received numerous international awards and grants. in 2002 he composed the short opera »carcrash« with willy daum for the state operas in hanover and stuttgart. tours, radio and television productions have taken him through europe, south america, the usa, japan, australia and africa. since 1996 he has founded and directs the cie. toula limnaios together with toula limnaios

rafael abreu (dance)

rafael abreu (*1991, guarulhos/ brazil) has an education in classical ballet and contemporary dance from various schools in the city of são paulo. he was part of numerous companies and projects: among them quasar cia de dança (goiania), punto de inflexion (mexico city), cia de dança anderson couto, and the são paulo-based raça cia de dança, cia danças claudia de souza, companhia de danças de diadema, and virtual cia de dança. he joined cie. toula limnaios in 2024.

daniel afonso (dance)

daniel afonso (*1981, las palmas/ spain) completed his training at the royal conservatory in madrid. he worked for 10&10, tenerifedanzalab in tenerife, at the staatstheater braunschweig with jan pusch as well as with yossi berg & oded graf and douglas thorpe. in the company chameleon (uk), he danced for choreographers such as anthony missen, gemma nixon and john goddard as well as for dmt (nl) with judith van der klink. daniel also teaches and develops projects of his own. he is a member of the cie. toula limnaios since 2015.

francesca bedin (dance)

francesca bedin (*1990, vicenza/ italy) studied contemporary dance, tap dance, percussion and drums in italy and abroad (tanzfabrik, marameo, danseateliers, eastman...). she joined sinedomo group by l. tonin and started her professional career with naturalis labor by l. padovani, s. bertinelli and with esplan art's factory by e. silgoner. by the collaboration with the choreographer g. menti she won the 1. prize and the eastmanprize at 22nd int. solo tanz theater festival. francesca is member of the cie. toula limnaios since july 2020.

félix deepen (dance)

félix deepen (*1996, brussels/belgium) graduated from the rudra béjart school lausanne in 2016. he danced for various companies throughout europe including dddd (nl) it dansa (spn) and zfinmalta (mlt). he has danced and worked on pieces by international choreographers such as siri larbi cherkaoui, akram khan, alexander ekman, emanuel gat, paolo mangiola, ohad naharin, rafael bonachela, sergiu matis, lorena nogal, roy assaf, tania carvalho, jacopo godani and sasha amaya. he is a member of cie. toula limnaios since 2024.

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karolina kardasz (dance)

karolina kardasz (*1994, białystok/ poland) graduated at the academy of theater arts at the dance theater department in kraków. she did internships at francesca selva company and irene k company. since 2018, she was a member of irene k company, where she has created several pieces with different choreographers. as a freelance dancer, karolina created her own short pieces, which were presented at festivals in different countries. she likes to share her approach and way of moving while leading different workshops. since august 2023 she is a member of the cie. toula limnaios. enno kleinehanding (dance)

enno kleinehanding (dance)

enno kleinehanding (*1996, aachen/germany) studied ballet at the staatliche ballettschule berlin and has a bachelor of arts from the hochschule für schauspielkunst ernst-busch. he worked for theater hof, oper halle and last for les grands ballets canadiens in montreal. in the last years he got to work with choreographers like nanine linning, andrew skeels, cass mortimer eipper and others and also developed some work himself. he has been a member of cie. toula limnaios since 2024.

amandine lamouroux (dance)

amandine lamouroux (*1994, toulouse/ france) studied in epsedanse, montpellier and centre chorégraphique james carles, toulouse. she received her state diploma as a contemporary dance teacher. then she danced with roberto zappalà's colectivo, amos ben tal, manfredi perego, moritz ostruschjak, sita ostheimer and sara ducat's company. since august 2023 she is a member of the cie. toula limnaios.

alessia vinotto (dance)

alessia vinotto (*2000, genoa, italy) moved to germany at a young age to attend the prestigious contemporary dance school of hamburg (cdsh), where she studied until 2019. she had been a member of the current dance collective, theater plauen-zwickau, collective miii3d. she collaborated in multiple productions which premiered at kampnagel and has presented her own choreographies at numerous festivals across germany, poland, and denmark. she joined cie. toula limnaios in 2025.

felix grimm (technical director/ light design)

felix grimm (*1983, güstrow/ germany) is a lighting, video and sound designer and technical production manager for theater, dance, performance and corporate events. he worked for schlossplatztheater / junge oper berlin, total brutal / nir de volff, berlin society for new music, chico mello, naoko tanaka, bignotwendigkeit, monster truck, novoflot, theater koblenz, perform(d)ance and major german event technology service providers. he has been working with the cie. toula limnaios as lighting designer since 2014 and since 2020 he is the technical director and lighting designer of the company.





the cie. toulia limnaios is an ensemble for contemporary dance, founded in brussel in 1996 by choreographer and performer toulia limnaios and composer ralf r. ollertz. a year later the company moved to berlin. in 2001, they were awarded the »meeting neuer tanz« prize. in 2004, their beckett trilogy was rearranged into a documentary entitled »atemzug« produced by zdf/arte. their own production house halle opened in 2003 and is an internationally connected theatre.

the company gets funding from the city of berlin department for culture since 2005 and was selected by the fonds darstellende künste to receive conceptual funding for »leading ensembles in the field of independent theater and dance« from 2008 until 2010. in 2012, they were awarded the »george tabori prize«.

in addition to her artistic work, she is committed not only to innovative working structures, but also to the outreach and distribution of dance in our society. the cie. toulia limnaios ensemble presents 60-70 performances every year and works with 18 salaried employees, who are supported by an even larger number of closely associated freelancers. with its flexible, lean, but highly effective structure and in co-production with international partners, the company continuously produces ensemble work of exceptional quality, making them one of the most successful ensembles for contemporary dance today.

as a representative of the german dance scene for the goethe institute and the federal foreign office, they present their repertoire in europe and worldwide since 2005. the company is supported by the senate department for culture and social cohesion, berlin.

the cie. toulia limnaios presents dance that is awake, critical and bold – with concern for humankind, made by and for people.

cie. toula limnaios

press reviews

»nothing that is not an excerpt of the heart, finds its expression in the work of toula limnaios, whereby the originality of this artist, a perfectionist of excesses, may lie therein. her excesses focus on mankind, the mysteries of his origins, the fire of his future. «
(saison de la danse, jean-marie gourreau)

»one of the most renowned choreographers of the european dance scene has created a ›tosca‹ a lasting and impressive piece of the contemporary dance. the spectators were excited and touched. the magnificent final tableau swept the audience off their feet into ecstatic rounds of applause. «
(frankfurter allgemeine zeitung)

»limnaios, one of the most striking figures in the contemporary dance for years, remains at the heights of her artistry«
(neuer zürcher zeitung)

»the spectators get to see somnambulistic images, poetically sensitive and intimate impressions in which real and surreal interweave. the word is about toula limnaios, a choreographer born in athens who has made berlin her home since 1997. the pieces she created with her company make people drift-away... for the images are really magical. the experts know that toula limnaios with her choreographies takes a special place in the vast dance scene in germany, an exceptional place. what she turns into dance is seen nowhere and she herself follows no trends. «
(rbb-kulturradio)

»the cie. toula limnaios creates dance that penetrates the soul... visually stunning and intense, atmospheric journeys into the abysses and posterity. toula limnaios managed to find a very unique power of expression in her pieces. the choreographer's source of inspiration are often master works, world literature, century-scores. she overwrites the classics with her own aesthetics, her own vocabulary of the movement and creates psychologically well-tared contemporary pieces. the company is admirably diligent, and its theatre is one of the most popular addresses for contemporary dance. «
(tagesspiegel)

»the company presents an unusually successful story: here, almost every show is sold out, the cie. toula limnaios managed to gain its own audience, not necessarily with an affinity for dance, that follows the artists from a production to production filled with trust and enthusiasm. «
(goethe-institute)

»the auditorium is packed. the first couple begins, the second joins in a way that takes your breath away. responsible for this frenzy of feelings and images are toula limnaios und ralf ollertz. he creates the acoustic visual realms that she causes to explode on stage with help of her dance ensemble. 39 productions in 19 years, moreover numerous revivals and world tours demonstrate their unbelievable symbiosis and productivity. making her one of the most important choreographers for contemporary dance today.

choreographer toula limnaios is one of those who, together with composer ralf r. ollertz, ensure that this art form of dance continues to retain its unmitigated vitality. for almost 20 years now, toula limnaios has headed her own company, which bears her name. and with her small, but excellent, international ensemble, she brings contemporary dance onto the stage – in berlin, where the ensemble is based and across the world.

those, who have the privilege of seeing the cie. toula limnaios dance, experience a celebration of emotion. the intensity of the movements and the dancers' feelings enthrall the viewer. the audience senses the physicality, becomes part of the dance. over and over again, in every single performance. «
(zdf aspekte, stefanie heidbrink)

»toula limnaios is known to reframe classical works of art and literature into sensational dance pieces with a strong focus on human connections. in ›tempus fugit‹, from intricate floor-work to flying across the stage, the agile bodies of the dancers were well-adapted to limnaios' highly charged movement vocabulary. «
(berlinartlink, beatrix joyce)

cie. toula limnaios

cie. toula limnaios at a glance

1996	founding in brussel: artist in residence/ theatre l' l
1997	moving of the company to berlin
2003	opening of own theater HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin
2005 - 2013	basic fundings by city of berlin - department for culture and europe
2008 - 2010	conceptual funding by fonds darstellende künste e.v.
2012	george tabori award
since 2014	institutional funding by the city of berlin
since 2016	cultural ambassador of the german ministry of foreign affairs
2021	jubilee 25-years cie. toula limnaios
2022	publication of the illustrated book »cie. toula limnaios« by kettler verlag
2023	founding of utopia - european ensemble network for dance

members:

artistic director
choreography/ dance

toula limnaios

artistic director
music/ production

ralf r. ollertz

ensemble dance

rafael abreu
daniel afonso
francesca bedin
félix deepen
karolina kardasz
enno kleinehanding
amandine lamouroux
alessia vinotto

assistant
public relations
touring/ cooperations
technical director/ light design
light/ stage technic
graphic design
video
costumes
accounting/ controlling
resilience dispatcher

alice gaspari
sarah böhmer
marie schmieder
felix grimm
domenik engemann, jan römer
cyan - graphisches büro
giacomo corvaia
toula limnaios
branko gejc
paul tinsley

venues

in berlin	akademie der künste, hebbel-theater, HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin, haus des Rundfunks
national	bielefeld, bonn, bremen, bremerhaven, cottbus, dessau, dortmund, dresden, erfurt, erlangen, essen, frankfurt/m, hannover, hameln, krefeld, heilbronn, münster, oberhausen, offenburg, osnabrück, ludwigshafen, quedlinburg, recklinghausen, stuttgart, wuppertal
international	armenia, austria, belgium, bulgaria, brazil, chile, cyprus, dominican republic, denmark, ecuador, france, georgia, greece, ireland, italy, jordan, lithuania, latvia, mexico, nicaragua, north macedonia, panama, poland, romania, russia, senegal, serbia, slovenia, spain, switzerland, trinidad & tobago, venezuela, west bank

repertory

2024 »la nef des fols« 2023 »les égarés« 2022 »staubkinder« 2021 »point de vue«, »clair obscur« 2020 »tell me a better story 1+2«, »meantime« 2019 »shifted realities« 2018 »volto umano« 2017 »momentum«, »die einen, die anderen« 2016 »tempus fugit« 2015 »minute papillon«, »la salle« 2014 »blind date«, »miles mysteries« 2013 »if i was real«, »the thing i am« 2012 »wut«, »the rest of me« 2011 »anderland«, »every single day« 2010 »secrets perdus«, »à contre corps« 2009 »wound«, »les possédés« 2008 »the silencers«, »reading toscia« 2007 »simply gifts«, »life is perfect« 2006 »real time.compiler«, »éclats du réel«, »irrsinn« 2005 »die sanfte«, »short stories« 2004 »double sens«, »spuren« 2003 »better days«, »here to there«, »isson« 2002 »outré vie«, »drift« 2001 »nichts. ich werde da sein, indem ich nicht da bin.« 2000 »falten der nacht«, »ysteres«, »vertige« 1999 »faits d'hiver« 1998 »entrevissions« 1997 »landscapes«, »le temps d'après« 1996 »d'un(e)s«

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