



cie. toula limnaios

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»clair obscur«

cie. toula limnaios/
HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin
Eberswalder Straße 10
10437 Berlin

Artistic Directors:
Toula Limnaios
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»clair obscur«

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Starting point of »clair obscur« is the theme of shadows. The dance piece is an attempt to approach the complexity and multilayered nature of shadows and their paradox, for shadows have many faces.

The hall transforms into a bifurcated stage space. The two sides face each other, like two sides of the same coin, like light and shadow, like day and night – one cannot exist without the other, and so this work is composed: the two perspectives are inseparable and yet perceivable on their own...

»See how this body casts its shadow and how dreams are born from it.«

Henri Bosco

Who hasn't tried to catch their shadow while walking? Who hasn't marveled at this strange apparition that constantly accompanies us, but always slips away? From Plato's »Allegory of the Cave« to Carl Gustav Jung's »Analytical Psychology« to the dream world of every human being, the shadow veils and reveals the secrets of the world.

But there are also shadows that conceal our very existence. They unfold, act, and live in silence. Shadows can have many names... they appear around the corner, in the unexpected, and suddenly take hold of us. Shadow sides that dwell within us and that we carry with us. Shadows that arise, full of doubt, full of illusions. They reach through our senses into the visible world and take possession in impermanence.

»In these shadow phases I am unable to think, to feel, to love.«

Fernando Pessoa



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Performances: 16 – 19 + 23 – 26 July 2025

8:30 p.m.

HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin

Concept/ Choreography/ Space

Music

Dance/ Creation

Toula Limnaios

Ralf R. Ollertz

Rafael Abreu, Daniel Afonso, Francesca Bedin, Félix Deepen,
Karolina Kardasz, Enno Kleinehanding, Amandine Lamouroux,
Alessia Vinotto

Assistance

Technical Direction/ Lighting Design

Costumes

Light/ Stage Technics

Touring/ Cooperations

Public Relations

Alice Gaspari

Felix Grimm

Antonia Limnaios, Toula Limnaios

Domenik Engemann

Marie Schmieder

Sarah Böhmer

Distribution

Fauves – agency for the performing arts

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Senatsverwaltung
für Kultur und
Gesellschaftlichen Zusammenhalt

BERLIN



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Press

»The bodies' defiance and surrender, the forlornness in shock-induced paralysis, and the expressiveness acting into space – a truly fascinating dance language. [...] Toulia Limnaios once again delves into the depths of the human soul, of feelings and thoughts, and translates them into an expressive, elegant dance that is wondrously beautiful and often uncanny and unsettling. A piece created during lockdown, under the impression of experiences of isolation, that captivates and binds the viewer, triggering an infinite range of associative interpretations. [...] Accompanied by the music of Ralf Ollertz, co-founder of the company, this time a detached soundscape, even though the rustling, knocking, dripping, scraping, and hammering seem to stem from a mechanical, industrial sonic world.«

(Frank Schmid, rbb)

»"Clair Obscur" is a disturbing and skillfully executed dance of doppelgängers, in which the audience is reminded – as Otto Rank once wrote – that the past of a person clings to them persistently and becomes their fate as soon as they try to free themselves from it. [...] And so it is here and now. Here in this dance, which is not a duet but an ensemble of silhouettes that sometimes move in sheer synchrony across the stage, and sometimes split into silent soliloquies. [...] Hence the three gauze curtains that divide the stage into four areas and transform the theater into a kind of palimpsest, where, with each gauze layer, the dancers in the distance become more and more indistinct and the imprints of others' movements inscribe themselves. Until the light shines blindingly upon us, the audience, seated on opposite sides of the stage on chairs spaced 1.5 meters apart – and, it soon dawns on us, carrying our own shadows.«

(Liza Weber, Tanzschreiber)

»The stage is divided by four walls that separate the dancers in pairs. Thanks to their transparency, these four walls allow – in a play of chiaroscuro – a view of the dancers on the opposite side of the performative space. In this mirror dance, some performers become the shadows of the others. Then this pattern breaks apart, and in a dynamic, intense, and brilliant choreography, suggestive images full of symbolism follow one another. Finally, as in a hall of mirrors, the actions of one are reflected and endlessly reproduced by the other. [...] The great achievement of the new production by cie. Toulia Limnaios lies not only in the choreography, the craftsmanship, the precision, the harmony of the dancers, and the music by Ralf R. Ollertz, but also in transforming the constraints imposed by hardship into creative impulses. The idea of bringing to life suggestive shadows and plays of transparency, dividing the space and embedding this necessity into the dramaturgy of the piece, shows just how much the inventiveness of an artist enables us time and again to go beyond creativity and breathe life into art. I couldn't imagine a better return to live dance!«

(Nicola Campanelli, Campadanza)

»Limnaios, for years one of the most striking figures in contemporary dance, is working at the height of her artistic powers.«

(Neue Zürcher Zeitung)

»Audiences are treated to dreamlike imagery, poetic, sensitive, and intimate impressions, where reality and surrealism often intertwine. This is the work of Toulia Limnaios, the Athens-born choreographer who has made Berlin her home since 1997 and whose company creates works that leave one feeling as if floating. Her imagery borders on the magical. One thing is clear to those familiar with the field: Toulia Limnaios occupies a unique and exceptional position within Germany's vast dance scene. What she brings to the stage cannot be seen anywhere else – and she certainly doesn't follow trends.«

(rbb-Kulturradio)

»The cie. toula limnaios stands for a kind of dance that penetrates the soul – powerful in imagery and rich in atmosphere, offering journeys into inner abysses and afterworlds. In her work, the choreographer has discovered a truly unique force of expression. Frequently, major works serve as her inspiration: world literature, epoch-defining musical scores – classics that she reinterprets through her own aesthetic and movement vocabulary, transforming them into psychologically nuanced contemporary pieces. The company is remarkably diligent, and its theatre is one of the most sought-after addresses for contemporary dance.«

(Tagesspiegel)

»The company has an extraordinary success story: almost every performance is sold out. The cie. toula limnaios has managed to build a uniquely loyal following – an audience that is not necessarily dance-oriented by default, but that follows the artists from one production to the next with great enthusiasm and dedication.«

(Goethe-Institut)



Biographien

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Toula Limnaios (artistic director / choreography)

Toula Limnaios was born in Athens in 1963. After her training in classical and modern dance, M. Alexander and Laban technique as well as music and dance pedagogy in Brussels, she worked as a performer with Claudio Bernardo, Régine Chopinot and as an assistant with Pierre Droulers. Later she continued her training 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. In 2007/2008 she was a guest professor for choreography at the Hochschule Ernst Busch in Berlin and was a guest choreographer at various theatres. She has founded and directed the cie. toula limnaios together with Ralf R. Ollertz since 1996.

Ralf R. Ollertz (artistic director / music)

Ralf R. Ollertz was born in 1964. He 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 scholarships. 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 to Europe, South America, the USA, Japan, Australia and Africa. He founded and has directed the cie. toula limnaios together with Toula Limnaios since 1996.

Rafael Abreu (dance)

Rafael Abreu (*1991, Guarulhos/ Brazil) trained in classical ballet and contemporary dance at various schools in São Paulo. He has been part of numerous companies and projects, including 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 has been a member of cie. toula limnaios since 2024.

Daniel Afonso (dance)

Daniel Afonso (*1981, Las Palmas/Spain) trained at the royal conservatory in Madrid. He worked for 10&10, Tenerifedanzalab in Tenerife, at the Staatstheater Braunschweig with Jan Pusch as well as 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 and at DMT (NL) with Judith Van der Klink. Daniel also taught and developed his own projects. Since 2015 he is a member of the cie. toula limnaios.

Francesca Bedin (dance)

Francesca Bedin (*1990, Vicenza, Italy) studied contemporary dance, tap dance, percussion, and drums both in Italy and abroad (Tanzfabrik, Marameo, DanseAteliers, Eastman...). She joined the Sinedomo Group led by L. Tonin and began working with Naturalis Labor, directed by L. Padovani and S. Bertoncelli, as well as the Esklan Art's Factory of E. Silgoner. Together with choreographer G. Menti, she won the 1st Prize and the Eastman Prize at the 22nd International Solo Dance Theater Festival. Since August 2020, she has been a member of cie. toula limnaios.

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 and Jacopo Godani. He has been a member of cie. toula limnaios since 2024.

Karolina Kardasz (dance)

Karolina Kardasz (*1994, Białystok/Polen) 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, she 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 new member of the cie. toula limnaios.

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 Ostruschnjak, sita ostheimer and Sara Ducat's company. Since 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 and the collective Miii3d. She collaborated on multiple productions that premiered at Kampnagel and has presented her own choreographies at numerous festivals across Germany, Poland, and Denmark. She joined cie. toula limnaios in 2025.

Alice Gaspari (assistance)

Alice Gaspari (*1986, Rimini/Italy) graduated from the Northern School of Contemporary Dance (UK), then engagement at the Phoenix Dance Theater in Leeds. After a few years of freelancing in England, permanent member of the company of the Staatstheater Braunschweig, first under the direction of Jan Pusch and then under Gregor Zöllig (2014 to 2020). Since 2021 she works as a freelance dancer and lives in Berlin. In the last 10 years she has worked with many different choreographers such as Roy Assaf, Guilherme Bothelo, Guy Nader and Maria Campos. Since 2023 she is assistant to Toula Limnaios.

Felix Grimm (Technical Director/Lighting Design)

Felix Grimm (*1983, Güstrow, Germany) is a lighting, video, and sound designer, as well as a technician and technical production manager for theater, dance, performance, and corporate events. He has worked with Podewil, Schlossplatztheater/Junge Oper Berlin, Schaubplatz International, Total Brutal/Nir de Volf, Chico Mello, Monstertruck, Theater Koblenz, Performdance (Stralsund), Terra Nova/D.A.M.P. (Copenhagen), and various event technology service providers. He has been collaborating with cie. toula limnaios since 2014 and has served as its technical director and lighting designer since 2020.

Domenik Engemann (Lighting/Stage Technology)

Domenik Engemann (*1991, Duisburg, Germany) was an actor at the youth theater DEPARTURE e.V. from 2005 to 2017, which led him to event technology. Since 2009, he has been actively involved as a volunteer, conducting social theater projects and serving as a board member. From 2016 to 2019, he completed his training as an event technician at the Maxim Gorki Theater. Since 2010, he has been working as a lighting and stage technician for cie. toula limnaios.



The company

The cie. toula limnaios is an ensemble for contemporary dance, founded in Brussels 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, Senate 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 its artistic work, it is committed not only to innovative working structures, but also to the outreach and distribution of dance in our society. The cie. toula 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 institutionally funded by the City of Berlin, Senate Department of Culture and Social Cohesion.

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

www.toula.de

cie. toula limnaios

at a glance

1996	founding in Brussels: artist in residence/ Theatre L'
1997	moving of the company to Berlin
2003	opening of own theatre HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin
2005 - 2013	basic fundings by City of Berlin
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	foundation of the European ensemble network „utopia“ publication of the book »cie. toula limnaios« at Kettler Verlag

Artistic Director	Toula Limnaios
Choreography/Dance	
Artistic Director	
Music/Production	Ralf R. Ollertz
Ensemble Dance	Rafael de Abreu Barbosa, Daniel Afonso, Francesca Bedin, Félix Deepen, Karolina Kardasz, Enno Kleinehanding, Amandine Lamouroux, Alessia Vinotto
Assistance	Alice Gaspari
Public Relations	Sarah Böhmer
Touring/Cooperations	Marie Schmieder
Technical Director, Light Design	Felix Grimm
Light & Stage Technics	Domenik Engemann, Jan Römer
Resilience Dispatcher	Paul Tinsley
Graphic Design	cyan - graphisches Büro
Video	Giacomo Corvaia
Costumes	Toula Limnaios, Kristina Weiß-Busch
Accounting/Controlling	Branko Gejic

Venues	
in Berlin	Akademie der Künste, HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin, Haus des Rundfunks, Konzerthaus Berlin

national	Bielefeld, Bonn, Bremen, Bremerhaven, Buchholz, Cottbus, Dessau, Dortmund, Dresden, Erfurt, Erlangen, Essen, Frankfurt/M, Hannover, Hameln, Krefeld, Heilbronn, Münster, Oberhausen, Offenburg, Osnabrück, Ludwigshafen, Quedlinburg, Recklinghausen, Stuttgart, Wuppertal
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international	Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Latvia, Mexico, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Panama, Poland, Romania, Russia, Switzerland, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, Venezuela, West Bank
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Repertory

2025 »jeux« 2024 »la nef des fols« 2023 »les égarés« 2022 »staubkinder« 2021 »point de vue«, »clair obscur«, »inmitten«
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 »la 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 toscas« 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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