



# if I was real

cie. **toula limnaios**

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

**Artistic Direction:**  
Toula Limnaios  
Ralf R. Ollertz

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»There is no love of life without despair of life.«  
Albert Camus

On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of Albert Camus's death, cie. toula limnaios presents a reconstruction of »if I was real« (2013), inspired by his early essay »L'Envers et l'Endroit« (»Betwixt and Between«). In Camus' work, light and shadow reflect the struggle between emotion and rationality – a tension that also lies at the heart of this piece.

»if I was real« explores the paradoxes and ambiguities in situations of human estrangement and isolation. In fragmentary images, a mysterious world of hidden connections unfolds. What first appears strange becomes increasingly familiar – in a way that defies words. The dancers immerse themselves in secret rituals, balancing between reality and dream. The choreography plays with illusion and sensuality without committing to fixed meanings. Sensory impressions remain open to association and preserve their original beauty.

»A round dance of festive, wild beauty.«  
(Frank Schmid, rbb Kulturradio)

»A panorama of fragmentary images, dreamlike, bizarre.«  
(Elena Philipp, tanzraumberlin)

# »if I was real«

3 – 5 Dec | 8:30 pm

6 Dec | 6:00 pm

10 – 13 Dec | 8:30 pm

HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin

**Concept / Choreography**

**Music**

**Dance / Creation**

Toula Limnaios

Ralf R. Ollertz

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

**Lighting Design/ Stage Technics**

**Space / Costumes**

**Technical Direction**

**Touring/ Cooperations**

**Public Relations**

Domenik Engemann

Antonia Limnaios, Toula Limnaios, Kristina Weiß-Busch

Felix Grimm

Marie Schmieder

Sarah Böhmer

The cie. toula limnaios is supported by the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion.

Media partners: tip, the Berliner.



**THE BERLINER**

**tipBerlin**



## Press reviews

»Light and shadow are here, following Camus, to be understood as rejection and acceptance of the world as it is: as consciously experienced strangeness and celebration of its beauty, as despair at life and love of life, which belong inseparably together, as Camus says. A field of tension in which Toula Limnaios moves anyway, in her existentially tinged magical realism, to which poetry and drama belong as sisters. Whereas in her new choreography she surprisingly leaves behind fate, pain and suffering and rises to a round dance of festive, wild beauty. (...) Here there is dancing, drumming and boxing, the hands flutter in sign language, the hair flies and in the end one dancer floats, lifted high into the air by five others – quite risky and dangerous, but enjoying herself in oblivion and in full trust.«

**(Frank Schmid, rbb kulturradio)**

»if I was real« opens a panorama of fragmentary images, dreamlike, bizarre, fleetingly touching familiar everyday reality, circling an undefined fear of otherness and darkness. Body language here is an unbroken expression of inner states such as despair and passion, which seem to belong to the human being as existential equipment. Thus the »real« of the title has nothing to do with a strategic claim to authenticity, but rather points to what cannot be grasped.«

**(Elena Philipp, TanzRaumBerlin)**

»Nebulous too are the movements of the dancers behind a gauze curtain, that divides the stage. When the figures act on both levels, the dance multiplies in a tension-filled way. In addition, Limnaios creates with a mobile handheld camera and skillful lighting original shifts of perspective, when the dancers film each other, zoom close to faces and succeed in creating another level of representation as projection on the curtain. Such scenes appear complex and confusing. All the more surprising the moment, when, similar to a crime story, at the end a content level suddenly opens, unexpected connections emerge and afterwards everything makes sense after all – exciting.«

**(Isabel Steinbock, Westfälische Nachrichten)**

»In this work Toula Limnaios constantly dissolves the powerful unison formations. She creates sensual mirrored movements of fleeting, sensitive beauty. Shadows, often a cipher for vitality, here arise as a sign of fear of the strangeness of a world in and around us that cannot be controlled by the individual. The title of the piece implies the possibility of otherness of the subject. »If I was real« celebrates love as the only force that creates trust. The versatile company gives us a danced essay, inspired by Camus' »L'envers et l'endroit« about possibilities of being. Quiet, mysterious, open to new perspectives, a little crazy.«

**(Karin Schmidt-Feister, Tanznetz)**

# Biographies

## **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 in Italy and abroad (Tanzfabrik, Marameo, Dansateliers, Eastman...). She joined the Sinedomo Group by L. Tonin and started her professional career with Naturalis Labor by L. Padovani, S. Bertocelli and with Esklan Art's Factory by E. Silgoner. Through her collaboration with the choreographer G. Menti, she won the 1st Prize and the Eastman Prize at the 22nd International Solo Tanz Theater Festival. Francesca has been a member of 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 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.

### **Domenik Engemann (lighting design)**

Domenik Engemann (\*1991, Duisburg/Germany) played drama at the Young Theater Departure e.V. from 2005–2017. Since 2009 he has been a volunteer at Departure, carried out several social theater projects, and is now a volunteer board member. From 2008 he supervised various theater projects such as Ensemble Mosaik, Grupo Oito, and MGV Walhalla. From 2016–2019 he trained as an event technician at the Maxim Gorki Theater. Since 2010 he has been working as a lighting and stage technician for the cie. toula limnaios, including guest performances in Nicaragua, Trinidad & Tobago, Crete, Jordan, and Georgia.





## The company

cie. toula limnaios (cie. = company) was founded in 1996 in Brussels by choreographer and performer Toula Limnaios and composer Ralf R. Ollertz, and relocated to Berlin in 1997. Since then, the ensemble has developed into one of Germany's most successful contemporary dance companies.

Recognized early on – in 2001 with the Meeting Neuer Tanz award and in 2004 with a ZDF/arte production of Beckett's trilogy »Breath« – the company received the prestigious George Tabori Award in 2012. Since 2005 it has been continuously funded by the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and, since 2014, supported as an institution.

Today, the company presents 60–70 performances annually in Berlin and on international stages across Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America. With 18 permanent staff members, numerous guest artists, and close collaborations with international partners, it has established itself as one of the most distinguished ensembles for contemporary dance. As a cultural ambassador for the Goethe-Institut and the German Federal Foreign Office, cie. toula limnaios carries its work throughout the world.

cie. toula limnaios creates dance that is alert, critical, and courageous – made by and for people, with a deep commitment to humanity.



## HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin

HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin is both the production venue and performance space of the dance ensemble cie. toula limnaios and its guest artists. In 2000, Greek choreographer Toula Limnaios and composer Ralf R. Ollertz established their rehearsal house in a former 19th-century gymnasium, a listed historical building, which has since also served as a workspace for numerous other artists.

Since 2003, the HALLE has been a private theater with 140 seats and has become an internationally recognized stage for contemporary dance. In early 2012, the Swiss Edith Maryon Foundation purchased the property, safeguarding it from real estate speculation, leased the building to the founders of the HALLE, and thereby secured the long-term future of the venue. From 2015 to April 2016, the HALLE was expanded and renovated with lottery funding.

# 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                                                           |
| 2022        | foundation of the European ensemble network „utopia“<br>publication of the book »cie. toula limnaios« at Kettler Verlag |
| 2026        | jubilee 30-years cie. toula limnaios                                                                                    |

|                    |                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 |

|                                  |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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 |

|           |                                                                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## 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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