cie. toula limnaios



if I was real

9—12 +16—19 dec 2026

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cie. toula limnaios/
HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin
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»if I

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

»if I was real« is inspired by Albert Camus' 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

9–12 Dec| 8:30 p.m.
16–19 Dec | 8:30 p.m.
HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin
Concept / Choreography Toula Limnaios
Music Ralf R. Ollertz
Dance / Creation Daniel Afonso, Francesca Bedin, Karolina Kardasz, Enno Kleinehanding, Amandine Lamouroux, Andrés Ortiz, Marco Rizzi, Alessia Vinotto
Assistant Alice Gaspari
Lighting Design/ Stage Technics Domenik Engemann
Space / Costumes Antonia Limnaios, Toula Limnaios, Kristina Weiß-Busch
Technical Director Felix Grimm
Touring/ Cooperations Marie Schmieder
Public Relations Sarah Böhmer
The cie. toula limnaios is supported by the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion.

Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion | BERLIN



Press

»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)



Portrait of cie.

cie. toula limnaios is a contemporary dance ensemble founded in Brussels in 1996 by choreographer and performer Toula Limnaios and composer Ralf R. Ollertz. In 1997, they moved their base to Berlin. In 2001, the company was awarded the »Meeting Neuer Tanz« prize. In 2004, its Beckett trilogy was produced as a television film for ZDF/arte under the title »atemzug«. In 2003, the company opened its own venue, HALLE, which has since established itself as an internationally connected theatre and production house.

Since 2005, the company has received support from the Berlin Senate Department for Culture, and for the years 2008–2010, the Fonds Darstellende Künste awarded it conceptual funding for »leading independent theatre and dance ensembles«. In 2012, it received the »George Tabori Preis«.

Alongside its artistic work, the company is committed not only to innovative working structures, but also to the dissemination and mediation of dance within our society. cie. toula limnaios presents 60–70 performances per year with its ensemble and works with 18 permanent employees, supported by numerous artists who collaborate with the company on a temporary basis. With flexible, lean yet highly effective structures and in co-production with international partners, it continuously produces high-quality ensemble work and is today one of the most successful contemporary dance ensembles.

In 2022, cie. toula limnaios initiated EUtopia – european ensemble network for dance, an international platform for exchange and collaboration. Founded by the company, the network emerged in response to cultural policy developments that are increasingly threatening the working conditions of independent ensembles across Europe. EUtopia stands for diversity, dialogue and artistic encounters. In addition to guest performances, the network includes



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HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin

HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin is the production venue and performance space of cie. toula limnaios and its guests. In 2000, Toula Limnaios and Ralf R. Ollertz established their rehearsal space in the listed building, which has since also served as a workplace for numerous other artists. Since 2003, HALLE has been a self-financed theatre that has established itself internationally as a leading venue for contemporary dance.

Built in 1870, this architectural gem was technically and infrastructurally modernised in 2016. The renovation of HALLE was financed by the Stiftung Deutsche Klassenlotterie Berlin.

Currently, cie. toula limnaios is building a choreographic centre on the site of HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin. It comprises a large rehearsal stage, a warehouse and a multi-storey building with guest apartments for artists and office spaces.

In the future, the rehearsal stage will serve as the company's central rehearsal space while also offering artists from Berlin and abroad new opportunities to work. Accommodating guest artists directly at the production site fosters intensive artistic processes and international collaboration and positions HALLE Tanzbühne Berlin as an open, forward-looking space for Berlin's independent dance scene.

The new building is funded by the State of Berlin, represented by the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion; the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media on the basis of a decision by the German Bundestag; and the Stiftung Deutsche Klassenlotterie Berlin.



Biographies

Toula Limnaios (Choreographer/Artistic Director)

Toula Limnaios was born in Athens in 1963. After training in classical and modern dance, the M. Alexander and Laban techniques, as well as music and dance education in Brussels, she worked as a performer with Claudio Bernardo and Régine Chopinot and as an assistant to Pierre Droulers. She later continued her training at the Folkwang Hochschule in Essen, where she soon became a member of the Folkwang Tanzstudio and danced in live improvisations with musicians Konrad Bauer and Peter Kowald. Since 1996, she has co-founded and co-directed cie. toula limnaios together with Ralf R. Ollertz. She has received numerous prizes and awards for her work and is today one of Germany's most renowned choreographers.

Since then, tours and guest performances have taken her to Armenia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Denmark, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Austria, Panama, Poland, Trinidad & Tobago, Switzerland, Senegal, Spain, Cyprus and Venezuela. In addition to directing her ensemble, she has also worked as a guest choreographer at Theater Osnabrück, the Hochschule für Darstellende Künste Frankfurt am Main and Theater Münster. From 2007 to 2008, Toula Limnaios was a guest professor of choreography at the Ernst Busch University of Theatre Arts Berlin.

Ralf R. Ollertz (Composer/Artistic Director)

Ralf R. Ollertz was born in 1964 and studied composition, electroacoustic music, piano and conducting in Nuremberg and Düsseldorf. He became musical director at the Wuppertaler Schauspielhaus and studied composition with Salvatore Sciarrino in Città di Castello, Italy. He subsequently continued his studies at the Folkwang Hochschule in Essen, graduating with an artistic diploma in composition under Nikolaus A. Huber and in electroacoustic music under Dirk Reith. He studied with Jean Cébron, founded and directed the new music ensemble »go ahead« and worked intensively with visual artists.

In addition to chamber and orchestral music, Ralf R. Ollertz composes electroacoustic music and radio plays, for which he has received numerous international awards and scholarships. Tours as well as radio and television productions have taken him throughout Europe, South America, the USA, Japan and Australia. In March 2002, his opera »carcrash«, composed together with Willy Daum and Xavier Zuber, premiered at the Staatsoper Hannover and was revived at the Staatsoper Stuttgart in 2006. From 1998 to 2004, he worked as a sound designer at Babelsberg Film Studios. Since 1996, he has co-founded and co-directed cie. toula limnaios together with Toula Limnaios. In 2012, they were awarded the George Tabori

Daniel Afonso (Tanz)

Daniel Afonso (*1981, Las Palmas/Spain) trained at the Royal Conservatory in Madrid. He worked with 10&10 and Tenerifedanzalab in Tenerife, at Staatstheater Braunschweig with Jan Pusch, and with Yossi Berg & Oded Graf and Douglas Thorpe. With Company Chameleon (UK), he danced for choreographers such as Anthony Missen, Gemma Nixon and John Goddard, and with DMT (NL) he worked with Judith van der Klink. He has also taught and developed his own projects. He has been a member of 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, including at Tanzfabrik, Marameo, Danseateliers and Eastman. She joined the Sinedomo Group by L. Tonin and worked with Naturalis Labor by L. Padovani and S. Bertoncelli and the Esklan Art's Factory by E. Silgoner. With choreographer G. Menti, she won 1st Prize and the Eastman Prize at the 22nd International Solo Dance Theatre Festival. She has been a member of cie. toula limnaios since August 2020.

Karolina Kardasz (Dance)

Karolina Kardasz (*1994, Bialystok/Poland) graduated from the Academy of Theatre Arts (Dance Theatre Department) in Krakow. She completed internships with the Francesca Selva Company and Irene K Company and became a member of Irene K Company in 2018. As a freelance dancer, she created her own short pieces, which were presented at festivals in various countries. She has been a member of cie. toula limnaios since August 2023.

Enno Kleinehanding (Dance)

Enno Kleinehanding (*1996, Aachen/Germany) studied ballet at the Staatliche Ballettschule Berlin and holds a Bachelor of Arts from the Ernst Busch University of Theatre Arts. He worked with Theater Hof, Oper Halle and, most recently, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens in Montreal. He has worked with choreographers such as Nanine Linning, Andrew Skeels and Cass Mortimer Eipper and has also developed several works of his own. He has been a member of cie. toula limnaios since January 2024.

Amandine Lamouroux (Dance)

Amandine Lamouroux (*1994, Toulouse/France) studied at Epsedanse in Montpellier and the Centre Chorégraphique James Carles in Toulouse, where she received her diploma as a teacher of contemporary dance. She subsequently danced with the Roberto Zappalà collective, Amos Ben-Tal, Manfredi Perego, Moritz Ostruschnjak, Sita Ostheimer and Sara Ducat's company. She has been a member of cie. toula limnaios since August 2023.

Andrés Ortiz (Dance)

Andrés Ortiz (*1995, Argentina) completed a three-year contemporary dance training programme at the Contemporary Dance Workshop of Teatro San Martín in Buenos Aires. He subsequently became a member of the Contemporary Ballet of Teatro San Martín, where he danced for six years, followed by two years as a dancer with Sokio Teatras Aura (Aura Dance Theatre) in Lithuania. Throughout his career, he has worked with choreographers from different parts of the world. He has been a member of cie. toula limnaios since 2026.

Alessia Vinotto (Dance)

Alessia Vinotto (*2000, Genoa/Italy) moved to Germany at a young age to study at the Contemporary Dance School Hamburg (CDSH), where she trained until 2019. She subsequently became a member of The Current Dance Collective, Theater Plauen-Zwickau and the MIII3D collective. Several productions she collaborated on premiered at Kampnagel. She has also presented her own choreographies at numerous festivals in Germany, Poland and Denmark. She has been a member of cie. toula limnaios since 2025.

Alice Gaspari (Assistant)

Alice Gaspari (*1986, Rimini/Italy) graduated from the Northern School of Contemporary Dance (UK) and subsequently joined Phoenix Dance Theatre in Leeds. After several years working as a freelancer in England, she became a permanent member of the company at Staatstheater Braunschweig, first under the direction of Jan Pusch and later Gregor Zöllig (2014–2020). Since 2021, she has worked as a freelance dancer and lives in Berlin. She has been an assistant at cie. toula limnaios since early 2023.

cie. toula limnaios

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 „EUtopia"
publication of the book »cie. toula limnaios« at Kettler Verlag
2026 30th anniversary of cie. toula limnaios

Artistic Director
Choreography/Dance Toula Limnaios
Artistic Director
Music/Production Ralf R. Ollertz

Ensemble Dance Daniel Afonso, Francesca Bedin, Félix Deepen, Karolina Kardasz, Enno Kleinehanding, Amandine Lamouroux, Andrés Ortiz, Alessia Vinotto
Assistent Alice Gaspari
Technical Director, Light Design Felix Grimm
Lighting/ Stage Technics Domenik Engemann, Jan Römer
Costumes Toula Limnaios, Kristina Weiß-Busch
Touring/Cooperations Marie Schmieder
Public Relations Sarah Böhmer
Resilience Dispatcher Paul Tinsley
Graphic Design cyan - graphisches Büro
Video Giacomo Corvaia, Bernd Sahling

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, Belgium, Bulgaria, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Latvia, Mexico, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Austria, Panama, Poland, Romania, Russia, Switzerland, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, Venezuela, West Bank, Cyprus

Repertory
2026 »an elephant in the room« 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 tosca« 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 »outre vie«, »drift« 2001 »nichts. ich werde da sein, indem ich nicht da bin.« 2000 »falten der nacht«, »ysteres«, »vertige« 1999 »faits d`hiver« 1998 »entrevisions« 1997 »landscapes«, »le temps d'après« 1996 »d'un(e)s«

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