

PRESS RELEASE

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***Rückwärts***
by Renate Graziadei at the *Tanz im August* dance festival

The choreographic work *Rückwärts* by Renate Graziadei will be presented by Sasha Waltz & Guests as part of *Tanz im August – Internationales Tanzfest Berlin*. It will premiere on 28 and 29 August 2009 at Radialsystem V in Berlin.

No longer is Renate Graziadei an unknown. She has been involved in some 20 dance productions with the LaborGras collective. In 1997 she was chosen as young female dancer of the year by *ballettanz* magazine. In 2004 she received the Kurt Jooss Prize for her solo piece *Story – No Story*. Graziadei also teaches dance for Sasha Waltz & Guests, Folkwang Hochschule, the Brussels-based PARTS and other organisations.

Graziadei's current choreographic work *Rückwärts* (Backwards) grapples with the habits and memories that we hold dear, as well as those we would rather change or forget. She says: 'In the solo *Rückwärts* I examine memories from the last ten years of my artistic career. I return to situations that have formed my style of movement and my body memory, and that have left clear traces in the aesthetic of my language of movement.'

The premiere of *Rückwärts* will be staged at the renowned Berlin dance festival *Tanz im August*, which takes place from 14 to 30 August 2009.

Rückwärts

Concept/Dance/Choreography: Renate Graziadei; Music: Ralf Krause,
Dramaturgy: Arthur Stäldi; Light: Lutz Deppe; Costumes: Margaretha Heller

Rückwärts is produced by Sasha Waltz & Guests and LaborGras with funding from the "Choreographen der Zukunft" programme to promote young choreographers, the chief sponsor of which is BASF SE. It is presented by Sasha Waltz & Guests as part of the festival *Tanz im August – Internationales Tanzfest Berlin*. Sasha Waltz & Guests receive financial support from the Hauptstadtkulturfonds.

Renate Graziadei

Austrian native Renate Graziadei began her dance training in Switzerland. She then went to New York for three years to study and work, primarily as a dancer with the Nina Wiener Dance Company. On her return to Europe she collaborated with Rui Horta at S.O.A.P. Dance Theatre in Frankfurt and subsequently joined the Hamburg dance group COAX.

Graziadei founded the LaborGras collective together with Arthur Stäldi in Hamburg in 1994. Since then she has realised around 20 productions with Stäldi and worked on numerous projects with other artists. In 1997 and 1998 she was awarded a grant from the "danceWEB" programme at the *Internationale Tanzwochen* in Vienna. She additionally won recognition from *ballettanz* as the most promising young female dancer of 1997. Her solo work *Story – No Story* earned her the Kurt Jooss Prize in 2004.

Graziadei has regularly taught contemporary dance at various institutions in Germany since 1996 and abroad since 2005 (e.g., as a dance instructor for Sasha Waltz & Guests, Folkwang Hochschule and PARTS in Brussels). She has been co-rehearsal director for Sasha Waltz & Guests, including in the production of *Impromptus* (2004) and *Dialoge 06 – Radiale Systeme* (2006). Since 2008 she has also performed as a dancer for Sasha Waltz & Guests.

Her longest and closest collaboration has been with the choreographer David Hernandez. From 1999 to 2008 she was involved in the majority of his productions both as a dancer and in an organisational role.

LaborGras

The LaborGras collective was founded in Hamburg in summer 1994 by dancer/choreographers Renate Graziadei (Austria) and Arthur Stäldi (Switzerland). In autumn 2000 it relocated to Berlin. From the beginning, Graziadei and Stäldi conceived the collective as a laboratory, exploring experimental areas of dance not only with dancers, but with practitioners of other artistic disciplines as well. LaborGras investigates dance as an independent art form and language, continually questioning and further developing the state of contemporary dance.

Alongside its artistic work, LaborGras has operated a studio in Berlin's Kreuzberg district since autumn 2002. The studio is a place for contemporary dance with a postmodern orientation to the study of movement. The life of the collective is focused on the studio stage, which is used as a research, exchange and performance centre.

The work of LaborGras has been recognised nationally and internationally. In *ballettanz* magazine's annual critics' survey of 2000, the collective garnered the honour of "Innovative Dance Production" for *temporary stories*. LaborGras was among 250 European companies selected to take part in the *Resolution! Aero-waves Festival* in London in spring 2001. In February 2002 LaborGras and David Hernandez were invited to *Deutsche Tanzplattform* in Leipzig to stage the piece *Quartett* (from *temporary stories*). In June 2004 the collective received the Essen-based Kurt Jooss Prize for the solo *Story – No Story*. Since its premiere, the 2006 production *I, myself and me again* has been presented at numerous international festivals.

The productions of LaborGras are supported by the Hauptstadtkulturfonds, the Fonds Darstellende Künste and the Kulturverwaltung des Landes Berlin. Studio LaborGras receives funding from Der Regierende Bürgermeister von Berlin, Senatskanzlei - Kulturelle Angelegenheiten.