

sasha waltz & guests



»Beethoven 7«, Sasha Waltz & Guests, Ludwig van Beethoven, Diego Noguera, Ensemble © Sebastian Bolesch

Press kit

Beethoven 7
Sasha Waltz & Guests
Ludwig van Beethoven
Diego Noguera

World Premiere
11 March 2023
Radialsystem, Berlin

Duration incl. break

1 hour 45 minutes

In »Beethoven 7«, Sasha Waltz and an ensemble of 14 dancers devote themselves to the complete »Symphony No. 7 in A major (op. 92)« by Ludwig van Beethoven. This music, composed in 1812 at the end of the composer's life when he was already going deaf, resonates with questions of his time that still play a role for us today: the failure of a revolution, the (forced) return to old traditions, the friction between the desire for social transformation and restoration and the associated loss of freedom and future prospects.

At the beginning of the evening, Sasha Waltz takes up these themes and reinterprets them from a contemporary perspective to the live electronic sounds of Chilean composer Diego Noguera with the title »Freiheit/Extasis«, which was commissioned and developed during the creation process. How do personal freedom and social constraints relate to each other?

Back in June 2021, Sasha Waltz devised a choreography to two movements from Ludwig van Beethoven's Seventh Symphony at the ancient temple in Delphi as part of the European broadcaster ARTE's production »Mit Beethoven durch Europa« (Through Europe with Beethoven). The music has captivated the choreographer ever since.

In 1812, Beethoven noted in his diary »Are real, true people slaves to their environment or free?« and witnessed, to his own dismay, the political idea of freedom falter between the French Revolution and the European Restoration. Despite this, his work remains a definitive expression of an aesthetic idea of artistic freedom.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that an increased noise level is to be expected during the first part of »Beethoven 7«. In addition, bass tones in a low frequency range can lead to physically noticeable vibrations.

A production by Sasha Waltz & Guests. Made in Radialsystem.

Cast

Concept / Choreography
Sasha Waltz

Music
Ludwig van Beethoven
Diego Noguera

Costume
Bernd Skodzig
Federico Polucci

Light
Martin Hauk
Jörg Bittner

Dramaturgy
Jochen Sandig

Dance / Choreography
Sasha Waltz & Guests

Biographies

Sasha Waltz & Guests

The dance company Sasha Waltz & Guests was founded by Sasha Waltz and Jochen Sandig in Berlin in 1993 and in 2023 celebrated its 30th anniversary. To date, numerous artists and ensembles from the fields of architecture, visual arts, choreography, film, design, literature, fashion and music from more than 60 countries have collaborated as »Guests« on over 100 productions, »Dialogue« projects and films. Sasha Waltz & Guests works in a constantly evolving international and national network of production and guest performance partners, and since its foundation in 1993 has performed at over 300 venues and festivals in more than 50 countries and 180 cities. Today, the company is showing its current repertoire of 12 active pieces in about 80 performances each year. In Berlin, the company cooperates with a wide range of municipal theatres, opera houses and museums and has contributed to establishing new cultural institutions, such as Sophiensæle (1996), St. Elisabeth-Kirche (2004) and Radialsystem (2006). In 2013, the company was named »European Cultural Ambassador« by the European Union. In 2014, Sasha Waltz & Guests was awarded the »Tabori Ehrenpreis« by the Fonds Darstellende Künste. Apart from Berlin stagings, national and international guest performances and the continual work on the repertoire, Sasha Waltz & Guests has been increasingly committed to educational and social projects. In 2007, the »Kindertanzcompany« (Children's Dance Company) was founded and since 2016 the interdisciplinary and open exchange platform titled »ZUHÖREN« has served as a »third space for art and politics«. Alongside these initiatives, the company continues to propose diverse offers in the field of knowledge transfer. With the work »In C«, based on Terry Riley's open composition of the same name, a system with an internationally growing community has been developing since spring 2021: the choreographic material was recorded in video tutorials to enable the easy transfer of knowledge. As a result, participatory, diverse, international and sustainable »In C« projects, workshop formats and ever-new structures have emerged worldwide. Sasha Waltz & Guests is funded by the Senate Department for Social Cohesion.

Sasha Waltz (Concept / Choreography)

Sasha Waltz is a choreographer, dancer and director. She studied dance and choreography in Amsterdam and New York. Together with Jochen Sandig she founded the company Sasha Waltz & Guests in 1993 and was co-founder of the Sophiensæle (1996) and the Radialsystem (2006), two spaces for performing arts in Berlin. From 1999 to 2004 she was a member of the artistic direction of the Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz. The development of innovative, interdisciplinary forms of performance and creation is an important focus of her artistic work, which ranges from internationally renowned dance pieces such as the »Travelogue« trilogy (1993/1995) or »Körper« (2000) to choreographic operas (»Dido & Aeneas«, 2005) and exploratory dialogue projects (»Dialogue 09 – Neues Museum«). In her current choreographic work Waltz concentrates on the condensation of collaborative processes, such as the fusion of choreography and music (»SYM-PHONIE MMXX«, 2022 or »Beethoven 7«, 2023). To mark the 300th anniversary of its world premiere, Sasha Waltz staged Johann Sebastian Bach's »St.

John Passion« (BWV 245) as a timeless tale about the human search for truth and justice beyond its original religious implications (2024). At the same time Sasha Waltz is committed to the transfer of dance knowledge and dance as a medium of social and socio-political understanding. In 2021, Sasha Waltz created the choreography »In C« based on Terry Riley's revolutionary and open score of the same name, which has since not only been successfully performed nationally and internationally, but has also developed into its own system with a growing community. In 2011, Sasha Waltz was awarded the Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande for her special services to the cultural field. Since 2013, she is a member of the Akademie der Künste Berlin. In 2021, Sasha Waltz was appointed »Commandeur des Arts et Lettres« by the French Ministry of Culture, and in 2024 she received the German Dance Award. In May 2025, Sasha Waltz will be awarded the Helmut Schmidt Prize; this award honours international personalities who, through their significant work, stand for democracy and the common good.

Diego Noguera (Music)

Diego Noguera is a Chilean-born, Berlin-based music composer, producer and performer. Noguera has created more than 40 pieces for theater, film, and dance, becoming one of the most important names in the local experimental scene. Noguera's collaborations with Manuela Infante have premiered in Chile, Singapore, USA, and all around Europe. Together with choreographer Jose Vidal, they have premiered works at the Municipal Theater of Santiago and Kampnagel (Hamburg). Established in Germany since 2019, Noguera has played in various stages and started collaborations with Sasha Waltz and Florian Fisher, among others. Noguera's solo work consists of several singles, one EP »Soñé Que Iba a Dormir Bien« as well as the album »I had a Name«. Noguera's music explores the mix of vocals, classical instruments, and the electricity of machines becoming a telluric force, generating an arch that travels through different landscapes to a sonic catharsis.

Bernd Skodzig (Costume)

Bernd Skodzig was born in Datteln, Germany in 1969. He works as a freelance costume designer for national and international theatres and opera houses. After studying at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Stuttgart and subsequently working as an assistant to Jürgen Rose, Skodzig spent several years in London. His path led him back to German theatre in 1998. In 2000, he moved to Berlin's Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz with the new team of directors and designed costumes for plays directed by Thomas Ostermeier as well as dance productions by Sasha Waltz. In 2005 he was invited to the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin. Further engagements have since taken Skodzig to the Paris Opera, the Schauspielhaus Zurich, the Schauspielhaus Frankfurt, the Deutsche Oper am Rhein, the Oper Dortmund, the Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg, the Dutch National Opera in Amsterdam, and the Bayreuth Festival. Choreographers and artists with whom Bernd Skodzig has worked include Tankred Dorst, Ulrich Rasche, Oliver Reese, Xin Peng Wang, Burkhardt Kosminski, Jimmy Durham, Li Hui, and Ólafur Elíasson. In 2008, Bernd Skodzig was appointed by Prof. Florence von Gerkan as a guest professor at the Universität der Künste in Berlin for the department of costume design. Bernd Skodzig has enjoyed a long, fruitful, and

dialogue-driven collaboration with Sasha Waltz. He has designed the costumes for a large number of her productions.

Federico Polucci (Costume)

Federico Polucci was born in Rome, Italy in 1976. He works as an independent designer, mainly in the field of dance and the visual arts. Polucci studied fashion and costume design at the IED Istituto Europeo di Design in Rome. After several years in the fashion industry, his involvement with experimental theatre began in 2002. Since moving to Berlin in 2008, he has developed costumes for various international productions, working with artists and choreographers such as Sergiu Matis, Gabriel Galindez Cruz, Antonio Ruz, Maria Colusi, Jiří Kodjo Bartovanec, Sasa Queliz, Martha Hincapié Charry, Maya M. Carroll, Nagao Akemi, Niels Weijer, the KNM Ensemble, and the make a move collective. For Sasha Waltz & Guests, Federico Polucci has designed costumes for productions including »Figure Humaine« (2016), which marked the opening of the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, and »Exodos« (2018). His design concept focuses on deconstruction, movement, and the fusion of organic and sculptural elements, which is reflected in both imposing and minimalist creations.

Martin Hawk (Light)

Martin Hawk was born in 1961 in Berlin. He studied Theatre and Event Technology. While being employed by Art Lab Studios, Berlin, he produced events for Shell, Skoda and IBM, and created the lighting for Cora Frost, Gayle Tufts, Tim Fischer and Alex B. He has worked with Sasha Waltz since 1996, lighting »Zweiland«, »Körper«, »S«, »noBody«, »insideout«, »Impromptus«, »Jagden und Formen (Zustand 2008)«, »Gezeiten«, »Continu« und »Matsukaze« (2011). For »Métamorphoses« by Sasha Waltz he had been responsible not solely for light but even for stage design. In 2012 he participated in the dance project »MusicTANZ - Carmen« within the education project of the Berliner Philharmoniker, where he created the lighting as well. In 2013, he was responsible for the light of the project »Dialoge 2013- Kolkata« in India. Martin Hawk also created the lighting for the latest choreographic opera by Sasha Waltz, »Orfeo« by Claudio Monteverdi premiered in September 2014 in Amsterdam.

Jörg Bittner (Light)

Jörg Bittner studied theatre and event technology in Berlin and afterwards became the technical director of the Sophiensale from 2000-2008. There he created the lighting design for numerous dance, theatre, and musical theatre productions. Since 2008, he is particularly involved with Jochen Sandig and Folkert Uhde at Radialsystem. Examples of this include the productions »Human Requiem« and »Liberté« with the Rundfunkchor Berlin as well as the »Johannes Passion« and the »h-Moll Messe« with the Chor des Bayerischen Rundfunk. Jörg Bittner has worked with choreographers and artists such as Constanza Macras, Sasha Waltz, Meg Stuart, Nicola Hümpel (Nico & The Navigators), Sven Holm (Novoflot), Ulrich Rasche, Heroines of Sound, and for the festivals Märzmusik, Ultraschall and A L'ARME. He has been lighting the concerts of the Oscar winner Hauschka, aka Volker Bertelmann, since 2014. As a

guest lecturer, he taught lighting design at the Universität der Künste, Berlin in 2019. Since 2019, he has been leading Radialsystem's lighting department.

Sasha Waltz & Guests is funded by the Senate Department for Social Cohesion.



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