



PRESS RELEASE

**WESTWIND FESTIVAL 2022:
A sunny, artistic and political week of theatre concludes with an
awards ceremony full of music and surprises**

WESTWIND festival came back to Bochum after nearly 30 years: what a pleasure! A total of 15 productions were presented at Theaterrevier, the newly opened venue of Junges Schauspielhaus Bochum, as well as at Kammerspiele, Prinz Regent Theatre, the school An der Maarbrücke and the stage of TheaterTotal: 10 productions from all over NRW as part of the WESTWIND competition, one production from Junges Schauspielhaus Bochum and four international guest performances from Canada, France, Lithuania and the Netherlands.

This year's festival also featured a wide-ranging programme of accompanying events: theatre professionals were invited to take part in production discussions on each production moderated by scholars Seda Sönmeztürk and Alexis Rodriguez Suárez. Moreover, this year's so-called "Special Talks" offered visitors the opportunity to discuss current developments in children's and youth theatre and engage with international guests. The topic of "accessibility" was the subject of much focus at the panel discussion "Ist Theater behindertenfeindlich? / Is Theatre an Ableist Place?" in cooperation with WDR3. And in a workshop designed by children and teens, DRAMA CONTROL, the children's and youth supervisory board of Theaterrevier, invited participants to question power relations in theatre practice.

Visitors from Bochum and the surrounding area received the festival plays with delight and curiosity. At the children's flea market, interested individuals and families were able to explore a new side of Theaterrevier and buy coveted costumes from the Schauspielhaus collection at the auction. Thanks to the social city walks organised in cooperation with bodo e.V., festival participants were able to get to know Bochum's city centre from a different perspective.

The three-member selection committee – consisting of Cathrin Rose, artistic director of Junges Schauspielhaus Bochum, Sarah Heppekausen, journalist, and Kübra Sekin, actress and moderator – chose 10 productions out of 49 applications from professional children's and youth theatres in NRW.

The awards

Ilias Botseas, Megha Kono-Patel and Martina van Boxen – the three-member awards jury of the 38th edition of WESTWIND festival – decided to bestow awards to three of the festival's highlights. The prize money of 10,000 euros was provided by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The awards jury is pleased to bestow the following distinctions:

To the entire team of performing:group in:

"Spectacular Failures" (world premiere)

Devised theatre: performing:group

A coproduction with tanzhaus nrw, COMEDIA Theater and Theater FELD

To the ensemble of:

“Master of Disaster” (world premiere) by Theater Marabu

as well as a special award to Sibel Polat for the concept and performance of:

“33 Frauen” (world premiere)

by c.t.201, Cologne, a coproduction with COMEDIA Köln

The children’s jury and youth jury additionally awarded prize money of 1,500 euros each, sponsored by the friends’ association Freundeskreis Schauspielhaus Bochum and Jan Kath.

The youth jury (Ariane Castella, Marc Delius Hucklenbruch, Finnja Negendank, Till Schäfer, Alicia Ulfik) award winner is:

“33 Frauen” (world premiere)

c.t.201, Cologne

A coproduction with COMEDIA Theater, Cologne

Developed and staged by: Sibel Polat, Manuel Moser

The children’s jury (Aileen Boll, Henri Kidriwski, Jolanthe Kruse, Ida Ludwig, Godswill Madu, Kennet Schmidt) award winner is:

**“Ronja Räubertochter” (world premiere) by Astrid Lindgren and adapted by Christian Schönfelder
TOBOSO, Essen**

In cooperation with Maschinenhaus Essen and Theater Duisburg

Directed by: Moritz Fleiter, Fabian Sattler

The team of Junges Schauspielhaus Bochum and Theaterrevier would like to thank all participants as well as all helping hands as they pass the festival baton to the team of Theater Marabu, which will host the next edition of WESTWIND festival from 11 to 17 June 2023.

ALL PROGRAMME INFORMATION AND PRESS PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE 2022 WESTWIND FESTIVAL WEBSITE:
<https://www.westwind-festival.de>

The sponsors of WESTWIND 2022 are:

Ministerium für
Kultur und Wissenschaft
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



The detailed laudations:

Accolades from the awards jury
(Ilias Botseas, Megha Kono-Patel, Martina van Boxen):

Spectacular Failures (world premiere)

performing:group, Cologne

A coproduction with tanzhaus nrw, COMEDIA Theater and Theater FELD

“Spectacular Failures is characterised by the performers’ high level of intensity, first-class choreography and wit. Constantly changing perspectives and sightlines both engage and burden the audience, resulting in moments of audience involvement that serve to break the tension.

The performers assume the associations and movements of the audience as a kind of common choreography, which speaks for the performers’ high-quality skills as well as the excellent interplay between them. Pointed glances and deliberate exclusion render the play’s theme, the constant pressure to perform and achieve, visible, while the fast pace of the production makes it tangible.

Spectacular Failures invites us to a holistic experience with choreographies from various dance styles, top-notch lip-syncing, choral chanting that pushes the limits of imperfection and moments of anticipation that manage to not become awkward. An added bonus is the way the four performers of the dance ensemble break with the classical image of a ballerina. It is commendable how Spectacular Failures uses all of its nuances to offer young audiences a top-quality, aesthetic production.

Therefore, we are awarding prize money in the amount of € 4,000 to the Cologne-based performing:group for their production of Spectacular Failures.”

Master of Desaster (world premiere)

Theater Marabu, Bonn

MASTER OF DESASTER makes you want to go to the theatre and makes you want to listen to music.

MASTER OF DESASTER puts you in a good mood, conveys a sense of comfort and, last but not least, hope.

And all this with the help of a sophisticated technique implemented at a highly aesthetic and artistic level. Not only did everyone on stage master a brass or wind instrument – not to mention: a drum – we are also treated to excellent slapstick interludes paired with skilful acrobatics, a good sense of timing and even a bit of magic: “how on earth did that satchel get onto the square?”

Speaking of the performance space: with MASTER OF DESASTER, Theatre MARABU abandon the comfort zone of a sheltered theatre venue and not only expose themselves to the whims of nature, but also to the difficulties of playing a big, wide-open space. And they succeed in magnificent ways. This is not only due to the cleverly chosen spatial situation or the production’s successful dramaturgy: the story is told clearly, unambiguously, excitingly and it is never overloaded. Not at all. The fact that they do not lose their audience’s attention in the vastness of this space is mainly due to the way they deal with the audience itself: with a refreshing lightness yet also enduring subtlety. This is because they remain close to their audience at every minute, they take their audience seriously, they treat children as equals and thus provide a space for children’s worries and needs. All in all, MASTER OF DESASTER amounts to a very intense, cheeky – even anarchic – and incredibly funny theatre experience that is not only for children, but also for adults.

We are awarding Theatre Marabu prize money of € 4,000 as a small contribution to their next great work.

**A special award to Sibel Polat for the concept and performance of “33 Frauen” (world premiere)
by c.t.201**

A coproduction with COMEDIA Theater, Cologne

In her 90-minute stand-up routine, Sibel Polat performs her personal list of 33 important women and renders visible their considerable contributions to society as a whole within male-dominated structures and misogynistic power imbalances.

With a great show of strength, she creates a feminist evening that is reminiscent for some, eye-opening for others, yet cautionary for all. With an overriding sense of lightness, she maintains a confident performance style that also allows for vulnerability – proving that fragility is not the antithesis of strength.

As she presents intersectional feminism from her perspective, she makes her person, her attitude and her will tangible on stage. Laced with humour and sexually liberated language, she confronts the audience and opens up vital realms of discourse through moments of friction.

We are held accountable, and in the end we are left with a lifelong mission: to dismantle this fucking patriarchy into its individual components.

Congratulations Sibel Polat on the concept and extraordinary performance of “33 Frauen”!

We honour this remarkable achievement with € 2,000.

The laudations of the children's jury
(Aileen Boll, Henri Kidrowski, Jolanthe Kruse, Ida Ludwig, Godswill Madu,
Kennet Schmidt)

Ronja Räubertocher - TOBOSO, Essen

In cooperation with Maschinenhaus Essen and Theater Duisburg

This play was exciting, funny and quite lovely. The children's jury was particularly fond of the scenic design and the great costumes. The round stage worked very well because it created a certain closeness between the audience and the actors.

The best thing, however, and the decisive factor, was a moment that was created just for the children. Decorating the cave together with Birk and Ronja gave the children's jury the feeling of being taken seriously and not ignored. This moment, which took place without adults, was a magical experience for the children's jury that most of the jury members had not experienced before. Joining forces with the main character had a strengthening effect on the children's jury – the kind of initiative which could unite a community of children. This is why Toboso is being honoured with the children's jury award.

The prize money of 1,500 euros is sponsored by the friends' association Freundeskreis Schauspielhaus Bochum e.V.

The laudations of the youth jury
(Ariane Castella, Marc Delius Hucklenbruch, Finnja Negendank,
Till Schäfer, Alicia Ulfik)

There were heated discussions in the youth jury. It was not an easy decision and, ultimately, a neck-and-neck race between two plays. In the end, the youth jury decided on the play "33 Frauen" by c.t.201, Cologne, a coproduction with COMEDIA Theatre, Cologne.

"33 Frauen" is a play with one clear message in the foreground. It is about 33 women. 33 heroines whose names we should know, but who are often overshadowed by men due to structural problems. The youth jury particularly liked the fact that one could dive directly into the performance. The engaging manner of the actress completely drew audience members in. The youth jury was also impressed by the fact that the play took the audience through a wide range of emotions: there was laughter, reflection and tears. This created a mixture that the youth jury liked very much: it was entertaining, but also made people think.

The play gave the audience something to take away, a message that we will not soon forget. Because of this message, the youth jury wishes that the play "33 Frauen" be seen by more people and has therefore decided to award their prize to this production.

The prize money of 1,500 euros is sponsored by Jan Kath Design GmbH, Bochum.