



## **Birgit Aßhoff**

Born in Hamm – Germany

Freelanced choreographer, performer and dancer since 1988.

Her work is mainly influenced by contemporary dance, dance theatre and asian bodywork. Based upon those experiences she developed her own style which is characterized by humorous and weird implementaiton including the crossover with other artistic genres.

Her special interest lies in performances presented in/ interacting with public space.

Since several years she puts a further focus on creating performance projects in rural areas in order to initiate collaborations and networking among inhabitants living in the countryside and smaller cities.

Birgit Aßhoff lives in Berlin, maintaining good contact to her Westphalian roots. She loves green tea, apple cake and horse riding.

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### **Artistic Vita**

- studies in contemporary dance and mime in Berlin and Paris, also performing arts (focused on Butoh Dance – Anzu Furukawa) at HBK Braunschweig (University of Arts)
- created numerous dance performances – solo works as well as collaborations with dancers and artists from other artistic disciplines such as music, film, photography, painting, singing.
- Tours and workshops in Great Britain, France, Belgium, Switzerland and South America. Two choreographies for the Ballet Nacional del Paraguay, projects with Argentinian and Paraguayan choreographers, workshop-project as guest lecturer at the university of Valparaiso, Chile, amongst others .....

### **Community Dance**

- Since 1991 she has been realizing projects with nonprofessionals, parallel to her artistic work with professional artists. In 2008 she met Royston Maldoom (known by the film „Rhythm is it“ - in collaboration with Sir Simon Rattle) and participated in two of his works. Since then community dance projects became an important part of her work. She created numerous performances with people of mixed age (children, young adults, adults and seniors).
- 2009 she founded the women's community dance group „Wilder Aufbruch“. The members are aged between 15 and 75 years, with different backgrounds concerning experience in dance and performing arts. Since then, Birgit Aßhoff created 9 performances with „Wilder Aufbruch“, supported by the Ministry of Family, Children, Youth, Culture and Sports of North Rhine Westphalia.
- Collaboration with schools, projects with adults and elderly people.

### **Side specific**

- Birgit Aßhoff studied biology, sports and pedagogics at the “Universität Paderborn” and passed the exam as teacher.
- Japanese language studies at the “Freie Universtät Berlin” for one year (1997)
- Degree as shiatsu practitioner (exam 2007)
- Languages: English, Spanish, French. Since about two years, she is learning Icelandic (hard work).

**Support** - recent works had been supported by

- the Ministry of Family, Children, Youth, Culture and Sports of North Rhine Westphalia
- the cultural department of the Senate of the City of Berlin
- Goethe Institute
- German Embassy in Paraguay
- Kulturstiftung LWL (a cultural foundation based in North Rhine-Westphalia)
- cultural departments of various cities
- private sponsors

**Selection of recent works**

**2015**

- 9<sup>th</sup> project with the women community dance group "Wilder Aufbruch", Festival Tanz OWL, Paderborn
- "Hidden Dreams" choreographical miniatures in collaboration with the filmer Reinhard Jaeger, realized with professional artists and non-professionals, created and presented in public space.
- "Park hat viel zu tun" (*Busy Mr. Park*), a solo, in collaboration with the filmer Reinhard Jaeger and a (plush-) tiger

**2014**

- Artistic director and choreographer of "The Specialists", a community dance project in collaboration with the filmer Reinhard Jaeger, realized with inhabitants of the participatin cities Paderborn, Arnsberg und Brilon.
- "Hackenporsche" (*Shopping trolley*) and "Kaufrausch" (*Shopping frenzy*), 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> project with "Wilder Aufbruch" Festival Tanz OWL and touring with "Kaufrausch".

**2013**

- "Ûr Fjarska", a choreographed solo for a musician; music and performance Daniel Böðvarsson (Island); Festival Musica Sacra, Paderborn.
- "Schule" (*School*), 6<sup>th</sup> project with "Wilder Aufbruch", performed in a sports hall; Festival Tanz OWL.
- "Erste Liebe" (*First Love*), a community dance project for seniors and young adults; Wickede/Ruhr.

**2012**

- "Die Regenbogenfänger" (*Catch the Rainbow*) with young school children.
- "Dein roter Mund so suess" (*Your sweet red mouth*) 5<sup>th</sup> project with "Wilder Aufbruch", performed in a public palace garden, Schloss Neuhaus; Festival Tanz OWL.
- "Muessiggang im Vierteltakt" (*Sweet Idleness*), for women and men more than 60 years old, performed in a public library;

**2011**

- Soloperformance "How to Kill Saturday Night Fever", Performance Birgit Asshoff, Video Florian Koehler; Berlin
- „Zwiebelfisch“, with school children of mixed age in cooperation with Staedt. Galerie Paderborn and Dr. Dorothea Reese-Heim (Fine Art).
- "Business Class", 4<sup>th</sup> project with "Wilder Aufbruch"; performed in the world's largest Computer Museum (Heinz Nixdorf, Paderborn) Festival Tanz OWL.
- „Weiblich, humorvoll, skurril“, a collaboration between „Wilder Aufbruch“ and the Women's Brass

Orchestra, Berlin.

## **2010**

- „Frédéric's Garten“ (Frédéric's Garden), Paderborn – with school children of mixed age
- „Auf zu neuen Ufern“, Paderborn – 2<sup>nd</sup> project with „Wilder Aufbruch“, performed in a public open air pool, Festival Tanz OWL.

## **2009**

- „Beam of Sunlight“, a community dance project with handicapped and non-handicapped adults, Detmold.
- „Wilder Aufbruch“, Paderborn – foundation of the women's community dance group, 1<sup>st</sup> project presented in a public park, Festival Tanz OWL.
- „Bewegende Klänge – Beflügelte Herzen“, project with school children of mixed age, performed in a church, Festival Musica Sacra, Paderborn.
- “Rumbo al la Imaginación”, dance-project with former street children, Asunción, Paraguay

## **2008**

- „Un Cuarto de Piel“ solo-work, choreographed for Jorge Baez, member of the „Ballet Nacional de Paraguay“, Asunción, Paraguay.
- „Del Silba al Salto“, dance-project with former street children, Asunción, Paraguay

## **2006**

- “Memoria de la Inocencia”, choreography for the „Ballet Nacional de Paraguay“, Asunción, Paraguay.
- Duett “Kaum Raum” with Edith Correa (Paraguay) in collaboration with the musician Ulli Koppenburg

## **2005**

- “El Jardín de las Aguas”, choreography for the „Ballet Nacional de Paraguay“, Asunción, Paraguay.

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