



re:publica TEN and Performing Arts Programm present:  
Performersion – Days of Performing & Immersive Arts

+++ New event on the convergence of performing arts and technology +++ Two day programme featuring talks, performances and workshops +++ Cooperation between re:publica TEN and Performing Arts Programm Berlin

**Berlin, 12 April 2016** – Curtains up for the new “**Performersion – Days of Performing & Immersive Arts**” event. On **5 and 6 May 2016** the STATION Berlin's Kühlhaus will host a two day programme on performing arts and technology. Initiated by **re:publica** and **Performing Arts Programm Berlin**, it connects actors from performance arts with experts in digital culture to create a unique synergy and opportunities for collaboration. This new format is supported by the Lotto Stiftung and is complete free and open to anyone interested in participating. The event will take place exclusively in English.

### **Interdisciplinary connections between art and technology**

During the two days, the four floors of the Kühlhaus will be filled with workshops, talks and performances. Artists, trend-setters, developers and researchers from the fields of performance arts, dance, theatre, performance, digital research and technology development will come together to develop ideas and practical applications in new formats. Professional talks, featuring best practice examples and information on possible sponsorship sources, and fruitful

networking are on the agenda. Our goal is to open a space for creative processes, where representatives of the arts and digital culture can jointly reflect and create new and unique experiences.

“Just like the rest of society, the performing arts are experiencing digitisation. Bridging the two is not only exciting – it's also necessary. In our times of increased automation of software development, it's refreshing to see less focus on technical solutions in the world of performance arts. Free from rigidly set structures, the arts have an unconditional and thus open approach to new technologies. We need to learn from this”, comments Andreas Gebhard, founder and CEO of re:publica.

On the other hand, the use of virtual and augmented reality technologies are exciting prospects for art production and art dissemination in film, performance and even literature.

“New technologies have become an integral part of Berlin's theatre landscape. Right from the early days, the independent scene in Berlin has been in the vanguard of using technological innovations in the arts. Together with re:publica, we are pleased to be able to present current trends in the performing arts and to create a unique field for experimentation and discovery”, says Janina Benduski, head of Performing Arts Programme Berlin.

## **Framework**

The festival will take place in the STATION Berlin's Kühlhaus and the space will be used as an area for testing and experimentation by re:publica and PAP. During “Performersion”, the stage on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor will be joined by various workshop areas. The stage will feature the conference sessions, as well as the performances. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors will feature labs for experimenting. The atrium will feature virtual reality technology exhibitions as well as artistic positions.

“Performersion” will also be featured on the spring.berlin event network. This platform connects trade fairs, conferences and events from Berlin's creative industry and creates a point of contact for visitors, guests and enthusiasts. spring.berlin presents events, from diverse event organisers, that are taking place from mid-April until mid-May 2016. Currently, the platform features 17 partner events - 19 when including re:publica and Performersion - which cover a wide breadth of the Berlin's creative digital industry and culture.

## **About re:publica**

re:publica is Europe's largest conference on internet and digital society. It attracts over 7000 participants to discuss themes and topics concerning our interconnected society and creates a

space for bloggers, politicians, scientists, business people, artists and activists to come together. The founders of republica GmbH, newthinking communications and Spreeblick Verlag have been involved in internet policy and digital culture and society for over a decade. They are also the founders of two of Germany's most well-known blogs: netzpolitik.org and spreeblick.com. The 10<sup>th</sup> re:publica takes place 2 – 4 May 2016 at STATION-Berlin.

### **About Performing Arts Programm Berlin**

Consult. Network. Strengthen. Performing Arts Programm is aimed at all independent Berlin-based dance and theatre professionals. Through various units, we work on professionalising, strengthening structures and improving the awareness of independent performing arts.

Performing Arts Programm Berlin is a programme by LAFT Berlin – regional association for independent performing arts. LAFT Berlin was founded in 2007 and represents the interests of its more than 400 members, including Berlin's significant venues, groups and individual performers, to the public and policy makers. It supports its members through networking, consulting work, coordination and service provision. The Performing Arts Programm Berlin was designed in 2012 by Janina Benduski and Stefan Sahlmann and is funded by the Berlin's Senate Chancellery for Cultural Affairs through means provided by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF).

More information at:

<http://www.performersion.berlin>

<https://www.facebook.com/Performersion>

<http://www.twitter.com/performersion>

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