

jo fabian / department  
berlin



» TENYEARS AFTER.  
ein theatricalisches Konzert ◉  
Foto: Andreas Stirl

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**Jo Fabian was born in Berlin in 1960. He started off by graduating with a theater art degree in Rostock. He then had engagements at several municipal theaters in the German Democratic Republic where he also appeared in public with the first works directing his own plays. From 1987 on, he worked as a freelance author and director and put on plays starting in Leipzig and at the Bauhaus Dessau. His unusual theater of images suspends the borderlines between theater, dance, performance, concerts and installation. Jo Fabian is an author, director, composer and choreographer all rolled into one while making stage, costume and light designs and video installations. He set up his own free group in 1989 and today he is the artistic director of the DEPARTMENT / fabian.dept. theater group. We would like to name only the trilogy "Vaterlandskomplex" (1993) as an example from his numerous theater projects, from which "Whisky & Flags" and "Keine Gnade" were invited to the Berliner Theatertreffen in 1994. The Hebbel-Theater Berlin became the most important stage for the group in the years 1993–2003. In 1999, Jo Fabian received the Deutscher Produzentenpreis für Choreografie with which he produced "the dark side of time".**

*The engine for my artistic work is always newly recreated through a time-intensive fate, which is filled with non-artistic work. I would like to nail fly-by ideas onto the sky so we have time to observe them. To a great extent the relationship to my body remains a private issue and is not meant to correspond to the visions of human movement in a work of art. Everything is inspiring that I didn't know or don't understand. I can't measure the success of my work. I, like everyone else, have an ideal of happiness to defend. Given this ideal I can measure if what I do brings me closer to or farther away from it. Success for me is coming closer to it.*

*My artistic position hasn't changed. Luckily.*

Lo Fahian

The train has left, the "Ossis" are standing beside the rails. Staring after it. And waiting – for Godot. (Someone was going to come for them, too!) For how much longer? Already the coalition of the patient is crumbling. Disillusioned, the opposition against optimism is forming. Why go on playing the Ossi-joke of German history? The clown with the funny balloon on the hat, performing funny dances as though he was happy to "collect points" dutifully? Naw. Good bye Germany! Fabian-actor Jörg Steinberg, who ten years ago protected drill against anarchy ("Whisky & Flags") became a terrorist ("STEINBERG. born to be wild"), then an idiot ("Idioten"), and finally it dawned on him: "TENYEARS AFTER" the endurance slogans and the restart enthusiasm the sociopolitical developments of the country are passing him by. Uncomfortable diagnosis, Mr. Fabian. The prized and excellent choreographer allows himself, besides extravagant, abstract flushes of colour, images, and sound ("LIGHTHOUSE", "the dark side of time"), to play the role of the foolish chronicler, the time travel reporter. Just as the East German artist confronted "his compatriots" with their forgetfulness ("Alzheimer light"), he didn't spare the saturated "Wessis" his intransigent trans-German irony. His is highly political dance-theater like you don't see it anywhere else.

*Katja Werner*

works available for touring 2004.

TENYEARSATER „ein theatralesches Konzert“ (2002)

„TEN YEARS AFTER. ein theatralisches Konzert“  
4 performers + 8 musicians, stage: 12 x 20 m

**WHISKY & FLAGS Rekonstruktion**“ (2003) 3 performers, 3 dancers, stage: 12 x 12 m

**„WHISKY & TEAUS. REKONSTRUKTION“ (2003)** 3 performers, 3 dancers, 3 musicians

**„tristan und isolde. nicht berühren“** (2001) 2 dancers, sta

„the dark side of time“ (2001) 5 dancers, stage: 16 x 14 m

**„Ich. Das Auge. Toter Winkel.“** (2000) 2 dancers, 1 performer, stage: 10 x 12 m  
SEINERSTÖRGER, J., *Das Auge. Toter Winkel.* (2000), 1. Aufl., Stuttgart, 2000, 12-13

„STEINBERG.born to be wild“ (2000) 4 performer  
LIGHTHOUSE - Ljubljana - 24“ (2000) 4 +

„LIGHTHOUSE. alphasystem 04“ (2000) 4 dancers  
BLOWN AWAY, the invisible harmonies of T. B.

„BLOWN AWAY. the invisible homepage of I. R.

4 dancers, 1 performer, 1 musician, stage: 10 x 14 m

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