



Pina Bausch
Portrait
Photo: Ulli Weiss
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With the launch of a new website, the Pina Bausch Foundation presents access to the online archives for the first time

Discover the choreographer and her work by browsing through films, photos, and original documents www.pinabausch.org

On the 18th of November 2021, the Pina Bausch Foundation is going to launch its new website. For the first time, materials from the extensive Pina Bausch Archives, which alone comprise over 300.000 photographs and 9.000 videos, will become accessible online. Visitors can immerse themselves in the cosmos of choreographer and dancer Pina Bausch (1940 – 2009) through original sources, such as photographs, films, costumes and program copies – originating from 1970ies to the present day. With the online publication, the Foundation is taking a decisive step towards making Pina Bausch's heritage accessible worldwide. While visits to the physical archives in Wuppertal are only possible to a limited extend, a wide variety of primary sources can now be freely accessed from anywhere – by researchers, dance professionals and enthusiasts, and anyone who wants to learn about the world of Pina Bausch.

The new website invites visitors to explore. With its launch, initially, materials of three pieces will go online: *Fritz* (1974), *Café Müller* (1978) and *Palermo Palermo* (1989). Visitors can browse through the pieces' history and their casts and watch original recordings from historic performances. Archival materials on further pieces will follow successively. The *Pina Bausch Editions* film series will be expanded by a film version of *Café Müller*. The rights of this film material were acquired from the French publisher *L'Arche Éditeur* by the Foundation in 2021. This special document of contemporary history from 1985, which previously was only available on DVD, will become freely accessible for the first time.

The process of indexing, preserving and digitalizing the extensive archival holding of photographs, videos, press articles and documents on Pina Bausch's pieces and their creation started in 2010 when the Foundation was founded. This process is not yet complete. It is supported by (former) dancers and employees of Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch and companions of Pina Bausch.

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At the same time in 2010, the Foundation started a research collaboration with the Institute for Communication and Media (IKuM) at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences. Together with a team led by Prof. Dr. Bernhard Thull, they began to develop a suitable data system for the digital archives, on which the website is now based.

The underlying linked data technology allows for the archival objects to be individually linked to one another and thus, provides for an intuitively guided usage. The principle of linking related materials was translated onto the website's navigation system.

Ismaël Dia, director of the Pina Bausch Archives, looks back on the achievement: *"Our new website sets a starting point. From here, we will finally be able to make these unique archive materials*

publicly available step by step in the upcoming years. The process of preparing the materials was time consuming and challenging, both on the material level as well on the content and legal level. I am very pleased that with the new website we can now create a direct encounter with the public, since it allows an engagement with Pina Bausch's work on various levels."



Pina Bausch
The Rite of Spring
 Photo: Maarten
 Vanden Abeele
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In order to reach as many visitors as possible and to avoid language barriers, large parts of the website are written in *Plain English*, such as articles on current projects or short portraits on the archive pages. A steadily growing number of articles are also being written in *Easy Read*.

On www.pinabausch.org archive materials interrelate with the Foundation's current projects. The archives feed the work around the oeuvre of Pina Bausch with the aim to enable performances of her pieces again and again. This currently becomes visible, for example, with the transmission of *The Rite of Spring* to a newly assembled ensemble with dancers from 13 African countries, which premiered at Teatros del Canal in Madrid on the 23rd of September 2021. For the November launch, film footage of this transmission process will also be published online: a spontaneous recording documents the last rehearsal of *The Rite of Spring* in Senegal, before the rehearsals had to be paused until August 2021, due to the Covid pandemic. The film *Dancing at Dusk – A moment with Pina Bausch's The Rite of Spring* will be freely available exclusively on the Foundation's website for a short time, until the international tour resumes in 2022.

"With this website we are connecting yesterday, today and tomorrow", explains **Salomon Bausch**, the Pina Bausch Foundation's founder, and chair of the board of directors. "We have these unique original sources and want to make them accessible and usable worldwide. There is a whole cosmos to discover, and I hope it will touch and inspire many people. By creating points of contact with my mother's work, we want to encourage people to have their own sensual and dancing experiences. The current world tour of *The Rite of Spring* with our newly founded company and the overwhelming response by the audience to it, is a shining example for the artistic future of Pina Bausch's repertory and pioneering for the future."

Outlook

The launch of the new www.pinabausch.org is a milestone – but work on widening the online access to the archival materials continues. In 2022, extensive and diverse materials on the piece *Nelken* (Carnations) are scheduled to go online. Additionally, the *Pina Bausch Editions* film series will continue to grow. Both, the release of further films of the *L'Arche Éditeur* holdings and productions by the Foundation are planned to be released.

Pina Bausch's work can also be experienced on stage: further international performances of the double bill Pina Bausch *The Rite of Spring* • Germaine Acogny, Malou Airaudo *common ground[s]*, are being planned in collaboration with *École des Sables* (Senegal) and *Sadler's Wells* (London). The new website will announce all performances of the international tour of the double bill, whose next stop will be the opening of the *Adelaide Festival* (Australia) in March 2022.

The development and digitalization of the archives in recent years has been made possible by close funding partners. The **Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia** has supported this work from the beginning. Furthermore, the **Federal Government Commissioner for Culture** and the **Media and the Federal Cultural Foundation** have significantly supported the development of the archives. Long-term support from local sponsors such as the **Stadtsparkasse Wuppertal** and the **Dr. Werner Jackstädt Foundation** should also be mentioned. The cooperation of numerous archives under the umbrella of the **Haus der Kulturen der Welt** acts as a valuable sparring partner for the further development of the Pina Bausch Archives. The **Kunststiftung NRW** and the **Kulturstiftung der Länder** have financially supported the purchase of the extensive video holdings of the publishing house *L'Arche Éditeur*.

Journalists will have exclusive access to the new website www.pinabausch.org from the 9th of November on. Please contact us to receive the access data.



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