

gessnerallee

Press Release

A new Co-Direction at Gessnerallee as of Season 2024/2025

March 30, 2023

The board of Verein Theaterhaus Gessnerallee has appointed Kathrin Veser and Miriam Walther as the new co-directors for a period of four years. With this, the board selects a duo that is very familiar with the local independent scene. They stand both for a continuous further development of the current course and clear programmatic principles with a key focus on production and presentation of performing arts.

Veser and Walther will take over the artistic and administrative direction of the Gessnerallee as of season 2024/2025. They intend to continue the focus on diversity-oriented and power-critical discourse and shape the Gessnerallee into a model for forward-looking, sustainable and culturally fair institutions – as a meeting place, a space for debate, an exchange platform and a crowd-puller. The institution, the team and the artists should reach into the city and beyond the borders of Zurich and Switzerland.

Artistic Work(s) at the center

In their artistic concept, Veser and Walther focus on four sectors: on multi-perspective curation, on a programme that consists of a mix of high-profile and experimental formats as well as long-term collaborations between the institution and the artists, on an

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examination of different forms of artistic access, and on the promotion of newcomers.

Locally and internationally networked, managerially experienced, culturally and politically versed

The new co-directors have extensive knowledge of contemporary performative artistic production. They are acquainted with the Gessnerallee, its communities and players, and can rely on existing trust. Veser and Walther are experienced in working together as a team and complement each other in their competences. The duo intends to divide, between each other, their responsibilities and tasks regarding the team and the organization. They will focus on the transfer and documentation of knowledge and on a clear communication concept. In addition, the designated directors bring along a differentiated understanding of diversity and inclusion with conceptually concrete approaches.

Kathrin Veser (*1976 in Waiblingen, Germany) has a Master of Arts in Theatre Studies and Modern German Literature. She has several years of experience as a curator and senior dramaturg at festivals and production houses as well as a dance and as a theatre producer in the independent arts scene. She is familiar with the Gessnerallee from her eight years as a dramaturg from 2012 to 2020. Miriam Walther (*1987 in Winterthur) has a Master of Arts in Theatre Directing and studied Philosophy and Political Science. By the summer of 2022, she had gained several years of managerial experience as managing director of the digital magazine "Republik" in a company comparable to the Gessnerallee in terms of financial and personnel size. Before that, she worked as a director and production manager in the independent art scene for several years. In her role as Co-Director of the central stage at the "Zürcher Theater Spektakel" from 2015 to 2017, she gained experience in the processes of programme planning and curation.

The selection committee consisted of Anna Bürgi, Yuvviki Dioh, Marcus Dross, Anja Mayer, Diana Rojas-Feile, Dagmar Walser and Noa Winter and was administratively led by Norina Peier. Out of a strong group of 29 exciting candidates, after a multi-stage process, the committee proposed three candidates to the board with an election recommendation. After a thorough review, the board decided

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in favour of the committee's recommendation.

Transition from current to future Direction

The current management, consisting of Michelle Akanji and Juliane Hahn, will continue the leadership of the Gessnerallee until the end of season 2023/24 and, after the extremely difficult years of the pandemic, will finally be able to have a "normal" season after all. The board is looking forward to it.

When considering the particular challenges presented by the new funding system for dance and theatre of the city of Zurich and the tensions arising from that, it is the intention of both the current and the future directors of the Gessnerallee to navigate this transition phase through cooperation and maintaining dialogue. Kathrin Veser and Miriam Walther will be available to the artists from mid-April. A corresponding contact option will be announced on the Gessnerallee website in due time.