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# **“Freudentanz” (dance of joy) opens the new season**

Tanzlandschaft Ruhr presents a choreography by  
Rainer Behr

“Wow”, thought Rainer Behr to himself on first seeing the former shower room building at the Zollverein colliery. This space warranted a “Freudentanz” (a dance of joy).

And now, despite funding cutbacks, Tanzlandschaft Ruhr is launching its season 2000/2001 on the 4th of October with a new work by Behr, a member of Pina Bausch’s Wuppertaler Tanztheater ensemble, which carries this very title.

Seven young dancers whirl across the stage exuding positive joy. This is the first dance production to be created at the newly opened Choreographisches Zentrum NRW and, at times, rehearsals had to be arranged around the end phase of building work underway to complete the renovation of the premises at Bullmannaue 20.

Behr explains that as a choreographer he merely gave impulses to his company, formed especially for the production, and then filtered the results. Reworking traditional and folkloristic dances of joy wasn’t foremost on his mind but rather the one simple and often underestimated act of “a person going on stage and revealing something about themselves” – motive enough, according to Behr, for the joy he seeks to make transparent in dance.

Behr, born in 1964 and a graduate of the Folkwang Academy in Essen, found working on his own authority easy “because you can do what you want” and difficult “because you’re the one who actually has to do it”.

Peter Landmann, the assistant head of the North Rhine-Westphalia Government Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Culture and Sport, confirmed yesterday that Tanzlandschaft Ruhr, a “Kultur Ruhr GmbH” project, would receive ministerial funding of 400.000 DM for the coming season. Last year’s subvention amounted to a 1,2 million DM share of a now exhausted budget of 20 million DM set aside for culture during the International Building Exhibition (IBA).

The Ministry of Culture has voiced interest in providing ongoing sponsorship for model cultural projects in the Ruhr district and Landmann stated, “Funding must be increased if Tanzlandschaft Ruhr is to survive”.

Looking positively to the future, Stefan Hilterhaus, the artistic director of “Tanzlandschaft Ruhr”, is now preparing to welcome choreographers and dancers from seven major European centres of dance education to this region in December.

“Freudentanz”, 4. 7. and 8. October, at 20 hr. Tickets available from the Theater und Philharmonie Essen, Il Hagen 2, Tel: 81 22 200.

**“Freudentanz”  
Rainer Behr**

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Tanzlandschaft Ruhr  
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