

# *dialogue on difference*

a performance by and with  
claudia bosse (d/at), abdalla daif (eg) and g nther auer (at)  
in english with parts in arabic and german



photography: g nther auer, collage: claudia bosse

*«i would like to imagine that there's a non-hierarchy in our performance between images, languages, movements, our bodies and sounds and that the combination can activate different senses of the witnesses, of the spectator. i would like to image that we don't reproduce what everyone knows.» cb*

**dialogue on difference** by and with claudia bosse and abdalla daif is a performative dialogue in english, arab and german about the construction of gender, ideologies and subjectivities in different realities and different geopolitical environments.

**dialogue on difference** is embedded in a sound and spatial dramaturgy and consists of assemblages, objects, dialogues and movements, projections and compositions in a multichannel setting by composer g nther auer. along a score with 7 chapters the performance creates different situations in space within the spectators.

claudia bosse and abdalla daif perform, speak, discuss, sing, move, comment, confront each other in different media constellations. they become subject and object of their joint research. they are performers, witnesses and archives of their cultural practice. preliminary research in egypt and austria form the basis of this work. from different perspectives the german director and choreographer and the egyptian performance artist and producer are questioning events of the present, their own living environment and that of the other.

**dialogue on difference** is a performance about ideological ghosts that permeate our present in times of radical shifts in political discourse and in the language.

**how they met:** the idea of this cooperation between claudia bosse and abdalla daif has been developed after their meeting in vienna in november 2016 on the occasion of claudia bosse's performative installation "confronting history, confronting documents", (in cooperation with g nther auer and with kaya behkalam, adalla daif and huda lutfi) as a part of b/order festival by tanzquartier vienna (tqw). abdalla daif and the other artists were invited for a live interaction with their own video-interviews from 2011 and 2015, which have been collected by claudia bosse as a part of her longterm project "some democratic fictions", in collaboration with g nther auer.

for claudia bosse's installation "thoughts meet space cairo", in 7 rooms of the hotel viennoise in cairo 2015, she created objects and used video interviews of "some democratic fictions" from cairo, athens, beirut etc. 10 egyptian artists were invited to the performative salon "reflection zone" as an extension of the installation.

during their discussion in 2016, claudia bosse and abdalla daif discovered that they share the same (political) fears and brought up the idea of a common project based on their exchange of knowledge and experiences. "dialogue on difference" was performed in alexandria, cairo, Vienna and berlin in 2019.

**claudia bosse (D/AT)**

is an internationally working theatre director, choreographer, artist and the artistic director of the transdisciplinary performance company theatercombinat based in vienna and berlin. after studying theatre directing at the hochschule für schauspielkunst ernst busch berlin, she works in the field of experimental theatre between (spatial) choreography, (choral) theatre and urban intervention. she creates 'political hybrids' as always site-specific settings in shared spaces with the spectators including different media. claudia bosse develops internationally installations, performances and works for museums, architectures, theatres and urban spaces. she teaches, delivers lectures, publishes, initiates and participates in research projects and continuously collaborates with artists and theorists of different genres. in the last years she was also creating installative works in relation to archives and collections of museums.

her latest artistic projects were "THYESTES BRÜDER! KAPITAL anatomy of a revenge" as a coproduction with FFT düsseldorf, performed in düsseldorf and vienna, "the last IDEAL PARADISE" for the german tanzplattform 2018, "168 stunden (a tribute to daily life and franz erhard walther)" – a one-week-performance in urban space in vienna, "WITNESSING OF THE TREES" for museo da imigracao in sao paulo, "POEMS of the DAILY MADNESS" – a contemporary songplay with a local choir at FAVORITEN theaterfestival 2018. further works are "EXPLOSION OF SILENCE – a silent chorus", a performative monument with 100 participants in public space in vienna, "APPLIED POETICS IN URBAN SPACE" with urban curators in kyiv/ukraine as well as "IDEAL PARADISE" (donaufestival 2015, FFT düsseldorf, explore bukarest, tanzquartier vienna, weltmuseum vienna, impulstanz festival and others) where claudia bosse developed different artistic formats on research into political hybrids, combining documents, texts and spaces as a new dramaturgy unfolded into space.

[www.theatercombinat.com](http://www.theatercombinat.com)

[www.claudiabosse.blogspot.com](http://www.claudiabosse.blogspot.com)

**abdalla daif (EG)**

is a performing artist and producer. his artwork challenges the concept of authority, through enhancing the artistic practices as a method of deep democracy and social transformation, ultimately encouraging audiences to discover, imagine, and co-create possible new scenarios of social life. daif's work seeks to bring contemporary artistic practices closer to people who are usually removed from cultural and social participation, in order to enable them to re-think their lives and our shared future in creative and critical ways. daif has been widely recognized as a cultural manager, whose work focuses on contemporary artistic, cultural and urban practices and through his work as strategic planner and program manager for gudran association for art and development, 2004 – 2018.

in 2015 abdalla daif returned to present his performances "wa kan abohma salah" (2015) work in progress about the urban change in alexandria city; "the Store" (2016), supported by british council, EU delegation cairo and nassim el-raqs festival and D-CAF 2018; he presented "NAAR DE NEDERLANDERS" in leiden, nederland 2018. he is currently developing "untold trauma", supported by AFAC.

**günther auer (AT)**

born in 1965, composer and media artist, studied composition and electro-acoustic composition at the vienna university for music and performative arts, where he subsequently worked as a lecturer in the field of music and computer. he worked in different contexts with different artists on numerous projects. since 2009 he is collaborating above all with claudia bosse, creating voice- and soundarchitectures in public or private space, f.e. for the multi-part work "(katastrophen 11/15) ideal paradise" and the longterm project "some democratic fictions" – a series of interviews about political and social changes and revolutions as a transnational archive.

his latest work was the creation of the sound for the text-space-choreography "THYESTES BRÜDER! KAPITAL anatomy of a revenge" and the composition of the singspiel "POEMS of the DAILY MADNESS" for 4 singing actors, based on texts by claudia bosse, previewed in vienna in october 2017. in 2012/2013 he was a senior artist at the academy of applied arts in vienna. he has won several prizes for his works: the prize of austrian museums (österreichischer museumspreis) for "sonosphere", the austrian prize for multimedia (österreichischer multimediapreis) for "zauberflöte im mozarthaus" and the austrian prize for art in public space pfann ohmann (österreichischer preis für kunst im öffentlichen raum pfann ohmann) for "ID am dornerplatz".

[www.guentherauer.com](http://www.guentherauer.com)

**theatercombinat**

represents a highly experienced production company for independent art and theatre work. founded in 1996 in berlin and based in vienna, austria, since 1999, the artistic formation led by the german director and artist claudia bosse assembles actors, performers and dancers as well as theorists, sound and media artists, architects, visual artists and theorists in order to engage in research into theatrical concepts, pushing theatre beyond its limits in search of new, collective and adventurous ways to communicate with the spectators, the space and the organisation of the public.

the site -specific productions create internationally new, experimental spaces for action and perception between theatre, installation, choreography, performance and discourse.

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22./23. november 2019  
vierte welt, berlin (d)

16./17. november 2019  
kosmos theater, wien (at)

14./15. april 2019  
in the frameworks of d-caf/downtown contemporary arts festival,  
tamara building, cairo (eg)

4. april 2019  
in the frameworks of theater-is-a-must festival, jesuit cultural center,  
alexandria (eg)

a project by claudia bosse in cooperation with abdalla daif  
artistic direction/ performance: claudia bosse, abdalla daif  
composition: g nther auer  
assistance: dagmar tr stler  
communication: oliver maus, michael franz woels  
production theatercombinat: alexander matthias kosnopfl  
production reflection: ahmed eldeeb

a production by theatercombinat in cooperation with reflection for arts,  
training & development, alexandria (eg), in coproduction with kosmos  
theater vienna, supported by wien kultur and by szenenwechsel, a program  
of robert bosch foundation in cooperation with the german centre of the  
international theatre institute iti, by the austrian cultural forum cairo, with a  
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cultural actors by culture resource (al mawred al thaqafy).

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alexandria.



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