

MOVING THEATRE NORTH

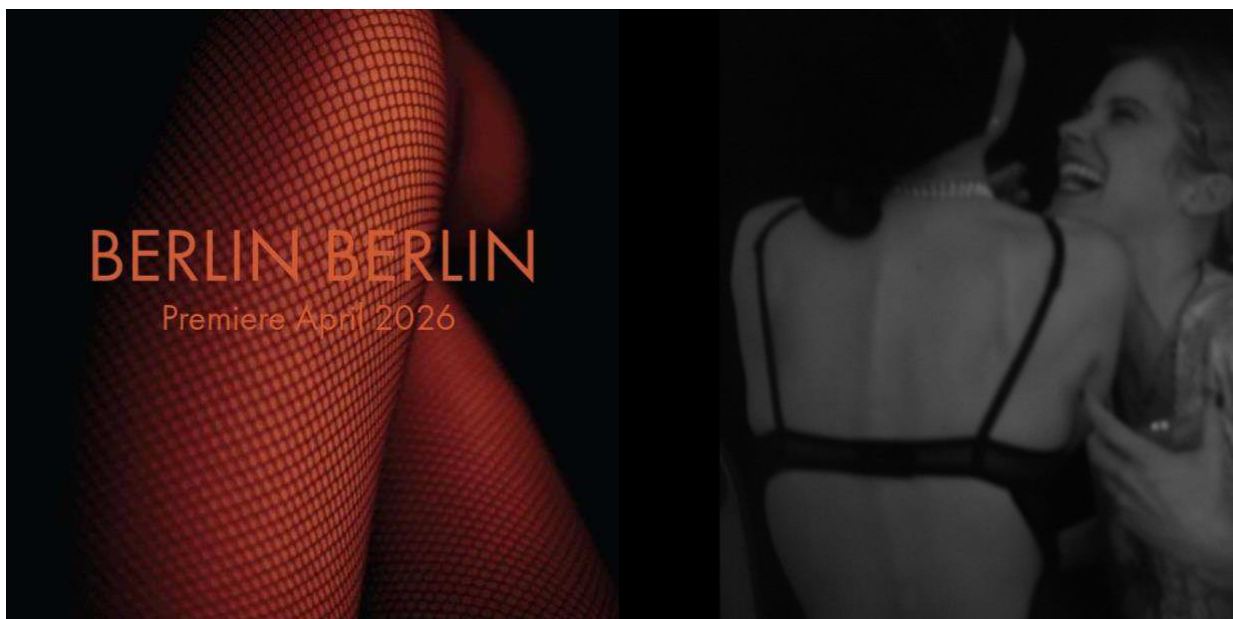
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We are about people and performance. And we love theatre!



A World Premiere at Teatret ved Sorte Hest in April/Mai 2026

BERLIN BERLIN



What if history is not behind us – but repeating itself in disguise?

Willkommen – Bienvenue – Welcome...

... to the powder room of a speakeasy in 1920/30s Berlin.

Here, truth and illusion blur in whispered gossip, urgent music and dark anticipation.

Let yourself be seduced by the thrill of freedom – and the shadow it casts.

A theatrical journey to 1930s Berlin – a city vibrating with freedom, art, and collapse. The performance connects Weimar-era decadence with today's political tensions and asks: ***What happens when we ignore the warning signs of our time?***

BERLIN BERLIN is a journey and play revisiting the German Zeitgeist, characters and songs of that era. Through music, drama and historical echoes, the piece explores democracy, censorship, gender, race, and the danger of forgetting.

ABOUT

Berlin at the beginning of the 1930s is a city full of contrasts and a dance on the edge of a volcano! A wild celebration of culture like nothing known before, threatened by the abyss to come.

BERLIN BERLIN play takes you to the dazzling Babylon era of one of the most vibrant and show-stopping cities of the time. In between World War I and World War II, amidst cultural highlights such as Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*, Kurt Weill and Berthold Brecht's *Threepenny Opera*, Marlene Dietrich, Josephine Baker ... It's the time when woman -who start to wear ties and pants- conquer stage and society. As a city of extremes, this was a period of wild freedom, decadence, and artistic explosion on one hand, but with a growing sense of uncertainty, economic crisis, and the first shadows of fascism lurking beneath the surface on the other hand.

With five performers, music, and an atmosphere of velvet and danger, the play unfolds as both entertaining and unsettling and explores what happens when progress and collapse dance hand in hand.

RELEVANCE

This is not just a nostalgic dive into a bygone era, inviting the audience into the decadent heart of a city ablaze with art, cabaret, gender liberation and political chaos. This is also a gripping theatrical mirror held up to the fractures of our own time, asking: ***"What happens when we ignore the warning signs of our time?"*** BERLIN BERLIN confronts the rise of extremism, censorship, and social silence, linking the past directly to today's growing polarization, hate speech, and democratic erosion. The audience is invited not just to observe, but to feel the warning: When human dignity is undermined – be it through gender inequality, racial injustice or systemic forgetting – the fabric of society begins to tear.

BACKGROUND

After World War I, Berlin threw itself into a cultural and social revolution. The Weimar Republic enabled an unprecedented openness, especially for women, the LGBTQ+ community and artists. This freedom was fragile as beneath the surface, unrest was growing.

Freedom, nightlife, and modernity: The Nightlife flourished with cabarets, jazz clubs, and drag shows. Places like Eldorado were known as gathering spots for homosexual and transgender people. Women's liberation was at the center. *"The New Woman"*—with short hair, trousers, and a cigarette in hand—symbolized a new era of economic independence and sexual freedom. Art and literature were avant-garde and political. Bauhaus, expressionism, and Dadaism questioned old norms and experimented wildly. Technological advancements such as radio and film (e.g., Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*) made Berlin a modern metropolis.

Fear, limitations, and darkness: *Economic chaos:* Inflation ruined the middle class. People walked around with wheelbarrows full of money, which lost value by the hour. *Political extremism:* Nazis and Communists fought in the streets. Murders, riots, and coup attempts became part of daily life. *Moral backlash:* Although the 1920s were liberal, a strong conservative reaction grew, seeking to limit social liberation. *Rise of Nazism:* The Nazi party began gaining ground, and the freedom Berlin had celebrated was living on borrowed time.

ARTISTIC VISION

The extreme tension between euphoria and downfall serves as a powerful dramatic backdrop in BERLIN BERLIN. The actors shift between ecstatic joy in the nightlife and sudden anxiety that the party

cannot last forever. The contrasting powers will be reflected through the actors' perspectives - symbolising the different sides of Berlin. One side is drawn to freedom, nightclubs, and modernity, while the other side struggles with norms, fear, and impending restrictions. The character's struggle mirrors Berlin itself—a city that wants to be free but is slowly being suffocated.

Berlin is portrayed as a feminine entity, a female force that each character in the play talks about. The characters shift between praising, fighting, or succumbing to her influence. Turning the city into a feminine character offers strong symbolism and a sense that the city is a living organism shaping the people within it. As such Berlin will appear as a shadowy figure and narrator, where the city manifests through light, sound, and voices.

To create a bridge into the future, Berlin's rise and fall is simultaneously reflected by a woman's aging in the present day. In relation to how important youth is in modern society and how quickly it fades into oblivion and contempt.

GENERAL

Performing at: Teatret ved Sorte Hest in April/Mai 2026 for 14-15 performances **Produced by:** Copenhagen-based HIT International Theatre Arts

Directed by: Alexandra Christensen

Cast: Katrin Weisser-Lodahl, Jana Pulkrabek, Joan Bentsen, Vanessa Poole, Mat Sanders **Video**

Installation: Petja Pulkrabek

Originally composed

