

Open Call

Fav26

The Favoriten Festival is the theater, dance, and performance festival of the independent scene in North Rhine-Westphalia. It has been held every two years in Dortmund since 1985. The festival is organized by the NRW Landesbüro Freie Darstellende Künste (North Rhine-Westphalia State Office for Independent Performing Arts) and the City of Dortmund. Artists can apply to participate in the program for the October 2026 edition of the festival with their productions.

For the 2026 program selection, we are reviewing productions from North Rhine-Westphalia in the fields of dance, theater, performance, youth theater, installation, contemporary circus, object and puppet theater, and other experimental performative formats. We want to create a festival edition that promotes inclusion, more accessible structures, and sustainable production as a standard practice and develops existing measures in these areas. We want to enable people to experience the independent scene in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Program selection

The final program is curated by the artistic direction team (Jonas Leifert and Rika Sakalak). A professional program advisory board of three members provides support with live and video viewing and the selection of festival contributions.

The program is based on the following overarching criteria:

- artistically compelling productions and positions
- relevance of the productions in relation to current social developments
- presentation of the diversity of the independent scene in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Productions are selected on the basis of creating a varied and coherent festival program. Due to the large number of productions, it will not be possible to invite all artistically relevant productions to the festival.

Application criteria:

- Premiere date between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2026
- Video recording of the work available
- Professional production of the independent performing arts
 1. Primary involvement of freelance artists
 2. Developed within the financing and funding structure of the independent scene
- Production with a clear connection to North Rhine-Westphalia (at least two of the following three criteria)
 1. Work or living center of the participating artists in North Rhine-Westphalia
 2. Financing and funding structure of the independent scene in North Rhine-Westphalia
 3. Presentation of the production in North Rhine-Westphalia
- Artists or collectives may submit a maximum of two productions

Conditions for participating at the festival

We value transparency in the selection process and in our collaboration within the framework of the festival. For this reason, we work with flat fees for all participating artists and contributors in order to assess the performances within the framework of the festival. It is important to us that artists know in advance the financial conditions under which participation in the festival is possible. Specific requirements will be agreed upon individually with the invitation to the festival. Due to the structure of the festival, rehearsals for the restaging are likely to be possible only to a limited extent. All persons actively involved in the guest performance will be taken into account.

Flat rates per person:

Performance fee: 400 euros / performance

Technical installation, rehearsals for the revival: 180 euros / day

Organization fee: between 250 and 500 euros, depending on demand

We will review all productions submitted via the open call by December 14, 2025:

[Application form](#)

We are looking forward receiving your submissions!

If you have any questions, please get in contact with us.

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