

‘pas pure, but porous’ – The Artistic Potential of Multilingualism

Workshop with Donya Speaks

Donya Speaks, dance and theatre artist from Bern and Tunis, is offering a workshop based on her guest performance ‘Bis zum Ende des Regens’ / ‘Jusqu'au bout de la pluie’ / ‘إلى آخر المطر’ (English: Until the End of the Rain).

Would you like to incorporate multiple languages into your artistic practice? Do you sometimes feel unsure about this? And do you often find yourself in-between – in translation, in the incomprehensible?

Under the motto ‘pas pure, but porous’ (English: not pure, but porous), this workshop deliberately plays with multilingualism. The aim is to discover the creative possibilities of different languages on stage – because the languages used on stage should be as diverse as our society is pluralistic.

The workshop is aimed at professional artists and students who are multilingual or interested in the creative use of language. After a short introduction and discussion, we will combine practical physical and writing exercises. Working in groups and individually, we will create spontaneous texts, which we will read aloud and which will serve as inspiration for our own artistic endeavours.

Donya Speaks grew up speaking Bernese Swiss German, French and Tunisian Arabic. Her experience of frequent misunderstandings at the kitchen table inspired her to use this phenomenon artistically. She plays with the phonetic similarities between her languages, combining the unfamiliar and the familiar to create new ways of listening and expressing herself.

Duration: 3.50 h

Capacity: 12 people

Participation fee*: CHF 50 / 25 (students)

*Should the fee of CHF 25 be too high, please contact us and we will find a solution.

Who

The workshop is open to all interested artists. Bilingual or multilingual artists will be given preference. Knowledge of German is an advantage.

Workshop languages:

German/English (with the possibility of French, Spanish, Italian and Arabic translations)

When and where

Sunday, 22 March 2026, 14:00 to 17:30

sogar theater, Josefstrasse 106, 8005 Zurich

Please register by 13 March by emailing info@sogar.ch