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Essen, 16. April 2012

Ruhrtriennale presents the programme for 2012, the first season under new artistic director Heiner Goebbels.

The international arts festival will feature numerous highlights in theatre, dance, music, and contemporary art held at venues of industrial culture in Bochum, Bottrop, Duisburg, Essen, and Gladbeck. Ticket presales begin on 16 April 2012.

16 April 2012 – During its first year under the artistic direction of composer and director Heiner Goebbels, Ruhrtriennale will be bringing numerous international artists to the Ruhr metropolitan area from 17 August to 30 September 2012. With over 30 productions, including 20 world premieres, new productions, and German premieres, the festival will transform outstanding industrial monuments of the region into spectacular venues for music, art, theatre, dance, and performance.

As Heiner Goebbels, the artistic director of the Ruhrtriennale 2012/2013/2014, puts it: *“For a powerful artistic experience we need to encounter something that we do not yet know: an unseen image, an unheard sound, a movement we thought was not possible ... I think Ruhrtriennale can offer all of this as an international arts festival, and I’m sure that our audience is curious to see what we have to offer.”*

Ute Schäfer, Minister of Culture for North Rhine-Westphalia, *“Now in its tenth year, Ruhrtriennale continues its program in an outstanding way. The festival is a cultural trademark of the Ruhr metropolitan area, marking its openness and diversity both regionally and internationally. I am happy that we have found in Heiner Goebbels an artistic director who fits perfectly into the line of previous Ruhrtriennale artistic directors, yet also someone who will work in ways that differ greatly from his predecessors. As someone who has radically reconceptualised the theatre, he will open new horizons for the festival.”*

Highpoints of the festival include the performance of the operas *Europas 1&2* by John Cage at the Jahrhunderthalle, staged by Heiner Goebbels and his team, Carl Orff’s *Prometheus* at the Kraftzentrale, directed by the Samoan choreographer Lemi Ponifasio, and the live art exhibition *12 Rooms* at Essen’s Museum Folkwang. Jahrhunderthalle Bochum will also be hosting a unique double performance at sundown and sunrise: *En Atendant* and *Cesena* by Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker. A new guest at this year’s Ruhrtriennale will be the Canadian director Robert Lepage, who will present his new theatre cycle *Playing Cards* at Salzlager auf Zollverein, Essen and Romeo Castellucci, who will set in motion the limits of theatre at Duisburg’s Landschaftspark with the production *Folk*. An open-air concert by the Japanese group Boredom will provide percussion power at Bergarena of Halde Haniel in Bottrop. At the Mischanlage, Kokorei Zollverein, the Israeli artist Michal Rovner will be showing a video installation conceived especially for this space. In addition to *Europas 1&2*, Heiner Goebbels will also be presenting his latest music theatre production *When the Mountain Changed Its Clothing* with the girls choir Carmina Slovenica from Maribor.

One focus of the 2012 programme will be on dance. With Boris Charmatz, Tino Sehgal, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Jérôme Bel, Lemi Ponifasio, Mathilde Monnier, and Laurent Chétouane, several of today's most important choreographers will be participating in the festival. PACT Zollverein in Essen with its artistic director Stefan Hilterhaus will serve as the venue for several performances, including a production by the Nature Theater of Oklahoma.

Each Monday evening, classical chamber music concerts and concerts with improvised music will take place in the intimate atmosphere of the Maschinenhaus of Zeche Carl, including performances by the young Russian violinist Alina Ibragimova, Mandelring Quartett, or Trio Denseland, with their vocal and percussion virtuoso David Moss. A concert by the Mahler Chamber Orchestra conducted by Kent Nagano will explore the music of Charles Ives. Ryuichi Sakamoto and Carsten Nicolai (aka Alva Noto) will present the multimedia concert *utp_* at Jahrhunderthalle Bochum with Ensemble Modern.

ChorWerk Ruhr under the direction of Florian Helgath and for the first time the new Kultur Ruhr GmbH project Urbane Künste Ruhr under direction of Katja Abmann will also be contributing events to the festival. ChorWerk Ruhr will be holding a concert featuring a key work from Luigi Nono's final creative period. *Pulse Park*, an interactive installation by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, will transform Bochum's Westpark into a sea of lights brought to life by the heartbeats of passersby.

The Ruhrtriennale will turn to children and young adults with the *No Education* projects, and include students in the programme. Children will be the experts for the *Children's Choice Awards*, an independent festival jury, and will be the builders at the project *Our CenturY* by Köbberling/Kaltwasser, a huge installation around Jahrhunderthalle. Bochum's Westpark will also serve as a festival campus: students from twelve European art schools and theatre departments will visit productions of the Ruhrtriennale and participate in seminars and workshops that accompany the festival.

At *tumbletalks*, a weekly series of conversations at Essen's Museum Folkwang, visitors will enter into direct contact with the artists of the Ruhrtriennale. 900 artists from Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the UK, Slovenia, Slovakia, France, the US, Canada, Japan, China, Spain, Belgium, Israel, Austria, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Cuba, Brazil, Italy, and Serbia have been invited and will take part in over 100 performances.

For more information on journalist accreditation, visual and text material, please visit the press area of our new website, www.ruhrtriennale.de

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Die Ruhrtriennale wird gefördert vom Ministerium für Familie, Kinder, Jugend, Kultur und Sport des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen sowie von der Europäischen Union – Europäischer Fonds für regionale Entwicklung. Gesellschafter: Land Nordrhein-Westfalen, Regionalverband Ruhr und Verein pro Ruhrgebiet. Europas 1&2 wird gefördert von der Kunststiftung NRW, Prometheus durch die Kunststiftung des Bundes.