

Press release | 15 October 2024

euro-scene Leipzig cancels the guest performance AND HERE I AM by Freedom Theatre / Ahmed Tobasi, Hassan Abdulrazzak, Zoe Lafferty

Following accusations of anti-Semitism against the Freedom Theater, the performances of the production **AND HERE I AM** scheduled for 6 and 7 November will not take place. The debate surrounding the invitation of the artists from Jenin in the West Bank was conducted both locally and in the national media, sometimes leading to contradictory escalations.

In this context, the direction of euro-scene Leipzig has repeatedly distanced itself from anti-Semitism, jihadism, terrorism and calls for boycotts. At the same time, however, the festival direction regrets that the production, without ever having been shown in Germany, could provoke such reactions only because of its announcement.

Against the backdrop of a highly polarized debate about the omnipresent Middle East conflict, the festival direction had hoped to cast a glance at the individual in times of escalating conflict with a strongly biographical work from 2017. Christian Watty notes with regret that the performance cannot be shown in Leipzig at the present time - also due to the valid resolution ("Against all anti-Semitism!") passed by the Leipzig City Council on 26 June 2019. The resolution obliges the city's cultural institutions to distance themselves from any calls for a boycott of Israel in particular.

After consulting and coordinating with the City of Leipzig, the Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism and other project partners, the direction of euro-scene Leipzig has come to the conclusion that the guest performance will be canceled.

Tickets already purchased for **AND HERE I AM** can be returned at the ticket office where they were purchased.

You can find this year's euro-scene Leipzig program on the [website](#) and in the [program booklet for download](#).

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