Guido Markowitz/ MA

Direktor Tanz und Chefchoreograf

Artistic director of the CCB Tanzhaus Johann Kresnik

Erbprinzenstrasse 21

75175 Pforzheim

Tel. ++49 (0) 173 6916220

guido.markowitz@web.de, guido.markowitz@pforzheim.de





Guido Markowitz

I find it fulfilling to choreograph
with a glimpse into the future
Dance is breathing – pure life.

Guido Markowitz

Born May 23, 1969 in Villach (Austria), Markowitz has been dance director at the Pforzheim Theater since 2024 Artistic Director of the CCB Austria Johann Kresnik Tanzhaus. Until June 2023, he also held the position of board member of the umbrella organization Dance Germany, where, among other things, he initiated the pilot project “Dance Digital”.

His catalog of works include almost 60 full-length new creations in contemporary ballet and dance theater as well as direction and choreography for productions in the fields of drama, opera, operetta and musicals (see list of works, page 8).

He was one of the first choreographers in Germany to initiate and create fulllength dance pieces for teenagers and young adults. For this he has been honored several times with national awards. In 2019 he was honored with the Isadora Prize from the Iwanson Sixt Foundation in Munich for his outstanding achievements in contemporary dance.

His works have been selected several times for the German theater prize DER FAUST, including “Mozart Requiem – Celebrate Life!” (2018), The 4 Seasons (2019) Nureyev (2023) Nutcracker (2024) and Tristan und Isolde(2025). 2022 Head of the Year for Culture in Carinthia, Austria and 2023 Culture Prize Winner of the City of Villach followed. His Nutcracker was selected by the Stuttgarter Zeitung, Stuttgarter Nachrichten as the best piece of the year in the TANZ yearbook in 2024.
He was a board member of the German Dance Association, the BW Dance Scene and the North Rhine-Westphalia Dance Association.



Fotos: „Brahms – Glaube Liebe Hoggnung“ (2021); „Die vier Jahreszeiten“ (2020), Ch: G. Markowitz

Artistic profile
Choreographing, curating and diversity of dance languages

Guido Markowitz brings to life the large, full-length works of orchestral compositions, be it by Mozart, Brahms,Beethoven, Stravinsky, Glass or Richter. In his art, based on keen observation of the world, he deals with psychological and existential issues of people, society, time and art using universal images and figures and emotionally tangible narrative threads. At the same time, over the years he has brought curation into the theater to bring a variety of dance closer to the audience. Diversity and visibility are important components of his management work. The focus of his choreographic work is on the dancer as an artist who gives him space to develop.

All of his works have a narrative approach that can be broken down into different levels of association, from the concrete to the highly abstract. In this way, new, concise narratives emerge that are born from music, events in the world or the specific cosmos of the dance and art world.

The way to find movement is through emotions and strong impressions and images that rhythms, music, voice, silence and sound evoked in him. Markowitz translates his impressions onto the stage in a powerful visual way, incorporating objects and using the means of new media.

For this, Markowitz chooses a physical, highly dynamic dance language with a strong contemporary influence. It is gesturally differentiated and is able to use other styles - from neoclassical ballet to urban or theatrical-dance elements.

To show audiencse what international dance language is all about, this has developed into a successful series involving guest choreographers. Curating yields diversity.

All works integrate other art forms, especially video projections, visuals and digitally produced spatial productions. The concept of time plays a central role in all of his works with a semi-narrative approach.

Other striking domains in Markowitz's artwork include the full-length sitespecific work at unusual dance locations in a city, which is implemented with a wide variety of cooperation partners - from museums to churches to universities and sports facilities - as well as the dramaturgically high-quality, cinematic recapitulation or re-staging of the dance productions for online audiences.

In addition, the piece “Heimatwelten” (2015) was created for the St. Michael Castle Church, “Swim if you can!” (2016) for the Emma Jäger swimming pool and “Perfekt unperfekt” (2018) for the Pforzheim Jewelry Museum in the Reuchlinhaus. People from other areas of society took part in each piece,

such as people who have lost their homes in “Home Worlds”, water polo players from the 1st BSC Pforzheim 1896 in “Swim if you can!”, and the crippled ballet dancer Sophie Hauenherm in “Perfekt imperfect”

Every dance performance today begins with a free backstage tour with Guido Markowitz and a dramaturgical, informal introduction to the piece and ends with the opportunity to talk to dancers in the foyer after the performance about what they saw and experienced. Rehearsals open to the public, “meet & greet events” and various special events, including the “International Ballet Gala” that takes place every two years, strengthen audience loyalty.

The Dance Digital German program, funded by the Federal Cultural Foundation, was developed in Pforzheim under his leadership. There are now more than 15 funded companies throughout Germany.



Fotos: „Metamorphosen“ (2019); „Brahms – Glaube, Liebe Hoffnung“, Ch: G. Markowitz

Collaborations

The Dance Theater Pforzheim consistently broke new ground in the area of collaborations. It was the first dance ensemble to establish a permanent collaboration with the Jewelry Museum. The ensemble has been rehearsing and creating regularly there since 2018, and since the beginning of the 2019/2020 season, constantly in one of the light-flooded museum rooms. A professional dance floor was installed for this purpose. Furthermore, the Ballet Theater Pforzheim, supported by the Federal Cultural Foundation, was the only ensemble TANZLAND cooperation partner of four cities in Germany: Waldkraiburg (2017 - 2018) and Metzingen (2018 - 2020) Traunreut and Biberach (2022 to 2024). In 2018, it launched a multi-part exchange project supported by the Enzkreis with the choreographer and dance scene in the Swedish twin city in Linköping and in 2019 a cultural exchange project with the Siberian twin city Irkutsk. The dance director also regularly communicated with other partner cities. On June 29, 2021, the dance film “Brahms – Faith, Love, Hope” opened the cultural summer in Osiejk and a successful workshop program was held in 2022.

State funding

The state of Baden-Württemberg has been supporting the success of the Dance Theater Pforzheim with additional funds since 2018. In 2020, Guido Markowitz and Damian Gmür were part of the State Secretary's delegation to India to develop new contacts for cultural exchange in the field of dance in India on behalf of Baden-Württemberg.
In November 2021, the Dance Theater Pforzheim took over the cultural program in the pavilion of the state of Baden-Württemberg at the Expo in Dubai for a week.
Thanks to newly-won state funding (“Städtebalett Südwest”), guest performances were increased from two to seven cities in Germany and Austria, including Villach.
The country supported the implementation of the Urban Lab project and the Wonder festival program, which became part of Ornamenta.

Artistic career

Guido Markowitz studied classical ballet as well as contemporary and modern dance and dance pedagogy at the Iwanson International School of Dance. In 1996 he completed his training as a qualified stage dancer. He was then engaged as a dancer at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich and at the Münster Municipal Theater Dance Theater under the direction of Brigitta Trommler. In 1996 he transfered to the dance ensemble at the Darmstadt State Theater, taken over by Trommler, as a soloist and choreographer, where he stayed until 2006.
From 2004 onwards, parallel to his engagement in Darmstadt, he began to specifically expand his work as a freelance choreographer and director. By 2014, he had created a total of over 50 choreographies and stagings for dance, drama, opera and youth productions, including for the Göteborg Danstheater in Sweden, the Shenzhen Ballet in China, the Linz Theater, the Saarland State Theater, the Graz Ballet, New Dance Udine, Schauspielhaus Bochum or Tanzhaus NRW, MDT Ankara.

Awards

2009 “Wild Times” is honored by the jury of the educational initiative of the Cultural Foundation of the States to open the “Children to Olympus” congress.
2014 “Cage” (co-choreography: Daniela Rodriguez Romero) for the I Move Company at the Saarland State Theater is honored as an award-winning production at 1st Youth Dance Meeting of the Berliner Festwochen in Berlin and awarded as the opening piece in the national competition. The production receives a further award from the Federal Ministry of Education and Science.
2014 “Da-heim” receives the Federal Prize at the Berliner Festwochen.
2011, 2012 and 2018 and 2023 – nominations among the final eight for the German Theater Prize “Der Faust”

2019 Honor for outstanding achievements in contemporary dance with the Isadora Prize from the Iwanson Sixt Foundation and the City of Munich.
2022 Elected Head of the Year 2022 for Culture in Austria in 2022.
2023 Cultural Prize Winner of the City of Villach, Austria.
2024 Artistic Director of the CCB Austria Johann Kresnik Tanzhaus.
2024 Nutcracker was selected by the Stuttgarter Zeitung, Stuttgarter Nachrichten as the best piece of the year in the TANZ yearbook.

Further education

2021 "From artist to director - leading well", Bettina Knappe
"Manager as coach", Bettina Knappe
"Career anchor", Kornelia Rappe-Giesecke
2020 "Diversity", Christina Barandun
2024 Study Master of Choreography - Palucca University for Dance



Video Links

Le Sacre du Printemps (Choreography: G. Markowitz)
https://youtu.be/0bfHg5za8aY — **Full version**

Schwan Kuğu MDTAnkara (Choreography: G. Markowitz)
https://youtu.be/KWmuK_tDqfM — **Full version**

Schwanensee (Choreography: Mar Roudriguez Valverde und Guido Markowitz)
ttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxxxRk1z1vE — **Full version**

Tristan und Isolde (Choreography: G. Markowitz, Music:Richard Wagner)
https://youtu.be/fDI7yFwX0H0 — **Full version**
https://youtu.be/NQoUBf4iEkc?feature=shared — **Trailer**

Glaube Liebe Hoffnung (Choreography: G. Markowitz, Music: Brahms)
https://youtu.be/fac-_kWyvTE — **Full version**
https://youtu.be/5KnS_sEdZpU?feature=shared — **Trailer**

Molimo / Kinder der Nacht (Choreography: Sita Ostheimer / G. Markowitz)
https://youtu.be/12UFONIWXgo — **Full version**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUSoppuCc_A — **Trailer**

Nurejew (Choroegraphy: Damian Gmür / G.Markowitz)
https://youtu.be/-XNpBmOMku0 — **Fullversion**
https://youtu.be/gbR6L9b7zEE?si=tAYOFZRrhmr94UHV — **Trailer**

Nussknacker (Choreography: G. Markowitz)
https://youtu.be/GoQ_mtRtU38 — **Full version**
https://youtu.be/Y050zyVDiJ8?feature=shared — **Trailer**

The Four Season (Choreography: G. Markowitz, Music: Max Richter):
https://youtu.be/arujdKKlcvI — **Long Trailer**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfFwFrW9V_s — **Trailer**

Mozart Requiem (Choreography: G. Markowitz, Music:Mozart)
https://youtu.be/Jga2ChAd-sc — **Full version**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeK6PnZ2OT8 — **Trailer**

Metamorphosen (Choerography: G. Markowitz, Music: P. Glass):
https://youtu.be/TkVtyYYAt1g — **Full version**
https://vimeo.com/339219549 — **Trailer**

Firebird (Choreography: G. Markowitz, Music: I. Strawinksy):
https://youtu.be/J0bKY2Byrdg — **Full version**
https://vimeo.com/339221008 — **Trailer**

List of Works

until 2002:
• TANNHÄUSER (Opera), Staatstheater Darmstadt: Choreography
• THE WIZARD OF OZ (Musical), Staatstheater Darmstadt: Choreography

2003:
• The Marriage of Figaro (Opera), Staatstheater Darmstadt: Choreography
• HUNDEHERZ (Drama), Gallus Theater Frankfurt am Main.: Choreography

2005
• 2005 IRON JOHN (Musical), Staatstheater Darmstadt: Choreography

2006
• Triumph of Love (Musical), Theater Heilbronn: Choreography
• SNOW MOTION (Modern Dance), Brotfabrik Bonn: Concept and Choreography
• Abflug (Tanztheater), Tanzhaus NRW, Jugend Dance Company: Concept and Choreography

2007
• ST. KILDA PROJEKT (Oper), Düsseldorf, international project: Choreography
• War and Peace (Drama), Gallus Theater Frankfurt am Main.: Choreography
• DIE SCHWARZEN BRÜDER (Musical), Schaffhausen: Choreography

2008
• ARIELLE (Musical), Theater Coesfeld: Choreography
• BATTLE YOUR OWN LIFE, Tanzhaus NRW, Jugend Dance Company: Concept and Choreography Co-Choreographer: Rochus Aust
• ANIME (Modern Dance), Orangerie Köln: Concept and Choreography
• SHAKESPEARE IN DANCE (Drama and Dance), Theater Itzehoe: Concept and Choreography

2009
• CARMEN (Opera), Nationaltheater Mannheim: Choreography
• FRAU IM MOND UND ANDERE LIEBHABER (Drama), Gallus Theater Frankfurt am Main: Choreography
• WILDE ZEITEN (Youth Dance piece), Tanzhaus NRW Düsseldorf: Choreography and staging, Co-Choreography: Damian Gmür
• PETER PAN (Musical), Theater Coesfeld: Concept and Choreography
• AMEISEN FALLEN NACH LINKS (Modern Dance), Orangerie Köln: Concept and Choreography
• TABALUGA (Musical), Theater Coesfeld: Concept and Choreography

2010
• TURANDOT (Opera), Nationaltheater Mannheim (Opera director and staging: Regula Gerber): Choreography
• TANZ DER HEUSCHRECKEN (Drama), Gallus-Theater Frankfurt am Main: Choreography
• PLATÉE (Ballett-Comedy), Theater Linz, (staging: Anthony Pilavachi): Choreography
• HAMMERZEITEN (Youth Dance piece), Tanzhaus NRW Düsseldorf: Choreography und staging, Co-Choreography: Damian Gmür
• AND SO WHAT (Dance), Mousonturm Frankfurt, in cooperation with the HR Bigband: Concept and Choreography, Co-Choreography: Daniela Rodriguez Romero
• DER KLEINE TAG (Musical), Open Air-Bühne Coesfeld, Concept and Choreography

2011
• EUGEN ONEGIN (Opera), Nationaltheater Mannheim (Opera director and staging: Regula Gerber): Choreography
• SECRET GARDEN (Youth Dance piece), Tanzhaus NRW Düsseldorf: Choreography and staging, Co-Choreography: Damian Gmür, Daniela Rodriguez Romero
• HUMAN ZOO (Dance), Orangerie Köln: Concept and Choreography
• SOMETIMES IT IS NOT NICE TO BE (Ballett), Ballett Oper Graz: Concept and Choreography
• ONE (Dance), Orangerie Köln: Concept and Choreography
• FREIWILLIGE SELBSTKONTROLLE (Dance), Tanzhaus NRW (Junior Company): Concept and Choreography, Co-Choreographer, among others: Amelie Jalowy, Damian Gmür
• RESPECT (Dance), Saarländisches Staatstheater: Concept and Choreography, Co-Choreography: Daniela Rodriguez Romero

2012
• GRÄFIN MARIZA (Operetta), Baden: Choreography
• PLATÉE (Ballet-Comedy), Theater Linz (staging: Anthony Pilavachi): Choreography
• MOVING (Musical), Köln: Choreography
• ANGEKOMMEN (Dance), Schauspielhaus Bochum: Concept and Choreography, Co-Choreography: Daniela Rodriguez Romero, Kenan Ayalp
• CHALLENGE (Dance), Oper Göteborg, Co-Choreography: Daniela Rodriguez Romero
2013

• HAIR (Musical), Theater Coesfeld (Staging: Christian Schnell) Choreography
ES WIRD EINMAL (Drama), Schauspielhaus Bochum (Staging: Anselm Weber): Choreography
• GRIMM (Dance), Shenzhen Ballett, China: Choreography
• DA-HEIM (Dance), Schauspielhaus Bochum: Choreography und Staging
• CAGE (Dance), Saarländisches Staatstheater: Concept and Choreography. Co-Choreography: Daniela Rodriguez Romero

2014
• EIN MANN WILL NACH OBEN (Drama), Schauspielhaus Bochum (Staging: Anselm Weber)
STIFFELIO (Opera), Nationaltheater Mannheim (Staging: Regula Gerber)
• AUFSTEIRAN (Ballett), Ballett Graz: Staging and Choreography
• UNDER ROOM (Ballett), New Dance Undine: Staging and Choreography
• LA PURPURA DE LA ROSA (Oper), Pocket Opera Company Nürnberg, IGMIV e.V. Hauptwerkstätte: Staging and Choreography
• VETTER AUS DINGSDA (Operetta), Altmünster Festspiele: Staging and Choreography

2015
• HEIMATWELTEN, Theater Pforzheim –Schlosskirche St. Michael – Site Specific (Co-Choreographer: Damian Gmür)
• NABUCCO, Theater Pforzheim: Staging and Choreography

2016
• HEROES / THE LOVERS (Ballett), Theater Pforzheim: Concept and Choreography
• WEST SIDE STORY (Musical), Theater Pforzheim: Concept and Choreography

2017
• MOZART-REQUIEM – FEIERT DAS LEBEN! (Ballett), Theater Pforzheim: Concept and Choreography
• BARBIER VON SEVILLA (Oper), Theater Pforzheim: Staging und Choreografy
• GOLDSTADTJUBILÄUM (Gala), Theater Pforzheim: Staging

2018
• PERFEKT UNPERFEKT (Ballett), Theater Pforzheim - Schmuckmuseum Pforzheim – Site Specific (Co-Choreographer: Damian Gmür)
• LA CAGE AUX FOLLES (Musical), Theater Pforzheim: Choreography

2019
• VERWANDLUNGEN – DER FEUERVOGEL / METAMORPHOSEN (Ballet); Theater Pforzheim: Concept and Choreography of DER FEUERVOGEL (Ballett),OVID – VERWANDLUNGEN (Ballett), METAMORPHOSEN (Ballett).
• ZIGEUNERLIEBE (Operetta); Bühne Baden, Austria: Choreography (Staging: Isabella Fritdum)
• WIENER BLUT (Operetta); Theater Pforzheim: Staging together with Hannes Hametner and Choreography

2020
• DIE VIER JAHRESZEITEN (Ballet); Theater Pforzheim: Concept, Staging and Choreography
• Being Human (Digital); 4 parts
• Digitalisation of the production: Brahms- Glaube Liebe Hoffnung

2021/22
• Brahms- Glaube Liebe Hoffnung (Ballet); Theater Pforzheim: Concept, Staging and Choreography (Austrian Premiere)
• Freedom (Dance); Theater Pforzheim: Concept, Staging and Choreography
• Run 16.6 (Dance piece); Contract piece from the ZHdK Zürich
• Beethoven unerhört grenzenlos, Theater Pforzheim

2022/23
• Nurejew (Dance) Theater Pforzheim: Concept, Staging and Choreography
• Evita; Musical Choreography
• Kinder der Nacht (Dance) Theater Pforzheim: Concept, Staging and Choreography

2023/24
• Nussknacker uns Mausekönig (Dance) Theater Pforzheim: Concept, Staging and Choreography
• The Merry Widow Theater Pforzheim: Choreography

2024/25
• Tristan und Isolde (Dance-Opera after Richard Wagner with singers) Theater Pforzheim: Concept, Staging and Choreography
• Swan (Dance) National Opera Ankara : Concept, Staging and Choreography

2025/26
• Swanlake (Dance) Theater Pforzheim: Concept, Staging and Choreography
• Sacre (Dance) Theater Pforzheim: Concept, Staging and Choreography

2025/26

• Alice in Wonderland (Dance) Theater Pforzheim: Concept, Staging and Choreography
• Alice (Dance) National Opera Ankara: Concept, Staging and Choreography