

FAST FORWARD

▶▶ EUROPEAN FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG STAGE DIRECTORS

FESTIVAL FORUM

13 – 16 NOVEMBER 2025

STAATSSCHAUSPIEL DRESDEN, GERMANY WWW.FASTFORW.ART



CALL FOR THE FAST FORWARD FESTIVAL FORUM 2025 AT THE STAATSSCHAUSPIEL DRESDEN FROM 13 – 16 NOVEMBER

WE'RE LOOKING FOR

7 students or graduates from the degree programmes theatre directing, dramaturgy / play writing or acting
& 3 theatre professionals from the work fields theatre directing, education and theatre management / production
who are proposed by 10 ETC member theatres.

The Project

Since 2024 the **Fast Forward Festival Forum** is part of the ETC's **NEXT GENERATION PROGRAMME** together with the European Theatre Academy in Avignon and with the platform Transmission that is part of the Festival TNB at the National Theatre of Brittany in Rennes, France.

The core idea of the Fast Forward Festival Forum is to form a 4-days-working group of students resp. young graduates and theatre professionals who map and discuss on eye level the current and future issues of the theatre sector. Furthermore, the group will watch the performances shown at Fast Forward festival and meet their artistic teams in order to discuss and learn more about the artistic, structural and cultural backgrounds in the different European countries. Every years Forum's group shall be formed by and together with 10 ETC member theatres.

The National Theater of Brittany in Rennes, France, and the National Theater of Greece in Athens, which both include professional theater education under their roofs, will propose two of ten possible participants.

The Festival

Fast Forward is a European festival for young stage directors at Staatsschauspiel Dresden in Germany presenting every year in November within four days 7-8 performances from all over Europe by artists who are still at the beginning of their careers as directors. The festival shows the diversity of contemporary theatre, provides the next generation a platform and offers the audience a place for discoveries. An international jury awards one of the invited productions a festival prize, the winner of which is invited to create a new production at the Staatsschauspiel Dresden. There is also an audience prize and the award of a young jury. Fast Forward was founded in 2011 at the Staatstheater Braunschweig and takes place at the Staatsschauspiel Dresden since 2017. For the last editions please s. <https://www.fastforw.art/en/>

What the Forum together with the ETC is going to look for: objectives & philosophy(ies)

Forming a temporary community that sheds light on a multi-voiced next European theatre generation by gathering a group of people in which each single perspective is understood as an expertise, can be seen as a starting point to focus on necessary changes. **Being aware of the different objectives and interests existing side by side in the field** and

shaping not only individual perspectives but in particular **different experiences** of different generations and identities, of different cultures and countries, of different professional structures, of intended national or international work frames, **the Forum refrains from prescribing a specific topic to the group**. By gathering a 'temporary community' it rather aims to develop an open and dynamic tool in order to map the needs and issues of young theatre artists, to inspire the professionals to give their expertise and possibly at the same time to re-invent it in dialogue with the next generation:

In order to contemplate together models of new partnerships and collaborations with institutions and producers. **The challenges to become a theatre professional in the theatre industry** is a central issue in the academies and for the next generation – but as well for the institutions.

Being convinced that the future needs team work and that the theatre sector needs international networks for the arts – and to an even bigger extent for the societies we're living in – **we're looking for those who are as well looking for new tools to achieve this to participate in the Forum**.

We would like to offer you the following to find out if this is the right project for you:

The following questionnaire could bring your interests and objectives together with those of the young generation. If you do find at least two questions that would interest you to work on or if you have more to add on the list, the Forum is probably just the right project for you:

What do you want to learn? – What do you not want to repeat anymore? – Are there things you're missing in your every day practice? – Do you sometimes dream of going back to an academy and take some time to study again? – What are you lacking time for? – Where are you having encounters with young artists? – Where are you looking for them? – What would you imagine of how the next generation could alter you? – What kind of practices do you want to share? – How internationally can you imagine to work yourself? – What kind of audiences are you looking for? – What are you dreaming of? – ...

Discovering what we haven't discover yet: How to pass back the ball to the ETC network?

How to feedback and share the experiences and inspirations that may become worth to feed into a broader discussion, into a broader network? How to build an ongoing and diverse laboratory for artistic and social practice? How to profit in a sustainable way from these exchanges together and individually? How to meet, inspire and empower makers and audiences to continue the dialogue, to handle complicated situations and to inspire changes that so many are looking for?

This is at least one of the questions for the upcoming Forum's group. We know what we're looking for but not yet how to achieve this: So ideas are welcome!

Organisational details & how to express your interest to take part

You're asked to suggest either a young artist (student or graduate) or a theatre professional – be it from inside, be it from outside your institution – to be send to the Forum. It should be somebody in who's perspective, experience and feedback you're interested in and with whom you will start or continuing a dialogue. The person should come from one of the fields listed on top of page 1. You're welcome to send us if possible two proposlas: for a young artist and for a professional, provided that you agree that only one can be picked.

Please send a CV of this person with a short motivation why you propose this person to the Forum by **30 May 2025** at the latest to: charlotte.orti@staatsschauspiel-dresden.de

A first online meeting for the whole group shall take place in June 2025.

The Forum covers travels, accommodation, per diems and the theatre tickets for all participants.

It is not foreseen to pay a fee for any of the participants. In case a fee would be asked f.e. for a theatre professional who works as a freelancer we would have to check with the member theatre how to facilitate this together.

Travels, accommodation, per diems, tickets and all logistics will be organised by Fast Forward.

Arrival for all participants: Wednesday, 12 November.

Departure for all participants: Monday, 17 November.

The Forum starts on 13 November at 10:00 and will have a 4 days fully packed schedule.

You're having questions?

Please don't hesitate to get in touch: charlotte.orti@staatsschauspiel-dresden.de

