



**Children's jury: Freya Fasting, Hannah Klinkertz, Isabella Krause, Rufus Meuskens, Luisa Anne Riester, Marlene Ringsdorf, Amelie Stenglein, Milena Stiebens, Teo Clavo Tegtmeier, Matteo Wilhelm**

**The children's jury award goes to Junges Theater Münster for its production of "Der Katze ist es ganz egal".**

The jury's accolades:

We found the exploration of themes around trans identity and gender particularly engaging.

Although most of us already knew what "trans" means, this play taught us quite a few new things, such as that there are more genders than just boys and girls. In our opinion, this is something that everyone should know. Also, this play can help friends and parents learn how to deal with their children or friends being trans: everyone should accept everyone else just as they are. It shouldn't matter if a boy wants to wear skirts or whether or not a boy has a penis. Everyone should be allowed to play together as long as they are having fun.

Besides our enthusiasm for the story and the topic, we were also convinced by the way it came to life on stage. There were many funny moments, such as the roast potato song. The switching of roles between the parents, the friends and Jennifer was clear; the set and costumes were abstract yet offered creative possibilities. In addition, the music supported the story and Jennifer's feelings well.

**Youth jury: Noemi Anspach, Bahar Gel, Gustav Hellmann, Mika Koc, Milan Koslowsky, Lizika Schmitz, Ronja Simon, Lilith Talloen, Sarah Uwimana**

**"He who is in his right mind can never be happy"**

**The Westwind 2023 youth jury award goes to the production "Der geheimnisvolle Fremde" and thus to Junge Bühne Bochum.** We are a group of people of various ages who come from different social circumstances. The production we selected managed to touch each of us individually in terms of its aesthetics, plot, scenery, choreography and performance.

The ensemble succeeded in finding an effective way to tackle the medieval narrative and fanatic Christian ideology. The quality of movement and physicality of the artists gave us a special way to connect with the content on an aesthetic level. The choreography was expressive and made a lasting impression on us. The imagery it utilised has remained in our minds till this day and has given rise to further discussions about life, death, the consequences of our actions and moral dilemmas. The

sound design and musical accompaniment captured the subject matter well and enabled it to tell its own story.

The live collages projected onto the screen both punctuated the narrative and opened up exciting new perspectives.

Finely tuned details in the character portrayals and costumes significantly enhanced the characters' traits. The plot was delightfully easy to follow and the subject matter struck us as being simultaneously timeless and contemporary.

We believe that this production provides young people with a framework for exploring new and difficult issues and offers exciting insight into the possibilities of youth theatre.

### **Laudations of the awards jury: Bahar Gökten, Iwona Nowacka, Elene Philipp**

With radically nuanced directness, the performers establish contact with the audience and create a connection that lasts until the very end.

A connection that gives us courage to open up (to others as well as ourselves) and to recognise: you are not alone with your feelings.

Because often it is precisely these feelings that remain hidden.

They float around in our innermost thoughts and are difficult to grasp.

Yet everyone harbours them within themselves...

And expresses them in different ways, levels and intensities.

When was the last time you shared how you "really" feel?

What does your hopelessness look like? Your sadness? Anger? Loneliness? Your self-doubt? Your fear? Your denial?

The voices of young people, who not only have their say via sound bites but also veritably come to life in the bodies and language of the performers, provide insight into the depth of the ensemble's research process. Into a space where young people have opened up and can now share their thoughts with us through this play.

With their strong presence, humour, honesty and self-deprecation as well as through their craft, skill, creativity and even their use of stage equipment, the actors deliver an engaging performance. They seize the moment and play with the unexpected. They do not presume to be above this topic, but instead let it permeate their very being.

The production manages to render visible and reflect on the issue of depression, which has become quite common and relevant in our society, especially in recent years.

Not just for young people, but for everyone.

Our award goes to: the artistic team of "**dÄmonen**" by **FFT Düsseldorf** in co-production with Theater Sgaramusch Schaffhausen, Theater Liechtenstein TAK Schaan and ROTONDES Luxembourg.