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EVENT REVIEW

b12: RESEARCH OR DIE: THE FESTIVAL FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE AND PERFORMANCE ART IN BERLIN, SUMMER EVENT, JULY 2022

Reviewed by Beth Loughran, University of Cumbria

b12: research or die is a dance festival running yearly in Berlin, Germany and since 2017 based out of the Eden Studios and Eden Dock 11 performance space. The optimally equipped and cared for studios nestle among a leafy garden area to the back of the main building with hosting facilities and a café; a very hospitable and sociable environment for the international attendees. The original festival main event has usually run in the summer, yet its yearly development and growth means that there have been increasingly additional chances to take part. For example, the b12 spring and autumn iterations are now well established, and online participation has been maintained as an option stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic adaptations. In the case of the summer event, it runs as a series of workshops that organizers term as ‘researches’, with the opportunity for different lengths of experience from around two to thirteen days. ‘No leader improvs’, morning yoga, talks and performances appear in the programme too, all stemming from the artists, leaders and participants involved, some of these free of charge and others at additional cost.

The pricing structure offers variety dependent on the length of the workshop chosen. In addition, there are early bird and regular prices, and a discount that is also given to those with ten years or more professional experience. For example ‘4 days/16 hour workshop time/€190 early bird/€205 regular/€175 ten years of professional experience’ (Poulinas and Wieland 2023). These elements are assessed through the application process that takes interest in each applicant’s background, beyond basic personal details. Bundles of workshops that total more than €500 ascending to €900 receive further discounts, and this year’s festival (Poulinas and Wieland 2023) adds a new package that can include on site accommodation, at the Eden Studios.