

PRICE  
*PROLOGUE: MANTRAS  
FOR A CLUB*  
15.08.–03.10.2020

*PRICE* is a fictional character who appears in various performances. His work is characterized by elaborate soundscapes, costumes and stage design often developed in collaborative constellations. His productions play with the audience's expectations of the exposed, ostensibly authentic self of the performer, who emotes before their eyes. They are interspersed with pop-cultural set pieces, mechanical sounds, rhythms and his own singing voice. The voice forms a central element of his work. *PRICE* views it as an acoustic form of emotional communication outside language's imperative to create meaning.

In *PRICE*'s work, different spaces—each with their own economies, mechanisms of historization and exclusion, norms and potentials—overlap: the stage of theater and performance, the club, digital space, the fashion runway, the exhibition space. *PRICE* the drama unfolds against the backdrop of spaces divided into their individual, constituent parts.

His performances alternate between total immersion and the abrupt unmasking of the means of theatrical staging. Part of this involves the emotional work that has to be invested in order to maintain the fiction of the performer's individual identity—a genuine expenditure that is always also an effect, like the artificially shimmering sweat on his forehead. These are not the irreconcilable oppositions of artificial and authentic around which he moves. Rather, *PRICE* is interested in the conflicting relationship between these socially normative categories, the realm of which is the (queer) self, the (queer) body.

Misfit costumes reference a variety of other possible forms of wearing by different bodies; instances of stumbling and struggling sneak into *PRICE*'s work. For him, failure is always also part of a queer strategy: an indifference to assimilation, rigid identities and the demands on the self in digital capitalism. It is a second-degree failure that is always part of the presentation.

The exhibition *Prologue: Mantras for a Club* at the Stadtgalerie opens up acoustic landscapes. The performing body is absent. Present only through voice, it searches for new spaces, alliances and resonances among visitors: a game of access, proximity and ephemerality. As prologue, the exhibition is the first of a series of performances entitled *Mantras for a Club* to be presented at the Neumarkt Theater in Zurich and the Arsenic in Lausanne 2021.

Music composition and production in collaboration with:

*CECILE BELIEVE*  
*SEBASTIAN HIRSIG*  
*TOBIAS KOCH*  
*MODULAW*

Curtain design in collaboration with:

*VICTOR BARRAGÁN*

Production Consulting:

*EVA BUEHLER*

Production:

*REBECCA AMMANN*

Production assistants:

*OLIVIA BERTSCHINGER*  
*PAOLO MEREU*

Scent concept in collaboration with:

*IN'N'OUT FRAGRANCES*

Photography:

*RETO SCHMID*

Co-Produced by:

*STADTGALERIE, BERN*  
*ARSENIC, LAUSANNE*  
*THEATER NEUMARKT, ZÜRICH*

Special thanks:

*DOING FASHION*  
*HKB*  
*CHANTAL KAUFMANN*  
*LA BECQUE ARTIST RESIDENCY*  
*MICH SZEDLAK*

*PRICE* (Matthias Ringgenberg, \*1986 in Rio de Janeiro, BR) lives and works in Zürich. 2015 Masters degree at Hochschule der Künste Bern in Expanded Theater (former Performing Arts and Theater). Performances (selection): WIP Showing by *Overture (Mantras for a Club)*, Bela Maré, Rio de Janeiro (2020); *Melodies are so far my best friends*, Theater Neumarkt, Zürich; Beursschouwburg, Brussels, u.a. (2019); Swiss Performance Art Award for *Where do you wanna go today (Variations)*, Kaserne Basel (2018); *You don't touch it, it touches you*, DIANA art space, Los Angeles (2016); *Greatest Hits*, KEM space Warsaw i. a. (2015); *Can't say much about anything that's new*, Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris; *Arsenic*, Lausanne (2015); *A: I am impressed B: well - I am in love*, Video performance (2015); *Home is a place we all have to find*, (2015) Institut Modedesign Fachhochschule der Künste Basel.

Events

*Opening*

Friday, 14.08.2020

6 pm

*Public guided tour*

(with translation in

sign language, in german)

Wednesday, 02.09.2020

6 pm

*Artist talk*

with *PRICE*, Christoph Studer  
and Luca Beeler (in german)

Wednesday, 16.09.2020

6 pm

Stadtgalerie

PROGR

Waisenhausplatz 30

3011 Bern

stadtgalerie@bern.ch

www.stadtgalerie.ch

Opening hours

Wednesday – Friday

14–18 Uhr

Saturday

12–16 Uhr



Kultur  
Stadt Bern

SWISSLOS  
Kultur Kanton Bern