

## **Tarek Assam**

### **(Director Tanzcompagnie Giessen/Staattheater Giessen)**

Tarek Assam studied philosophy, sociology and pedagogics at the University of Bonn. After that, he studied dance at the Cologne Conservatorium. From 1985 to 1995 he was member of various dance companies in Germany. His career as Ballet Director and Choreographer started in 1995 at the Nordharzer Städtebundtheater (Halberstadt/Quedlinburg). The John Cage Foundation commissioned him to choreograph multimedia events for both the inaugural (2001) and second (2002) edition of John Cage's Organ Project ORGAN II / ASLSP. As a guest choreographer he collaborated regularly with the ballet company of the Varna Opera House (Bulgaria) and was awarded the Varna Cultural Award after restaging his choreography THE WALL. In 2002 he was appointed Ballet Director and Resident Choreographer of Tanzcompagnie Giessen/Stadttheater Giessen, and since then has created an extensive choreographic repertoire of full-length dance productions and collaborations with international choreographers, artists and companies within Europe, the USA and China. His artistic aim is to keep up a dynamic dialogue with, and between, different dance languages, performance genres, fine arts and technologies, in order to develop and research new performance techniques and choreographic approaches. In 2001 Tarek Assam co-founded the international TanzArt ostwest-Festival, which also takes place annually in the city of Gießen since 2003. Under his Artistic Direction the festival has initiated and fostered numerous exchanges and collaborative projects with international dance companies, theatres, academies, cultural organizations and solo artists, which continue to this day. At national and international level, Tarek Assam is regularly invited as a jury member for competitions and lecturer about dance at universities. Since 2017, he is presidium member and speaker of the *National Conference of German Ballet and Dance Directors* BBTK.