

BERLINER ENSEMBLE

**PRESS RELEASE
9 JUNE 2023**

REHEARSALS START FOR THE DIGITAL HYBRID PROJECT *FELIX'S ROOM* BY ADAM GANZ AND SCANLAB PROJECTS

**THE CO-PRODUCTION BY KOMISCHE OPER BERLIN AND BERLINER ENSEMBLE IN COOPERATION
WITH SCANLAB PROJECTS WILL PREMIERE ON 28TH JUNE 2023.**

Rehearsals for the digital-hybrid project *Felix's Room* by Adam Ganz and ScanLAB Projects began this week at the Berliner Ensemble. The world premiere will take place on 28th of June on the Berliner Ensemble rehearsal stage, which has been temporarily converted into an auditorium specifically for the production, which will run until 9th July. The theatrical installation is made possible as part of the joint project *Spielräume!* funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation and was selected by a jury from over 300 international applications.

Felix's Room tells the story of Felix Ganz, great-grandfather of the author and director Adam Ganz, and his wife Erna. Felix Ganz (1869 – 1944) was a successful businessman and art collector from Mainz. In 1942 he and his wife Erna were imprisoned in a so-called “Jewish house” before they were deported to Theresienstadt and later murdered in Auschwitz concentration camp in 1944.

Under the direction of Adam Ganz and the London creative studio ScanLAB Projects, the production reconstructs the room the couple occupied in a so-called “Jewish house” in Mainz using 3D scanning and projection technology. Over the course of the evening, the audience is immersed in the lives of Felix and Erna with the help of holographic effects. With BE ensemble member Veit Schubert and singers Alma Sadé, Johannes Dunz and Julia Domke from the Komische Oper Berlin, the musical-narrative piece takes its audience into the memories of the couple of 1920s Berlin, the many journeys undertaken by the carpet dealer and art collector Felix Ganz, and the elegant balls he hosted at his house on the Michelsberg.

The production also features an original chest of drawers that belonged to Felix Ganz which was in the room with them and was discovered during provenance research at the Landesmuseum Mainz.

Composer Tonia Ko has composed original music for the piece of furniture which draws on its extraordinary history – just one element of the music and songs in the production conducted and arranged by Christoph Breidler from the Komische Oper Berlin. The chest of drawers is one of the few possessions once belonging to the Ganz family that have been located so far; there is still no trace of Felix Ganz’s extensive art collection, consisting of numerous art objects from the Middle and Far East.

ADAM GANZ AND SCANLAB PROJECTS

Author and screenwriter Adam Ganz is a Professor at the Department of Media Arts at Royal Holloway University of London and Head of the Writers Room at StoryFutures. His research focuses chiefly on audio-visual storytelling, especially on the migration of audio-visual production processes into the digital realm, and other forms of collaborative narration. ScanLAB Projects is a pioneering creative practice based in London. Led by architects Matt Shaw and William Trossell, the studio produces distinctive artworks, films and immersive installations using the cutting-edge medium of 3D scanning. ScanLAB’s award-winning work has featured on the BBC, Arte, National Geographic, The Guardian and The New York Times and been exhibited internationally including at LACMA, La Biennale, The Louisiana, The New Museum NYC, the Royal Academy, and The Barbican.

“Felix’s Room” is supported by international touring theatre company Complicité and StoryFutures, the National Centre for Immersive Storytelling in the UK.

THE COLLABORATIVE PROJECT SPIELRÄUME!

In the context of the collaborative project *Spielräume!*, which is funded by the Federal Cultural Foundation, Komische Oper Berlin and Berliner Ensemble intend to develop new artistic digital formats that combine digital technologies with the classic elements, skills and resources of theatre and opera. Over the course of the year, Komische Oper Berlin and Berliner Ensemble will present further artistic and educational projects in cooperation.

The co-production “Felix’s Room” is part of the collaborative project “Spielräume!” funding as part of the Federal Cultural Foundation’s programme Kultur Digital. Funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

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