

New Art

on Stage

# brut



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**brut nordwest**

**Nordwestbahnstraße 8–10, 1200 Vienna**

Wed. 26 / Thu. 27 / Fri. 28 March, 20:00

**maria mercedes  
shining rose**

brut accessible

Dance

World premiere

without language / Audio description in German on 28 March

Duration: approx. 60 minutes

## Credits

**Concept & choreography** maria mercedes (Camilla Schielin, Julia Müllner)  
**Dance, choreography & performance** Camilla Schielin, Julia Müllner, Yoh Morishita  
**Music & sound** Hannah Todt, Lucia Kagramanyan **Fashion** Alessandro Santi  
**Lighting design** Samuel Schaab **Outside eyes** Alex Franz Zehetbauer, Asher O’Gorman  
**Audio description** Katharina Senk / Senki, Theresa Scheinecker / Ray

Thanks to Bears in the Park

With the kind support of Chanel Beauty

A co-production of maria mercedes, imagetanz 2025 / brut Wien and DOCK 20

Funded by the City of Vienna’s Department of Cultural Affairs (MA 7) and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, Civil Service and Sport



## Accessibility (regarding 28 March)

Tickets for assistants, accompanying persons and assistance dogs can be reserved at [brehm@brut-wien.at](mailto:brehm@brut-wien.at) or by telephone and WhatsApp on +43 676 587 8723.

We offer a pick-up service from the nearby tram stations so that everyone can find their way to brut nordwest. Please let us know at [brehm@brut-wien.at](mailto:brehm@brut-wien.at) or by phone and WhatsApp on +43 676 587 8723 and we will be happy to pick you up.

### Tactile guidance system

Contact persons wearing yellow waistcoats with small ringing bells are on site and are available if you have a concern or are looking for guidance in the theatre.

At 19:00 there will be a guided tour in which maria mercedes will present the costumes and Theresa Scheinecker / Ray and Katharina Senk / Senki will give a guided tour through the stage design. Meeting point is at 18:50 in the foyer.

At the beginning of *shining rose*, the audience moves through the room (individual seats are available). The audience is seated for the rest of the performance.

The audio description is provided in German via headphones. Headphones are available at brut.

If you have any questions, please contact Katrin Brehm ([brehm@brut-wien.at](mailto:brehm@brut-wien.at) and +43 676 587 8723).

## About *shining rose* by maria mercedes

From bud to flower to withering: *shining rose* links the life cycle of a rose with the checkered history of gossip. The duo maria mercedes, consisting of Julia Maria Müllner and Camilla Mercedes Schielin, once again moves between subtle humour and a tendency for extravagance.

Have you heard...? Initially, long before the existence of gossip columns or the yellow press, the term 'gossip' referred to close friends and a space for sharing private things. Dancers Julia Maria Müllner, Camilla Mercedes Schielin and Yoh Morishita combine loud whispering and gossip, truth and fiction into an alternative narration. The three parts of *shining rose* are connected by the motif of a rose as a metaphor for sprouting, flowering and withering. The piece is about volatile moments and transience, but the titular rose is also a symbol for romance and passion, or in its own words: 'Bathe me in hot water and I will ease your pain and cramps. I can confess your feelings when you gift me to your lover. When you pluck me from my garden, I will sting. In my love and my proclivity for romance, I am passionate. I rock in the wind with sensual timelessness. Call me Vibrant Red! In my inscrutable complexity, I am drama and magic. I nest beguilingly. Call me Velvet Plum! In my self-denying admiration and longing, I bid farewell and welcome new beginnings. I cling to the walls of innocence. Call me Pearl White!'

### Info

The performance on Thu. 27 March will be followed by an artist talk, Moderation: Katrin Brehm (Dramaturgy / Outreach brut Wien).

The performance on 28 March will be accompanied by a touch tour and an artistic audio description in collaboration with Theresa Scheinecker / Ray and Katharina Senk / Senki. The audio description is available in German and via headphones. The touch tour starts at 19:00, meeting point is at 18:50 in the foyer.

## Über *shining rose* von maria mercedes

Knospe, Blüte und Verwelken: *shining rose* verbindet den Lebenszyklus einer Rose mit der vom wechselhaften Image geprägten Geschichte des Gossip. Das Duo maria mercedes, bestehend aus Julia Maria Müllner und Camilla Mercedes Schielin, bewegt sich wieder zwischen einem Hang zur Extravaganz und subtilem Humor.

Have you heard ...? Ursprünglich, lange bevor es Klatschspalten oder Yellow Press gab, bezeichnete der Begriff „gossip“ enge Freund\*innen und den Rahmen, Vertrauliches zu teilen. Tratsch und lautes Flüstern, Wahrheit und Fiktion verbinden die drei Tänzerinnen Julia Maria Müllner, Camilla Mercedes Schielin und Yoh Morishita zu einer alternativen Erzählung. *shining rose* ist in drei Teile gegliedert, das verbindende Element dabei ist die Rose – als Metapher für das Aufgehen, Blühen und Verwelken. Es geht um flüchtige Momente und Vergänglichkeit. Gleichzeitig ist die titelgebende Rose auch ein Symbol der Romantik und der Leidenschaft – mit eigener Stimme: „Wenn du mich in heißem Wasser badest, lindere ich deine Schmerzen und Krämpfe. Ich kann deine Gefühle gestehen, wenn du mich deiner Geliebten schenkst. Wenn du mich aus meinem Garten pflückst, steche ich. In meiner Liebe und meinem Hang zur Romantik bin ich leidenschaftlich. Ich wiege mich im Wind in sinnlicher Zeitlosigkeit. Ruft mich Vibrant Red! In meiner undurchschaubaren Komplexität bin ich Drama und Magie. Ich niste mich auf betörende Weise ein. Nennt mich Velvet Plum! In meiner entsagungsvollen Bewunderung und Sehnsucht nehme ich Abschied und heiße Neuanfänge willkommen. Ich klammere mich an die Mauern der Unschuld. Gebt mir den Namen Pearl White!“

### Info

Im Anschluss an die Vorstellung am Do. 27. März findet ein Artist Talk statt, Moderation: Katrin Brehm (Dramaturgie / Outreach brut Wien).

Die Vorstellung am 28. März wird von einer Tastführung und einer künstlerischen Audiodeskription in Zusammenarbeit mit Theresa Scheinecker / Ray und Katharina Senk / Senki begleitet. Die Audiodeskription ist auf Deutsch und mittels Kopfhörern verfügbar. Die Tastführung beginnt um 19:00, Treffpunkt ist um 18:50 im Foyer.

## About the touch tour for *shining rose*

On Friday, 28 March, a touch tour will take place before the performance of *shining rose*. The audience will have the opportunity to meet the performers of *shining rose*, who will present their costumes. Theresa Scheinecker / Ray and Katharina Senk / Senki will give a guided tour of the stage set. Meeting point is at 18:50 in the foyer. Participation is free of charge, no registration is necessary.

With touch tours, brut Wien offers an alternative to verbal introductions to performances, focusing on senses that have previously been neglected during theatre visits. Tactile tours are aimed at people with and without disabilities. The format enables visitors to get closer to the stage, costumes and props via their sense of touch and explore them intensively. Visitors can also get in touch with performers and receive a wide range of contextual information.

## Über die Tastführung zu *shining rose*

Am Freitag, dem 28. März findet vor der Vorstellung von *shining rose* eine Tastführung statt. Das Publikum hat die Möglichkeit, die Performer\*innen von *shining rose* zu treffen, die ihre Kostüme präsentieren. Zudem führen Theresa Scheinecker / Ray und Katharina Senk / Senki durch das Bühnenbild. Treffpunkt ist um 18:50 im Foyer. Die Teilnahme ist kostenlos, es ist keine Voranmeldung nötig.

Mit Tastführungen bietet brut Wien eine Alternative zu mündlichen Stückeinführungen an und setzt dabei den Fokus auf Sinne, die bisher bei Theaterbesuchen zu kurz gekommen sind. Tasteinführungen richten sich an Menschen mit und ohne Behinderung. Das Format ermöglicht Besucher\*innen, sich der Bühne, Kostümen und Requisiten via Tastsinn anzunähern und diese intensiv zu erkunden. Zudem können Besucher\*innen mit Performer\*innen in Kontakt treten und erhalten somit vielfältige Kontextinformationen.





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## Interview with maria mercedes about *shining rose*

### What did you deal with the piece?

We have been interested in the history of gossip and its changing image. It creates alliances, excludes, but also can be a tool for sharing important information. Another central element of our performance is the rose. As a unifying or contrasting symbol of the tender and the hard, the wild and the cultivated, the rose is also a transmitter of messages, just like gossip.

Also, we found out that the rose used to be a symbol of ‘Verschwiegenheit’ or secrets. In former times ‘Sub Rosa’ signified that everything is under the seal of secrecy and confidentiality – das Siegel der Verschwiegenheit. Painted on ceilings in halls, even Goethe mentions sub rosa, it sounds dangerous and a bit uncanny, it was the perfect mysterious connection between gossip and the rose.

## **The rose is a central element in the piece. What fascinates you about it?**

The life cycle of a rose forms the dramaturgy of our performance. Bud, blossom, decay. What caught our attention was the fleetingness, the longing to hold on, the fragility of the bloom as well as the thorns of the rose. Theatrical, the extravagant, the expressive, or artificial, we found all of this in the symbolism of the rose. As a flower, it is dedicated to the goddesses of love Frigga, Freya, Venus and Aphrodite. Cleopatra also liked to surround herself with roses. In early Christianity, the rose was still considered a vicious flower. In ancient times, it had a reputation as the flower of the gods of pleasure.

## ***shining rose* negotiates gossip and attempts an alternative narrative.**

### **What exactly does that mean?**

We looked at the history of gossip. ‘Deriving from the Old English terms God and sibb (akin), ‘gossip’ originally meant ‘god-parent,’ one who stands in a spiritual relation to the child to be baptized. In time, however, the term was used with a broader meaning. In early modern England the word ‘gossip’ referred to companions in childbirth not limited to the midwife.’<sup>1</sup> Originally it was tied to an empowered idea of women, but the meaning of gossip shifted from the 1500s onwards with the rise of a patriarchal order. As our collaboration is closely linked to our friendship, we were very much interested in the subject. Working together to birth the performance *shining rose* follows the idea of structures of empowerment and ethical concerns throughout a rehearsal process and daily life.

<sup>1</sup> Silvia Federici *On the Meaning of Gossip, Witches, Witch-Hunting, and Women*  
<https://womenwritingarchitecture.org/citation/on-the-meaning-of-gossip>

## **How were your costumes created?**

In our former projects we mostly did the costumes ourselves and they always play an important role. For this work we are happy to collaborate with the Fashion Designer Alessandro Santi. After a shared research he created beautiful pieces that wittily capture all the elements of the rose we were intrigued by. Like the rose, the costumes are a reference to hyperfeminisation, almost Biedermeier. These garments bring in the glam, but pair it with everyday casuality, bring in form and the will to break it. They help us creating and feeling the characters we were building and they informed our movement quality (we are playing with.) What was and is





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always important for us, is that the pieces are not just an accessorie, but that we work closely with them throughout the process.

As the choreography unfolds in three chapters: bud / blossom / decay, the concept of the costumes follows the same storyline. Each of the dancers represent another rose character: Velvet Plum / Vibrant Red / Pearl White. The characters are not only visible through movement and gestures, but as well in colors, shapes and textures of the fashion.

The cocreation will lead to a further collection from Alessandro Santi.

### **What do you hope the audience thinks about when they see the play?**

We hope they feel included and excluded in the gossip, we hope they will feel a peak of a thorn, velvet petals of a rose and that they are growing and that something great is about to happen.



## Biographies

**maria mercedes** consists of Julia Maria Müllner and Camilla Mercedes Schielin. They live and work as dancers and choreographers in Vienna and Stockholm. As a duo, they make choreographies inspired by popular culture and move them into bizarre settings. Both of them are interested in fluctuating encounters between audience and performance. Since autumn of 2020, maria mercedes's pieces have been shown at WUK, Tanzquartier Wien, Kunstverein Eisenstadt, Haus.Wien, Mühlbauer, Bridging Cologne and KEX Fringe Kyoto in collaboration with Yoh Morishita.

**Yoh Morishita** is a choreographer and performer based in Vienna. Upon acquiring her bachelor's degree in architecture and design, she studied contemporary dance in Austria and Belgium. In her practice, she also concerns herself with the fusion of Asian and western cultures in her biography as well as in modern Japanese history. The world premiere of her performance *Chrysalis* was shown at imagetanz 2024.

## Biografien

**maria mercedes** besteht aus Julia Maria Müllner und Camilla Mercedes Schielin. Sie leben und arbeiten als Tänzerinnen und Choreografinnen in Wien und Stockholm. Das Duo schafft popkulturell inspirierte Choreografien und verschiebt sie in bizarre Settings. Das Interesse der beiden liegt auf fluktuierenden Begegnungen zwischen Publikum und Performance. Seit Herbst 2020 wurden maria mercedes' Arbeiten im WUK, im Tanzquartier Wien, im Kunstverein Eisenstadt, bei Haus.Wien, Mühlbauer, Bridging Cologne sowie bei KEX Fringe Kyoto in Kollaboration mit Yoh Morishita gezeigt.

**Yoh Morishita** ist Choreografin und Performerin in Wien. Nach ihrem Bachelor in Architektur und Design in Japan studierte sie zeitgenössischen Tanz in Österreich und Belgien. In ihrer Praxis beschäftigt sie sich nebenbei mit der Verschmelzung asiatischer und westlicher Kulturen in ihrer eigenen Biografie und in der modernen japanischen Geschichte. Bei imagetanz 2024 war die Uraufführung ihrer Performance *Chrysalis* zu sehen.

15.03.  
— 12.04.

imagnetanz  
2025

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**intro**



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