



..... International Press Service.....

Ressort: Kunst, Kultur und Musik

Post-Orientalist Express

ImpulsTanz Festival, 01.08.2026 [ENA]

The Post-Orientalist Express by Eun-Me Ahn (KR) at Burgtheater is a triumph. There are choreographers who deconstruct clichés, and then there is Eun-Me Ahn, who detonates them with confetti. At the Burgtheater, the South Korean auteur — often too easily labelled "Asia's Pina Bausch" — delivers the Austrian premiere of Post-Orientalist Express, the closing chapter of her long-running Asia Project developed through field research in Manila, Bali and Okinawa.

From the opening projections of clichéd "oriental" iconography, watched by a lone black figure, Ahn stages a knowing ambush. She enters herself in exaggerated Cantonese opera robes, and from that moment the piece becomes a rolling, ninety-minute study in productive dissonance: a Yin-Yang curve slicing across the austere line of Noh, a Kathakali mudra unfurling between them, all set against Young-Gyu Jang's techno-inflected score. Eight dancers, Ahn among them, move with the speed and physical intelligence of a company that treats acrobatics, satire and stillness as equal citizens.

What lifts the work above spectacle is Ahn's refusal of a single "Asian" essence. Orientalism, she reminds us, is not only a Western export; it is also traded between Asian cultures themselves. Her more than ninety self-designed costumes — larval sheaths, luminous panda-esque forms, dragon-emblazoned satin — function less as decoration than as arguments about who gets to define whom.

The result is a genuinely inter-Asian choreographic language: pop-cultural, ritualistic, futuristic, and radically dialogic. On the Burgtheater stage, Ahn does not resolve the tensions she names; she lets them dance. It is a dazzling, generous, and quietly radical evening — cultural exchange as choreography, and choreography as argument. Long after the final blackout, the Post-Orientalist Express keeps travelling in the mind of its audience, carrying us past the old maps toward a horizon that Vienna, this summer, was lucky to glimpse first.

[Bericht online lesen:](#)

https://redaktionkeller.en-a.de/kunst_kultur_und_musik/post_orientalist_express-94195/

Redaktion und Verantwortlichkeit:

V.i.S.d.P. und gem. § 6 MDStV: Dr. Nadejda Komendantova

Redaktioneller Programmdienst: European News Agency

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16
D-85055 Ingolstadt
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661
Email: contact@european-news-agency.com
Internet: european-news-agency.com

Haftungsausschluss:

Der Herausgeber übernimmt keine Haftung für die Richtigkeit oder Vollständigkeit der veröffentlichten Meldung, sondern stellt lediglich den Speicherplatz für die Bereitstellung und den Zugriff auf Inhalte Dritter zur Verfügung. Für den Inhalt der Meldung ist der allein jeweilige Autor verantwortlich.