

# Pina Bausch: A Revolutionary Force in Contemporary Dance

Pina Bausch is widely regarded as one of the most influential and innovative choreographers of the 20th century. Her groundbreaking work has had a profound impact on the development of contemporary dance and the way we think about movement, performance, and the nature of art itself.

Bausch was born in Solingen, Germany, in 1940. She began studying dance at the Folkwang School in Essen, Germany, in 1958, and in 1964 she joined the Wuppertal Opera Ballet. In 1973, she became the artistic director of the company, which she renamed Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch.



## Pina Bausch (Routledge Performance Practitioners)

by Royd Climenhaga

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Bausch's work is often described as postmodern dance, but it is difficult to categorize. Her pieces are highly theatrical and often incorporate elements of dance, theater, music, and performance art. She was known for her use of improvisation, allowing her dancers to help create the movement and narrative of the work. Her pieces often explore the human condition, delving into themes of love, loss, violence, and the search for meaning.

One of Bausch's most famous works is 'Kontakthof' (1978), which explores the relationships between men and women through a series of encounters on a dance floor. The piece features a group of elderly men and women who are paired up and encouraged to interact. The interactions are often awkward and sometimes even painful, but they also reveal the characters' vulnerability and humanity. 'Kontakthof' has been praised for its honesty and its ability to capture the complexities of human relationships.



Pina Bausch's 'Cafe Mueller' (1985). Photo courtesy of Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch.

Another of Bausch's most celebrated works is 'Cafe Mueller' (1985), which is set in a cafe where patrons and staff are trapped in a cycle of violence and despair. The piece is known for its intense physicality and its use of everyday objects, such as tables and chairs, as props. 'Cafe Mueller' has been interpreted as a metaphor for the Holocaust, but Bausch has said that it is not a political piece. She has said that she is interested in exploring the human condition, and that 'Cafe Mueller' is about the way that people can be trapped by their own emotions and experiences.

Bausch's work has been performed all over the world, and she has received numerous awards and honors, including the Kyoto Prize (1992) and the Laurence Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance (1999). She has also been the subject of several films and documentaries, including Wim Wenders' 'Pina' (2011).

Pina Bausch died in 2009, but her legacy continues to live on. Her work has had a profound impact on the dance world and on the way we think about art. She is remembered as a pioneer who pushed the boundaries of dance and challenged audiences to confront the complexities of the human condition.

### Quotes by Pina Bausch



***“I am not interested in making beautiful steps for beautiful steps. I am interested in making something that is necessary, something that you cannot escape from.”***



***“Dance is not just about steps. It is about the human condition.”***



***“I want to create a space where people can be free to express themselves, to be vulnerable, and to explore the unknown.”***

### Bibliography

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