CALL FOR ENTRIES:
Szenefenster

“Szenefenster” is an informal stage format for scene sketches, rough drafts, or almost-killed darlings — a space for experimentation. SHT and Dampfzentrale Bern hand over their stages to the local professional performing arts community. This glimpse into the local scene is uncurated. What makes it onto the stage is decided by a draw.

A mosaic of artistic voices and approaches, presented to an interested audience four times a year.

Mo 30.11.26 SHT, Saal
Tue 16.02.27 Dampfzentrale Bern, Turbinensaal
Mo 05.04.27 SHT, Theaterkeller
Wed 02.06.27 Dampfzentrale, Turbinensaal

Who can apply?
Artists from the field of performing arts – from dance to theater and everything in between – who have a connection to Bern are eligible to apply. A completed degree in the performing arts (BA) and/or proven professional stage experience is required.

What can be submitted?
Short performances, drafts, excerpts from plays, or experimental formats lasting 10–20 minutes with minimal technical requirements are sought. Student projects will not be considered.

What we offer:
- A simple lighting setup (front and backlight, plus a sound system) & light/sound operation during the performance
- 45 minutes of rehearsal time on stage in the afternoon of the performance day
- Catering throughout the day
- A flat fee of 200.– CHF per person for groups of three or more: a total flat fee of 500.– CHF
- Promotion through all our channels (website & social media)
- Apéro Riche after the performance

Conditions:
The application must be submitted completely and on time (see application form).
On the day of the performance, each group will have 45 min for technical setup.
Participants are limited to performers and up to one person for directing/choreography (provided they are also present on the evening of the performance).
Not eligible: technicians, costume designers, production assistants, or other non-performing contributors.

Travel and accommodation costs cannot be covered.

Exclusion Criteria:
Dampfzentrale and SHT see themselves as institutions sensitive to discrimination. The stage should be a place of mutual respect, openness, and lived diversity. If problematic content is identified, we reserve the right to exclude the work from the program.
Works longer than 20 minutes or technically not feasible cannot be considered.
Student projects will not be considered.

Submission:
Applications are accepted exclusively via the official application links and must include:

- A short project description (max. 1200 characters including spaces)
- Short biographies of the participants (max. 800 characters including spaces)
- Contact details
- Portrait photos of the participants and/or photos of the project

Only one application may be submitted per artist/group.
For each “Szenefenster” date, 3–4 groups are selected. Selection is made by lottery.
“Szenefenster” is an uncurated format. It is possible to apply for each date, but participation is limited to one performance.

Key Dates:
Szenefenster on 30.11.26, Schlachthaus Theater, Saal
28.09. – 26.10.26 Registration window open
02.11.26 Announcement of selected groups

Szenefenster on 16.02.27, Dampfzentrale Bern, Turbinensaal
14.12.26 – 13.01.27 Registration window open
19.01.27 Announcement of selected groups

Szenefenster on 05.04.27 Schlachthaus Theater, Theaterkeller
03.02. – 03.03.27 Registration window open
08.03.27 Announcement of selected groups

Szenefenster on 02.06.27 Dampfzentrale, Turbinensaal
31.03. – 28.04.27 Registration window open
05.05.27 Announcement of selected groups

Stage size:
Turbinensaal, Dampfzentrale Bern: 15 x 15,69 m
Saal, Schlachthaus Theater: 7,5 x 10 m
Theaterkeller, Schlachthaus Theater: 4,3 x 3,5 m

Questions?
If you have any questions, feel free to contact us by email:
tina.odermatt@schlachthaus.ch or tina.odermatt@dampfzentrale.ch