

“Who Cares” | No Limits Festival | Hebbel Theater | Berlin Nov 2017

Who we are?

Jeremy Wade a performer & performance maker based in Berlin in collaboration with James Leadbitter a UK based neurodiverse/madpride artist aka The Vacuum Cleaner. We're currently co-curating a symposium called “Who Cares” for the “No Limits Festival” at the Hebbel Theater on November 10th and 11th, 2017. James and I would like to open up a call to disabled artists, activists and thinkers in Berlin who might be interested in presenting their works or ideas in relation to the theme and practice of care. The artists and presenters will be chosen by a panel of diverse experts from the disabled community in Berlin and abroad.

What we are setting up

The symposium, “Who Cares” is looking for disabled and disability allied artists, activists, social workers and theorists to address the contradictions and possibilities of care within disability, art, culture and politics. In line with the perspective of numerous disability activists and feminists, we approach care not only as a medical issue but as a social and political strategy for the violent and incomprehensible present. We are asking: To what extent can the experiences of mutual caring serve as models for emancipatory relationships and action? “Who Cares” aims to address care methodology focused on:

- **Ethics of Care:** embodied as consensual, attentive, responsible communication with the pursuit of interdependence (mutual care); versus authoritarian hierarchies.
- **Activism:** embodied as actions that seek to raise awareness of, and promote social, political, economic and environmental change – with the desire to improve society and correct social injustices; and the resistance to care as a profit making and subject controlling tool.
- **Art:** creating new models of collaboration, extended social practice, world making, emancipatory conceptions of a body and mind, subversion, fierce critiques of power, sovereignty through redefined knowledge practices, living, working, and dancing together.

How to apply for one of three Open Calls to the Disabled Community in Berlin

Please submit a one-page proposal detailing the area of your interest, your relationship to the topic and how you would like to present your work/experience or practice. Please only apply for one of the open calls and include a brief bio, and a link to your work. As the project is funded we can pay an allowance for all the contributions to the symposium. If it is problematic to receive payment due to the restrictions of H4 we can discuss alternative strategies. Please also include details of your access requirements if appropriate. Proposals must be received by June 1st.

Please submit your proposal to: opencall@no-limits-festival.de

*If you have any questions, or require support to submit the proposal please contact the offices of No Limits, Berlin at: +49 30 956 22883

If you are unable to write, and would like to submit in a different format, please do so. However, if possible please ask a friend, supporter, co-worker to let us know how you plan to submit via email.

Open Call # 1 Evaluation Panel

“Who Cares” seeks three disabled artists, activists and or scholars from Berlin who will evaluate the symposium to ensure accountability towards the Berlin disabled community making sure that the work of the symposium benefits the lives of disabled people in the community. Positions on the Evaluation Panel are paid and panel members will meet three times for the following activities:

- a) Offer feedback for the selection the participants for the two calls detailed below.
- b) Consult and critique the symposium curation prior to program completion.
- c) Attend the event on November 10th, 11th, and 12th at HAU.
- d) Offer closing remarks & feedback at the final panel of the symposium in HAU2 on Sunday Nov 11th at 16:00.

Open Call #2 Art, Activism and The Politics of Austerity

Art is increasingly used to realize political aims thus becoming part of today’s socio-political discourse. How are disabled artist/activists around the world responding to the effects of Austerity measures? What strategies are disabled artists and activists using to defy, defend and challenge the cuts to social support. What new models of care are emerging out of our struggles to survive?

We are seeking Berlin-based artists, activists, or collectives to contribute to the topic of Art/Activism & Austerity. These offers can be performances, lectures, panel discussions in German, German sign language, other forms of communication and/or English. Each event should be no more than 30 minutes and will be presented in conjunction with the work of Robert McRuer & Liz Crow.

Your contribution will sit alongside Prof Robert McRuer, George Washington University to present his new book “Crip Times” Disability, Globalization and Resistance, charting various activist movements of people with disabilities in the U.S., Britain, Mexico, Spain and Chile. Following this, UK performance artist Liz Crow will discuss the legacy of her work as an artist and disability activist detailing her most recent epic work titled “Figures” where she made 650 clay figurines from the clay of the Thames representing those who have died at “the sharp end” of UK government budget cuts.

Open Call # 3 Forging Queer Caring Coalitions

Central to the activities of capitalism, the contemporary body faces constant demands to perform as a highly functional independent system in endless competition with each other. Without fetishizing disability, the symposium "Who Cares?" asks: to what extent can experiences of interdependence serve as a model for ethical togetherness.

For Open Call #3 we are asking for contributions from artists, activists and/or scholars as individuals or group to contribute to the topic of caring coalitions in the form of a lecture, presentation, & or films no longer than 30 minutes. When looking at emancipatory strategies for queer care giving and receiving what comes up? What kind of politics emerge between care providers and people who receive care within caring communities? If you could map out how you want to care and be cared for what would that look like? What does emancipatory and consensual care look like on a day to day basis? What happens to care when it is built on friendship, horizontal relationships or consensual hierarchy?