

# VerDragt euch! / Be tender to each other!

## Möglichkeiten eines gemeinsamen queeren Widerstands / Possibilities of a united queer liberation

We want to enter into a conversation. A confusion of words and theses that becomes a common murmur, a resounding together, in which many things can be found, questions, criticism, reproaches, challenges, consternation, rethinking, solidarity and above all change. Change of ourselves, of others, of the structures. Because freedom must no longer be considered a scarce commodity.

To this end, this document invites you to the Institute of Philosophy Universitätsstraße 7, Stiege III, Hörsaal 3D, 1010 Vienna on 30.06.2022 at 18:30. It - the document - and we, the AuA editorial staff and I, Paul\*A – for this evening Mistress of Ceremonies –, invite You to create a space together, where we can communicate freely with each other, to discuss our ideas of a living together and – last but not least, but still worth to be emphasized – to toast together with sparkling wine: so bring your own glasses! Because whatever the evening in a university might normally look like, this one is meant to be different, not a lecture or workshop, meant to be glamorous, meant to bring out of the night into the light of the day how living differently is possible.

The mysterious and somewhat perverted creature ALYSSO, Fem Queen Goddess Kristin Jackson from Kiki House of DIVE, and last but not least Lady Nutjob aka Jupiter Braun - "You may be a Nutjob, but you will always be a Lady" - will guide us through this evening of questions.

Based on and inspired by the strength, beauty and grace of a drag performance, it is about how we reclaim grace. Because the Grace of a situation represents the "recovery of the trust in the world, the trust that others do not want one's own injury or even killing, would not put up with it or accept it if something happened to one".<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this event is not to listen to a lecture or the reproduction of knowledge and then ask questions to the few who have already spoken. No. To get into a conversation about questions and to present one's own positions together is what this evening is supposed to be

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<sup>1</sup> Translation of: Paul\*A Helfritsch: *Aus der Nacht in den Tag. Ein philosophisches Plädoyer für die plurale Gesellschaft*, Bielefeld: transcript 2022, p. 96.

about. That means the focus of this event is on the questions themselves, not on those who try to answer them. – And we all have enough questions. – It is not about the individuals, it is about the questions, about presenting them and putting them forward in a particular way. It is about a ceremony of questioning, about a ball on which they relate to each other, turn around each other, play together to shape the space, change it by their appearance.

This idea finds a model, or perhaps better a precedent, in drag, in the Black and Latinx ballroom scene, in the Trans liberation movement, and especially in the words of Leslie Feinberg. It's about shifting identities, not because it's a choice made in complete detachment, but because identity only ever becomes important when we are forced into it by the world, its social structures or by others. So why to limit oneself, why to let oneself be fixed, why to be content with a form, if there are forms over forms, if there is a unity only and only in plurality? And really never in identity!

So this is an invitation and a call to help shape this evening, to shape the question "How do we want to live?" with further questions. Because then we could – to paraphrase Leslie Feinberg – get along, form a questioned alliance of "masculine females and feminine males, cross-dressers, transsexual men and women, intersexuals born on the anatomical sweep between female and male, gender-blenders, many other sex and gender-variant people, and our significant others" so that we can expand the understanding of how many different ways there are to be human.<sup>2</sup>

With the warmest greetings from the cold days  
and the desire to ask ourselves together here,

Your – at least for this evening –  
Mistress of Ceremonies Paul\*A Ntinomia

Please excuse any bumpy parts in this English translation. The way I write in German always causes some difficulties in translation

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<sup>2</sup> Leslie Feinberg: „We are all works in progress“, in, Feinberg: *Trans Liberation. Beyond pink and blue*, Boston Massachusetts: Beacon Press 1998, S. 1–13, here p. 5.