

**Christian Spuck**

**GERMAN DANCE AWARD 2026**

**Jury statement**

Following the life of a novel character, observing her weaknesses as well as her strengths and preparing a stage for her stages - this is what Christian Spuck did in 2023 with Bovary, his first production with the Staatsballett Berlin.

Flaubert's novel Madame Bovary was read in the ballet hall and questions about ‘how in space’ were explored. Spuck entrusted the title role to Weronika Frodyma, for whom Madame Bovary then became a stepping stone in 2024: Promotion to first soloist and award as dancer of the year in the magazine Tanz.

Even before Christian Spuck took over the Staatsballett Berlin as artistic director, audiences in Stuttgart, Zurich and around the world knew him as a choreographer with a passion for music. Christian Spuck was trained in the John Cranko tradition, gained experience in the contemporary language of movement, for example with Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, has established himself as a choreographer at numerous theatres, worked successfully as opera director of great composers from the Baroque to the present day and was celebrated as director of Ballet Zurich.

With every change of artistic director, the fundamental question of an entire theatre arises: What will change? What will remain? Above all, how? In Berlin, Christian Spuck chose a sympathetic path that attracted the audience to the performances and gave the Berlin company the chance to change its style: as an artist and advocate of the arts at the same time, Spuck is able to combine the long familiar with the still uncertain in a very short space of time. At the same time, new dialogue formats with the audience and artists get to the bottom of uncomfortable questions. Spuck remains in conversation, in dialogue with people. He shapes and pursues this path with the intuition of a dancer, the curiosity of a choreographer and the vision of an artistic director.

For his courageous, clear and outstandingly successful work with the Staatsballett Berlin, the jury awards Christian Spuck the German Dance Award!