# Christian Spuck

## GERMAN DANCE AWARD 2026

**Jury statement**

Following the life of a novel character, observing her weaknesses and 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 *Bovary* then became a steppingstone in 2024: Promotion to first soloist and award as Dancer of the Year in the magazine Tanz.

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

Every change of artistic director poses the fundamental question for an entire theatre: What will change? What will remain? Above all: how? In Berlin, Christian Spuck chose a sympathetic path that drew audiences back into the theatres and gave the Berlin company the chance to change its style: As an artist and advocate of the arts at the same time, Spuck was able to shape the Staatsballett Berlin with a varied programme and new formats for encounters with artists and audiences, combining the long familiar with the still uncertain. At the same time, new dialogue formats with audiences and artists get to the bottom of questions about the uncomfortable.

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.

The jury is delighted to award Christian Spuck the German Dance Award for his courageous, clear, persistent and outstandingly successful new start with the Staatsballett Berlin!