

Laudation for «Anfang.Ziege.Ende» by Christian Bollow Saturday, June 20, 2026

Kurtheater Baden

We have reason to celebrate: the ‘Grünschnabel’, the award for young puppeteers, is to be presented once again. But before we take a closer look at our selection, allow me to make a brief comment:

What we have been privileged to experience at Figura, and continue to experience, are outstanding examples of the independent (puppet) theatre scene – a scene which, despite generally limited budgets and very modest income prospects, repeatedly takes risks, dares to try new things, embarks on experiments, and rewards us with the astonishing results of its freedom.

However, the criteria for allocating public funds are changing. We will have to decide how much and what kind of art we want to support. The costs of the independent arts scene are manageable, whilst the potential for savings is minimal. All of us who have had the pleasure of enjoying Figura have a say in deciding where the money will go. Your attendance at the festival was, and remains, a powerful statement. Thank you for that.

But let’s get down to business. What have we seen?

For example, **Alles Gute**: Subi Lee’s tongue-in-cheek, inconclusive inquiry into what it means to be a good person, involving paper, gummy bears, water and other participants. And Lukas Schneider, who in his challenging project ‘Scaena Corpus’ redefines the standards and norms of the accepted body. In ‘Anfang.Ziege.Ende’, the Berlin-based ensemble Panne Fatale drives a couple into the mythological depths of their existence. In

‘Orlando’, the Rohstoff collective retells and expands upon Virginia Woolf’s novel of the same name in a magnificent spectacle. Finally, ‘Pelech – Das Nest’ by the Czech collective TMEL needs no words and little more than red sand and a few fibreglass objects to create an archaic depiction of the human world.

If all productions were answers, then the corresponding question might be: What is human truth, and what is the foundation of human existence? Whether as a theatrical experiment, a road trip or a declaration of faith – the theatrical exploration of reality shows that nothing can be taken for granted.
What have we been paying attention to?

Right then. Enough of this rambling. We just heard it.
The 2026 ‘Grünschnabel’ award goes to
Odile Pothier, Gerda Pethke, Lotta Lechtenberg, Tülin Hage-mann and
Staeff Günther from the Panne Fatale collective for their production
‘Anfang.Ziege.Ende’.

Why?

The production is a dance on the tip of a needle. It balances. It doesn’t make things easy for the audience, yet remains enchantingly light-footed. It effortlessly weaves together a banal relationship story and mythological imagery. Nothing is heavy with meaning, yet everything has meaning. But what exactly?

Does this tourist detour to the writing cave of the Evangelist John already foreshadow the later Apocalypse? Are the goats – by turns cheerfully animalistic and lustful, by turns menacing chimeras – the spawn of a fantasy spiralling downwards? What do the fish suggest? Is all lost in the end? Or is it us who sit there before the remains of our goat?
Questions that remain open, like windows.

And the whole thing is neatly wrapped up in a delightfully banal material world. The threat from the depths: a bundle of magnetic tapes. The car: a

soft-toy steering wheel and a fake windscreen wiper. The heart of the flattened goat: red slime. Reality is created through selection. The rest is enthusiastically taken care of by the audience's imagination.

The crude formula of the overall composition and the spaces for interpretation it opens up, the playful precision and the minimalist set design – but above all the sheer joy and wit of the performance – won us over.

We congratulate the creators on this work and extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in this year's competition.

Christian Bollow,
dramaturg at Stuttgart's "FITZ – das Theater animierter Formen"

2026 Jury Members

Christian Bollow

Gunhild Hamer

Anna Sommer