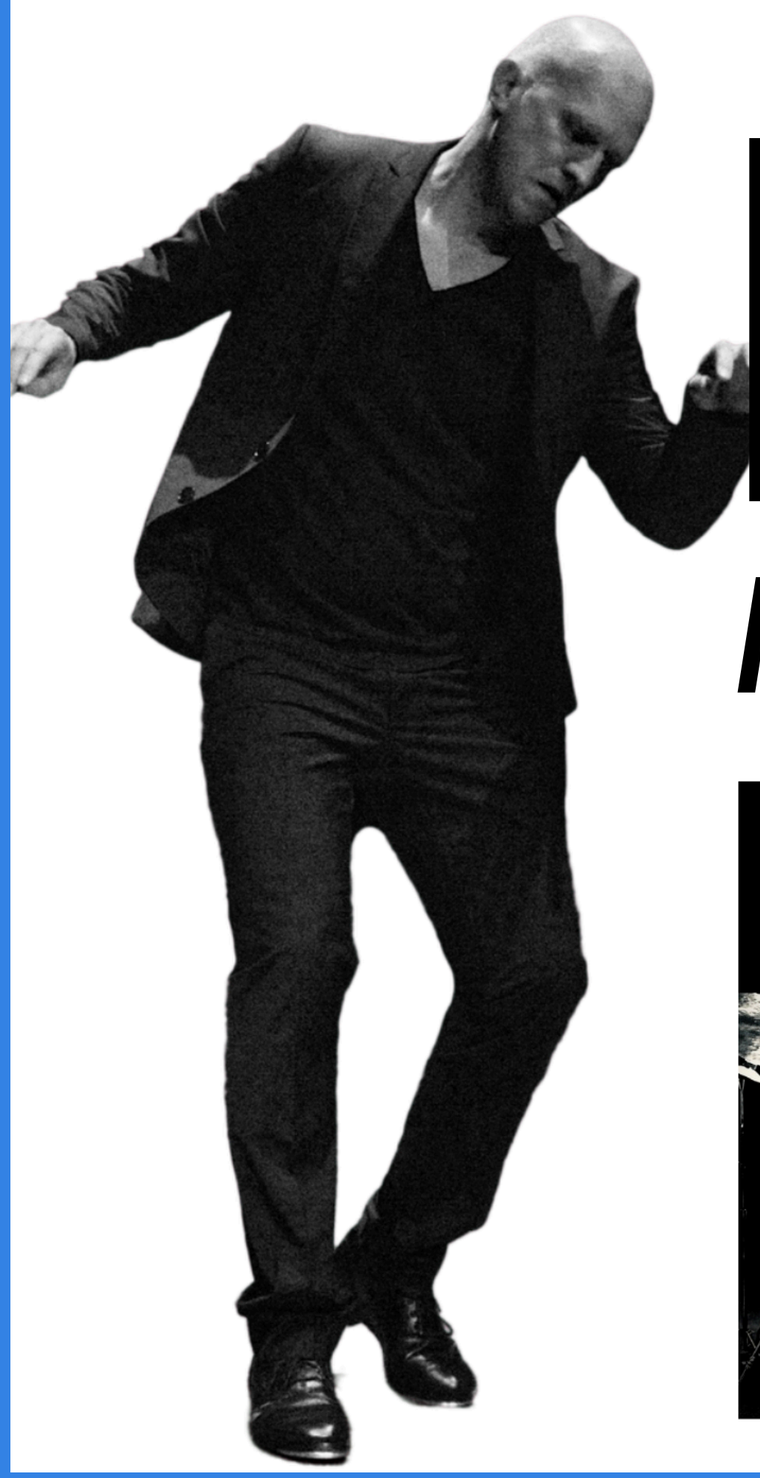


PLAY!

MAREK / SALESNY / SCHWARZ







THE TRIO

»Creativity is not the possession of some special talent. It's about the willingness to play.«
John Cleese

PLAY! is an invitation. PLAY! is an adventure. PLAY! is the new trio of jazz tap percussionist and drummer Thomas Marek with Gina Schwarz on bass and Clemens Salesny on saxophone. Their music is shaped by high intensity and intuition – powerful and avant-garde, tender and fierce – by a willingness to take risks on the instrument and a deep joy in playing together. A trio with four instruments.

Tap dancers are both dancers and musicians, and tap has always been part of jazz. Here, tap acts as an independent percussive voice, a full instrument in a contemporary, free musical context.

Through original compositions, standards and improvisation, the trio tells stories that emerge in the moment. It creates spaces in which sound, rhythm and time are explored playfully and physically inhabited, until the improvisations end up surprising themselves – breaking rules, straying from the path and finding new ones through creative interplay.

PLAY! is a statement.

THE ARTISTS

Thomas Marek — Tap Dance / Drums

For around 30 years, Thomas Marek has combined traditional and modern forms of tap dance with contemporary musical and theatrical elements as a performer, choreographer and teacher. He trained with Brenda Bufalino, Chuck Green, Barbara Duffy and Jimmy Slyde, among others, and toured the USA with Bufalino's American Tap Dance Orchestra in the mid-1990s.

Deeply rooted in jazz, Marek works with sound design, phrasing and tone, developing his own percussive language in which the whole body becomes an instrument. He has choreographed and produced numerous full-length dance pieces (including "about_tap", "NOLA" and "ORCHESTRA – expansions & dimensions"), teaches workshops internationally and performs regularly as a soloist at festivals in Europe and the USA. Born in Ludwigsburg in 1972, he now lives in Vienna, Austria.

Gina Schwarz — Bass

Gina Schwarz is a Vienna-based jazz bassist and composer who has helped shape the European jazz scene for many years. She studied jazz bass and accordion at the Vienna Conservatory, at Berklee College of Music in Boston and at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, and took additional lessons in New York with Buster Williams and Cecil McBee.

She received the Hans Koller Prize in 2007 and the K23 Culture Prize for Music of the State of Lower Austria in 2023. She is Professor of Bass and Popular Music at the MDW Vienna. As a bandleader, composer and sought-after sidewoman, she performs internationally with renowned jazz musicians and has released numerous albums, including "Way to Blue" (2022) and "Pannonica" (2020).

Clemens Salesny — Saxophone

Clemens Salesny is a saxophonist and clarinettist based in Vienna. He studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (now MDW). He has received the Hans Koller Prize several times (2001 New York Scholarship, 2006 Newcomer of the Year with JazzWerkstatt Wien, 2009 Newcomer of the Year) as well as the Harry Pepl Prize in 2013. In 2004 he was one of the co-founders of JazzWerkstatt Wien. Alongside his own groups such as Krbavac/Salesny/Dolp, Harry Pepl (tape) & The (Lonely) Single Swinger Band and his duo with bassist Raphael Preuschl, he has played with greats such as Joe Zawinul, Steven Bernstein, Oliver Lake, Kirk Lightsey, Bumi Fian and Herbert Joos, and has performed on stages in Europe, North America, Asia and North Africa.

MEDIA LINKS

Promo Video

→ Promo-Video PLAY! : https://youtu.be/lDydqWx7YDU?si=QhvkhiVvCjG_E5r3

Live recording by ORF (Austrian Broadcasting), Café RadioKulturhaus Vienna

→ PLAY! Live : https://youtu.be/de5aXMvostc?si=kx60HYrvmBl5-oNQ

Press Kit / Photos / Technical Rider

→ Dropbox Link to Press Kit & Media Files

PRESS REVIEWS

“Thomas Marek didn’t just dance to the music – he was a full-fledged soloist in a band that simply has a tap dancer in the front line instead of a saxophonist.”
Jazzpodium

“Thomas Marek brings an old art back to life.”
Werner Stiefele, Stuttgarter Zeitung

“...celebrated with breathtaking precision... Everything that jazz ever was or is today, sparkles.”
Frankfurter Neue Presse

press reviews are translated from German

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