

Nelken (Carnations)

Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch (Germany)



Nelken was first introduced in 1982 and is known for its dramatic set design. Thousands of carnations fill the stage as the dancers of Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch take their positions to tell a story. Contrary to traditional dance performances where stories and music form the core, Pina Bausch's (1940-2009) works are famous for its open-ended storylines. She intends members of the audience to form their personal interpretation of what they see. Their interpretation of the performance may be influenced by their life experiences.

In *Nelken*, some of the themes explored were childhood, struggle within a hierarchical organisation, power and happiness. The performance sees dancers making use of other parts of their bodies as instruments of communication. A dancer signs the song *The Man I Love* by George Gershwin, while another takes an accordion and walks about the stage, playing a tune. At the end, each audience member walks away with a different experience of the show.