This is to be an international conference focusing on the aging body—a subject that has long been the subject of medical, cultural and political research—with special reference to dance. We shall be looking at culture-specific notions of the beauty and movement, agility and expressiveness of the body as they relate to the status of the aging body in dance. Models will be used for a comparative discussion of the differences in normative discourses and institutions and in gender-related concepts of body and movement between the Euro-American and Japanese dance traditions, i.e. between »youth-oriented« cultures on the one hand and a culture which—like Japan’s—reveres aging dancers as part of the country’s »living heritage« on the other. The distinctions and changes in such traditional cultural patterns in contemporary (globalized) dance as well as the theoretical challenges they pose for dance and cultural research will be pursued in the papers presented at the conference, and as well in the roundtables and presentations of the invited artists. The conference is based on the cooperation of the Zentrum für Bewegungsforschung, FU Berlin, and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and is funded by the DFG and the Japan Foundation.

www.bewegungsforschung.de
Thursday, 28th June 2012

14:00-15:00 Arrival/Registration

15:00 Opening
Gabriele Brandstetter (Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin)
Nanako Nakajima (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Saitama)

Section I: Aging Body in the Context of Postmodern Dance

15:45 Peggy Phelan (San Francisco)
The Ends of Dance: Pina Bausch and Merce Cunningham

16:45 Short Break

17:00 Ramsay Burt (Leicester)
Yvonne Rainer’s Convalescent dance: on valuing ordinary, everyday, and unidealised bodily states

18:00 Break

20:00 Jess Curtis (Berlin) Lecture Performance
Jess Meets Angus – Dances for Non/Fictional Bodies
Choreography: Silke Z.
Post-Performance Talk with Gabriele Brandstetter

Friday, 29th June 2012

Section II: Alternative Dancability: Dis/Ability & Performance

10:00 Ann Cooper Albright (Oberlin)
The Perverse Satisfaction of Gravity

11:00 Susanne Foellmer (Berlin)
Bodies’ Borderlands: Right in the Middle. Dis/Abilities on Stage.

12:00 Short Break

12:30 Petra Kuppers (Michigan)
Grace in the Hospice: Community Dance, Elders, Land

13:30 Break

15:00 Johannes Odenthal (Berlin)
Aging in dance is not an issue. Why are we always asking the wrong questions? On Gerhard Bohner, Koffi Kôkô, Kazuo Ohno, and endless other masters of dance

16:00 Short Break

16:15 Kikuko Toyama (Saitama)
Old, weak, and invalid: dance in inaction

17:15 Break

20:00 Performance: Theater Thikwa plus Junkan Projekt
Choreography: Osamu Jareo
Post-Performance Talk with Nanako Nakajima

concept and direction:
Gabriele Brandstetter and Nanako Nakajima

Saturday, 30th June 2012

10:00 Kaite O’Reilly (London)
SILENT RHYTHM: A Reflection on sensory impairment as a source of creativity and inspiration

11:00 Janice Ross (San Francisco)
Sexuality and the Aging Body: Anna Halprin Dancing Eros at the End of Life

12:00 Short Break

Section IV: Intercultural Perspectives

12:30 Mark Franko (New York)
Why are the Hands the Last Resort of the Aged Dancing Body

13:30 Break

15:00 Yoshito Ohno (Tokyo)
Figures of Life

16:00 Tamotsu Watanabe (Tokyo)
Flowers Blooming in the Time of Aging

17:00 Short Break

17:30 Roundtable
Aging Body/Differently Abled Body? Difference, Convergence and Open Questions
Kazuo Fujino (Kobe) – Moderator, Gerd Hartmann (Berlin), Osamu Jareo (Osaka), Iku Otani (Kobe) – NPO DANCE BOX, Nicole Hummel (Berlin) – Theater Thikwa

End of the Program around 19:00