

Dear Rina,

No need to say I wish I were here tonight to celebrate with you. I congratulate you to your 40 years of astonishing activity.

I enjoy to add that you and myself celebrate also 40 years of friendship. It seems only yesterday, when I met you at Juilliard School in New York. You were impressingly beautiful. What a personality ! I had great admiration for you. In a moment of profound despair, it was you who took me in your arms and comforted me. This warmhearted and generous gesture has attached me to you for ever.

And 20 years of your theatre I know what it means, really not easy, but so much joy !

Whenever our lives crossed I felt a strong desire to share more time and many things with you.

Dear beautiful Rina, it was through you, through your love of your work, through your endless searching, through your energy that you have given me strength too.

Rina, thank you for your wonderful work and for your friendship.

Big kiss from faraway but ever so close

und laß uns beide weitertanzen.

Love,

*Pina*

Wuppertal, 12th January, 2000

Pina Bausch  
Choreographer & Director of  
The Wuppertal Dance Theater