

Press release (14-03-2016)

Dance Congress 2016: Opening and Dance Programme Confirmed

The Dance Congress, a cultural beacon of the German Federal Cultural Foundation since 2010, will take place in its now fourth edition from 16 to 19 June, 2016, in Hanover. It has established itself as one of the most important forums dedicated to discussing and presenting dance, choreography and movement.

The focus of this Congress is on engaging with the phenomenon of **contemporaneity**. Since the early 20th century, it has been understood in artistic and theoretical practices as the call to deal with the conditions and radical changes of the present times.

The **Dance Congress 2016** opens with a three-part programme developed specifically for Hanover, during which the Congress participants, the audience and the artists can meet outside of conventional stage situations. The renowned French choreographer and director of the *Musée de la danse*, **Boris Charmatz**, combines the theme of the Congress, contemporaneity, with timeless and dance-historical aspects in a moving and playful way.

As a prelude, Charmatz and his dancers invite everyone to a public warm-up at the Opernplatz. In '20 Dancers for the XX Century', 20 dancers transform the Staatsoper Hannover into a spacious dance museum presenting seminal dance style of the trailblazers of modernism and postmodernism, of contemporary dance and ballet, all the way to urban dance. In 'manger (dispersed)', Charmatz' 13-person ensemble engages with the everyday bodily process of eating, again doing away with the separation between stage and auditorium.

Questions of contemporaneity are negotiated by the **international dance programme** developed in collaboration with the Niedersächsisches Staatstheater and the State Capital Hannover, the hosts of the **Dance Congress 2016**, along with further partners on location.

At the Schauspiel Hannover, the French choreographer **Rachid Ouramdane**, in 'Tenir le temps', examines the ability of humans to adapt to uncontrollable dynamics and gain individual and collective energy from one's own powerlessness. Cause and effect can no longer be distinguished in this large-scale, complex group choreography.

With 'Antes', **Guilherme Botelho**, the director of Switzerland's most renowned dance company Alias, creates a science-fiction dance on the beginnings of mankind at the Orangerie Herrenhausen. The 12 dancers appear as pure, organic

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life: pre-civilizational, sensuous, isolated from each other, and yet similar in their wild growth.

Maura Morales' 'City of the Blind' at the Theater in der Eisfabrik is based on José Saramago's novel 'Blindness'. The Cuban choreographer transfers the dehumanisation of the blind and their apocalyptic living conditions to an impressive study on the dissolution and disintegration of movement.

Season upon season, the more than 60 dance companies of the municipal and state theatres in Germany produce a diverse and exciting range of pieces. Each performance bears witness to the contemporaneity of an art form that always reinvents itself in aesthetic terms, even when citing the tradition. '**Update**' at the Staatsoper Hannover features excerpts of current productions from the entire country: a programme exclusively compiled for the **Dance Congress 2016**.

As was already the case at the previous stops, the **Dance Congress 2016** in Hanover places great importance on entering into a dialogue with artists from the respective region.

The **Ballett der Staatsoper** dances a classic of German post-war literature. For 'The Visit', ballet director Jörg Mannes was inspired by Friedrich Dürrenmatt's famous tragicomedy of the same name.

In 'Revolt!', choreographer **Felix Landerer** has his seven dancers fathom an explosive and highly topical theme: Is revolution still possible today? Landerer sends his ensemble on a thrilling exploration tour of external and internal resistances, opening up astounding avenues of escape.

At the KinderTheaterHaus, choreographer **Martin Nachbar** and dramaturge **Gabi dan Droste** develop a dance piece for children on the theme of 'siblings'. They examine how identities emerge in the interplay of closeness and competition, protection and distance, cooperation and fighting among siblings, and create a unique artistic handwriting for children.

With '**Bodies and Stages**', the Kunstverein Hannover casts an associative view to the intersections of performance, dance and fine art. The international exhibition – featuring a performance programme during the Congress – explores how people present themselves to others and questions the poses in daily life and artistic (self-)staging. The exhibition is made possible by the general project funding of the German Federal Cultural Foundation.

Advance ticket sales for the events of the dance programme in Hanover start on 14 March, 2016.

On 12 April, 2016, a conversation with the press on the **Dance Congress 2016** will be held in Hanover. Among others, representatives of the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the directors of the **Dance Congress 2016** will be available for questions. After the press conference, the entire Congress programme will be accessible online. From then until 19 May, it will be possible to personally register for the **Dance Congress 2016** at www.tanzkongress.de.

The Dance Congress 2016 is an event of the German Federal Cultural Foundation in co-operation with the Niedersächsisches Staatstheater Hannover and the State Capital Hannover