

DANCE, the biennial dance festival in Munich, presents its 2019 festival program

Sixteenth international festival of contemporary dance of the City of Munich from May 16 to 26, 2019

Munich, March 7, 2019 – Dr. Hans-Georg Küppers, director of the Department of Arts and Culture of the City of Munich, and festival director Nina Hümpel presented the program of the 16th dance biennale in Munich today at the press conference at Literaturhaus in Munich.

The program of the eleven-day festival features five big international guest productions, five world premieres, an extensive scientific discussion program, the themes communication, community, and urbanity in the 21st century, dance in public spaces and at various performance venues in Munich, as well as encounters between the local dance scene and choreographers who are active worldwide. Over 120 artists from all over the world – from Brazil, the U.S., Canada, France, and China – will celebrate with approximately 50 performances contemporary dance in all of its manifoldness, between political demands, multidisciplinary, and virtuoso art.

The festival will officially open on May 16 at the Gasteig Cultural Center with the latest production by the venerable master William Forsythe, "A Quiet Evening of Dance," for which he – a small sensation – brought back six of his closest former dancers in order to work with them, and they will be reinforced by the celebrated hip-hop dancer Rauf "RubberLegz" Yasit.

Afterwards on the opening evening, the world premiere of "Minutemade for DANCE," in cooperation with the ballet company of the state theater at Gärtnerplatz, will be presented in the Muffathalle; for this piece the choreographers Kat Válastur, Daina Ashbee, and Eisa Jocsón will create new pieces to compositions by Polina Lapkovskaja alias Pollyester that will be performed live. Also on the first day of the festival the production "Who is Frau Troffea?" by Ceren Oran, who has made Munich her home, will have its world premiere. From then on, this dance marathon will accompany the festival daily for seven hours at different locations in Munich, and in doing so make contemporary dance accessible to a wide audience and pose the questions, why we do dance at all or why should we dance.

With DANCE 2019 Nina Hümpel will have curated the festival for the fourth time in succession. She has invited the Brazilian choreographer Lia Rodrigues to the festival, whose works are inspired by everyday life and culture in Rio de Janeiro. The production "Fúria" stages rituals of collectivization, violence, and submission. The French-Austrian artist Gisèle Vienne is a guest at DANCE for the first time, too, and she will present "Crowd," a visually striking homage to youth, ecstasy, and the dance mania of the techno culture.

On the other hand, the Chinese choreographer Yang Zhen, who Nina Hümpel presented in Munich in 2015 as a new discovery, is well-known to DANCE audiences; in the meantime he is a sought-after artist internationally, and he's presenting at this year's festival his third production, including two world premieres. On the last weekend of the festival, another world premiere will take place at the schwere reiter venue: "Delta" is a production about the co-existence and rhythm of life of the culturally and politically completely different Chinese citizens in the three megacities Guangzhou, Hong Kong, and Macau, which have grown together into one region.

There will also be a reunion with the Canadian object artist Peter Trosztmer, who was a guest performer at DANCE in 2017 with his work "#boxtape" and who will now present his second world premiere at the festival together with the U.S. composer and media artist Zack Settel. With the aid of computers, "BetweenTheDotsBeta" expands the perception of reality and allows the audience to immerse themselves in virtual worlds in playful interaction and mutually test new spaces, paths, and encounters.

As a large public festival, DANCE has the aspiration to present – alongside new creations – highlights in Munich for the first time, such as, for example, "Roughhouse," the latest production by Richard Siegal that was acclaimed following its world premiere in Cologne in late 2018. The work of Richard Siegal and his company Ballet of Difference is also the subject of the documentary film "Draw a line" by Benedict Mirow, which will premiere during the DANCE festival in cooperation with the documentary film festival DOK.fest. Additional program highlights are the two internationally acclaimed productions of the major Canadian choreographer Marie Chouinard, "Les 24 Préludes de Chopin" and "Henri Michaux: Mouvements," which will be performed in Munich for the first time.

The Munich scene is represented by Ceren Oran's dance marathon and "Minutemade for DANCE," as well as by the world premiere of "Toni is lonely" by the Canadian dancer and choreographer Jasmine Ellis, who lives in Munich. The dance-theater performance examines the loneliest moments of life, ways of exclusion, and the desire to belong; it will be developed in cooperation with Residenztheater in Munich.

A scientific discussion and the integration of socio-political issues traditionally play a significant role in DANCE's festival program. In addition to the three-day international and interdisciplinary symposium "Context / Collisions" conducted by Dr. Katja Schneider that will deal with the aesthetic concepts and strategies of selected productions from different perspectives, the possibilities of communication and co-existence in the 21st century will be explored in "impulse lectures" and discussions as part of the "Commons" event.

"Commons" is a part of the series of events at the Kreativquartier site in Munich, where on the last festival weekend DANCE will organize dance presentations, performances, discussions, and a participative club night under the motto "Come together. Right now!"

Another new festival format is the "DANCE History Tour," a bicycle tour to selected locations in the history of dance in Munich: for example, Münchner Künstlerhaus, the Lenbachhaus museum, and Villa Stuck. It will take the concept of an archive in motion literally and allow the participants to experience an early chapter in modern dance according to the concept of Brygida Ochaim and Thomas Betz.

Advanced ticket sales for all events that are part of the DANCE festival will begin on March 18, 2019; tickets can be purchased at München Ticket and at all of the usual advanced ticket sales outlets.

All of the information can be found online by visiting www.dance-muenchen.de.
Press accreditation will also begin on March 18, 2019.

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