



PRESS RELEASE

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Munich Dance Biennale DANCE: the (preliminary) festival program

DANCE, the City of Munich's international festival of contemporary dance, will present from May 6 – 16, 2021 a wide variety of contemporary dance and latest developments with performances of and contributions from approximately 20 international productions.

In keeping conform with the pandemic, purely digital formats and performances are planned for public spaces, as well as hybrid events with livestreamings that can be viewed online, but can also – on the condition theaters in Munich will be opened up for audiences in May – be seen analogue with audience participation.

The themes of the eleven-day festival revolve around these issues: how artists in these polarized times articulate politically, age, and how people deal, in view of the Corona pandemic, with closeness and distance.

For all of the productions in the festival program there are still different scenarios being considered due to possible travel restrictions or limitations for the performances, which depend upon the development of the pandemic. These productions include a retrospective of the dance company "Dance On" in collaboration with Münchner Kammerspiele featuring pieces by Lucinda Childs, Jan Martens, Rabih Mroué and Ivana Müller, productions and contributions by Serge Aimé Coulibaly, Emanuel Gat, Raimund Hoghe, Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker, Anna Konjetzky, Richard Siegal, the Israeli duo Niv Sheinfeld & Oren Laor; and interventions in Munich's municipal spaces by the American choreographer and filmmaker Jody Oberfelder.

Installative formats, a new version of the DANCE History Bicycle Tour, digital workshops, and networking get-togethers will round out the program.

DANCE will open on May 6 with "The Goldberg Variations" by Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker, and with the new production of the Belgian choreographer Jan Martens "any attempt will end in crushed bodies and shattered bones," in collaboration with the "Dance On" ensemble. Here too the formats of the performances – whether hybrid or exclusively digital, whether live on a theater stage or in a film version – are still open.

The formats in the DANCE program that are independent of the pandemic are: the world premiere of "The Urge" by the Munich choreographer Ceren Oran about how persons individually deal with the collective Corona crisis, which will celebrate its world premiere in a public space – if necessary without an audience –; the film version of "North Korea Dance" by the South Korean company of Eun-Me Ahn, which will include a discussion with the artist; and a three-day online symposium on the subject "Political Articulation in Dance and Literature" with artistic interventions.

The artistic direction of the festival is preconceived in such a way as to conform with the safety conditions in the pandemic, and at the same time to enable art to be experienced live on location:

"As unsure as the situation is, as much as we strongly desire to have live events, we certainly want to act in a responsible and safe manner during the pandemic. The digital streamings we are preparing also offer DANCE a huge opportunity, because for the first time a global audience can participate in our festival and get to know new artistic formats," says Nina Hümpel, who is curating the dance biennale already for the fifth time.

And Anton Biebl, the directors of the City of Munich's Department of Arts and Culture emphasizes: "We have to stay flexible in order to master the challenges in life. And we need sources of inspiration that provide us with impulses. That is why I'm looking forward to the DANCE festival. Contemporary dance combines the mind and the body, intellect and emotion, discipline and improvisation. The latter has been required in particular this year in the arts and in organization. My thanks go out to everyone who rise to these challenges every day anew with a large portion of commitment and in solidarity with their audience."

All of the planned productions are presented in the enclosed press kit. The program is still subject to change. You can expect a more detailed program in mid-April, as soon as the decision on whether theaters can open in May has been announced.

Afterwards ticket sales for all of the performances will also begin; tickets can be purchased at München Ticket and all of the usual ticket outlets.

You can find this information and additional information online by going to:

www.dance-muenchen.de

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