

PRESS RELEASE

(August 30th 2009)



21st edition of TANZ IM AUGUST – INTERNATIONALES TANZFEST BERLIN ended today. High level of public interest again this year.

With 96,3% of the seating capacity filled, the largest German festival for contemporary dance was once again highly accepted by the Berlin and international public. On 17 festival days the organizers Hebbel am Ufer and TanzWerkstatt Berlin presented 34 productions from 20 countries on ten stages; among them were six world premieres and 20 German premieres.

The curators for this year's edition of TANZ IM AUGUST, Ulrike Becker, Pirkko Husemann, Matthias Lilienthal, André Theriault and Marion Ziemann, introduced the motto "Listen!" and invited the public to pay particular attention to the acoustic aspect of contemporary dance in addition to the visual experience. The festival directors state that the artistic use of music, sounds, songs, voice and language is a current phenomenon in dance production and thus emphasized it as a common thread within the program.

The curators were particularly pleased by the successful festival opening with the politically motivated choreography *POUSSIÈRES DE SANG (THE DUST OF BLOOD)* by the Company *Salia ni Seydou* from Burkina Faso. This piece, much celebrated by the Berlin festival audience, once again made clear that dance is in a position to speak about social injustice – even without the use of words.

The high level of interest for the *BODIES IN URBAN SPACES* production by Willi Dorner also demonstrated that it is worthwhile to bring dance from the stage into the city. The choreography, skillfully shaped body-sculptures that moved through Berlin-Mitte and Kreuzberg, attracted approximately 1,000 people to the public parcours after having been cancelled the first night because of rain.

Once again, TANZ IM AUGUST presented an extensive show of works from the realm of international contemporary dance. Exemplary for this were the sold-out performances of the Belgian Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker with her company *ROSAS*, the Canadian group *Par B.L.eux/ Benoît Lachambre*, the Spanish flamenco star *Israel Galván*, the new-interpretation of the American *Anna Halprin* classic *PARADES & CHANGES* by the French *Anne Collod* or the rock opera *MORE MORE MORE... FUTURE* by the Congolese *Faustin Linyekula*.

The artistic directors' decision to strengthen the presence of up-and-coming choreographers at TANZ IM AUGUST was unanimously greeted by festival visitors, artists and the professional public. Thus the works by the New Yorker *Daniel Linehan* or the dancer-choreographer duo *Pieter Ampe/Guilherme Garrido* belong to the most important discoveries in the festival. The *LOOPING*-project productions led to lively discussion about support for up-and-coming artists in contemporary dance.

As in past years, the *sommer.bar* program was a great success. It fascinated the festival visitors after the performances in the *Podewil* and *HAU* with unusual installations, concerts and performances. Even the lecture series *DEEP LISTENING* as well as the workshops *RECORDING SOUNDS OF DANCING* und *TANZ SCHAUEN – EINE SEHHILFE*, oriented towards the festival motto, were well accepted by the public.

The 22nd edition of TANZ IM AUGUST – INTERNATIONALES TANZFEST BERLIN will take place from August 13th to 29th 2010.

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