

PRESS RELEASE

tanz nrw 23 festival in nine cities: A ghetto blaster, a slippery slide and a hologram

Eleven days, nine cities, three world premieres: For the ninth time, North Rhine-Westphalia becomes a hub for contemporary dance during the biennial festival tanz nrw 23. From Münster to Bonn, a selection of the latest productions by 23 choreographers and collectives working in North Rhine-Westphalia will be presented from 4 to 14 May. After the great response to the online edition in 2021, about twenty digital formats are shown in the programme – a novelty. There are also various offers for inclusive participation and cultural outreach. The festival will open with "RUNthrough III" by CocoonDance in Mülheim's Ringlokschuppen Ruhr, also available online via livestream.

22 stage productions and more than twenty digital formats

200 applications for the stage programme and more than 60 submissions for the digital programme were reviewed, discussed and selected by the dance producers' association of production houses and cultural departments. In addition to established companies who receive the highest level of funding from the state of NRW, there are also young talents whose works give new impulses to the scene. What they have in common is a challenging rehearsal period over the past two years; how to rehearse when the theatres are closed – and with subsequently overcrowded schedules? The answer is to expand the repertoire into the digital realm. Hence the creation of many very different online formats, in addition to the analogue stage productions: documentaries, dance films, short video clips and portraits. A selection will be shown during tanz nrw 23 on the "Digital Stage", a pilot project on the online platform www.spectyou.com. Besides, the Düsseldorf-based artist duo HARTMANNMUELLER are creating interview clips for social media especially for the festival.

In many productions, the dance-makers engage with socially relevant topics through the body: Renegade dives into the German hip-hop phase of the 80s with break legend Niels "Storm" Robitzky, while in "Wetland" Katharina Senzenberger glides into a truly slippery confrontation between water and space, body and corporeality. With "Bilderschlachten", MOUVOIR / Stephanie Thiersch has created a choreographic vision of the "end of the world", which will be shown in Essen with a holographic image of the orchestra and in Cologne as a concentrate of the original version.

Three premieres, research from exile and about decolonisation

Three new productions will premiere in the festival's state of emergency: Ben J. Riepe presents "EVER|RÊVE2 at tanzhaus nrw in Düsseldorf, MIRA celebrates the premiere of "MIRA 11_SHIFT" at Ringlokschuppen Ruhr in Mülheim, and Yibu Dance releases "WHIRLING LADDER | UPRIGHT" at Fabrik Heeder in Krefeld.

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With the joint programme “Springboard <> TANZRECHERCHE NRW”, tanz nrw and NRW KULTURsekretariat offer newcomers for the fifth time the opportunity to devote themselves intensively to a research topic. This year the scholarships go to iSaAc Espinoza Hidrobo, Roman Jungblut and Visiting Beings on the one hand, and Yasmin Fahbod, Mina Khani, Zahra Mousawy and Shirin Namazi from the Hiraeth Kollektiv on the other. Their topics: Decolonisation and its meaning for everyone involved; and a space for performative art by Iranian and Afghan performers living in exile. In conclusion, both companies will give an insight into their research in five festival cities.

More participation: Encouraging dance

Offering a great number of inclusive and interactive options is an integral part of tanz nrw 23, both in the stage programme and in the digital formats. For greater accessibility and better participation for people with sensory-related disabilities, the organizers are continuously working on accessibility options. On the website, the programme is communicated in German Sign Language (DGS) as well as in simple language. In addition, there is information about the accessibility for each venue, introductory videos in simple language and German Sign Language for selected productions, as well as a general audio flyer and video flyer presenting the festival in DGS.

Another important aspect of the tanz nrw programme are the educational formats that enable the audience to experience artistic principles with their own bodies. The formats “Physical Introduction” and “Physical Traces”, in which spectators can try out and experience the movement material of selected productions, ensure more mental and, above all, physical participation. The project “tanz.match” is a mediation format especially conceived for the festival with the aim of narrating artistic ideas from different perspectives.

About tanz nrw

Since 2007, tanz nrw has been a successful model for strengthening the visibility of and interest in dance in North Rhine-Westphalia through the sustained cooperation of several dance institutions. Every two years, the festival provides a concentrated view of the contemporary dance scene, showing developments, experiments and individual profiles of choreographers living here and making them accessible to a broad audience.

Website: tanz-nrw-aktuell.de

Instagram: [@festivaltanznrw](https://www.instagram.com/festivaltanznrw)

Facebook: [facebook.com/tanznrw](https://www.facebook.com/tanznrw)

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

Please find current text and image material as downloads in the press section of the website: tanz-nrw-aktuell.de/press. We are also happy to make everything possible for your reporting: rehearsal visits, interviews – you name it!

ACCREDITATION

You will receive two free press tickets for each production. You can access the accreditation form in the press section. Of course, we also accept reservations by e-mail at presse@tanz-nrw-aktuell.de or by phone at 0221.888 95 394.