

15. Internationales Festival für zeitgenössischen Tanz der Landeshauptstadt München

**DANCE 2017
11. —— 21. Mai**

PRESS RELEASE

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**Munich dance biennale DANCE announces the festival program 2017: 15th international
festival of contemporary dance of the City of Munich from May 11 to 21, 2017**

Munich. January 19, 2017

The program of the international DANCE festival 2017 was presented at the press conference today in Munich by the director of the City of Munich's Department of Arts and Culture Dr. Hans-Georg Küppers and festival director Nina Hümpel. The fifteenth edition of the festival, which takes place every two years, features numerous world premieres, a focus on productions of the young art scene in Montreal, and also new works by international stars in contemporary dance such as Richard Siegal, Wim Vandekeybus, Trajal Harrell, VA Wölfl, Sharon Eyal, and Emanuel Gat.

The eleven festival days are packed with around twenty productions, including six world premieres and six German premieres. Choreographers and artists from Canada to China have been invited to Munich to show their works in over 130 performances at renowned venues throughout the city of Munich.

"This is the third time Nina Hümpel has organized the DANCE festival, which is dedicated to the fragile art of dance. She has succeeded once again in providing the audience with snapshots of the international state of the dance field. At the same time she shines a spotlight on lines that have emerged over the last several years. This is how I imagine an international dance festival in the city should be: that it draws our attention to what's new and unexpected, and simultaneously presents well-known artists and their developments," says Dr. Hans-Georg Küppers, director of the City of Munich's Department of Arts and Culture.

Nina Hümpel, director of the City of Munich's DANCE festival, says about her program, "We are looking forward to a tight and colorful program. DANCE has the intention to show the large spectrum of contemporary dance, and to make the very different work methods and concepts of choreography experienceable. We are presenting choreographers who have long-standing ties to DANCE, but also new discoveries who have never been seen in Europe before, plus strong political pieces, aesthetically novel choreographies, and interdisciplinary works and approaches. We're celebrating dance in all of its diversity!"

The opening evening on May 11 at Muffathalle will present the two-part evening performance of "My Generation" by Richard Siegal, who is devoting to the Munich festival the very first world premiere of his recently founded company, Ballet of Difference. A second world premiere is Yang Zhen's piece about ethnic minorities in China. This young up-and-coming choreographer was a celebrated new discovery at the festival in 2015 with the first part of his "Revolution Game" trilogy, and now he is presenting "Minorities," the third part of the trilogy, as a world premiere in Munich. The Canadian choreographer Frédéric Gravel is presenting another world premiere to the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, which will be the closing performance of the festival.

Festival director Nina Hümpel is bringing a new generation of Quebec choreographers to Munich with the program "Montréal neu aufgelegt" ("Montréal reissued"). In addition to Gravel, five other artists from Montreal have been invited. Benoît Lachambre & Fabrice Ramalingom, Daina Ashbee, and Stéphane Gladyszewski will present very different works that oscillate between installation, performative choreography, and expressive dance, and their performances in the capital city of Bavaria will be German premieres. The Canadian object artist Peter Trosztmer constructs and

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performs an artwork, "#boxtape," using tape; the artwork will develop over the entire course of the festival.

The choreographer, performer, and lecturer Nicole Peisl will also present her work in Munich for the very first time. The former Forsythe dancer, who teaches in the meantime in the U.S., transforms her research into the human body, movement, and consciousness into an energetic form in "Vielfalt I und II" ("Diversity I and II"). "Vielfalt II" will have its premiere at the DANCE festival.

In addition, the audience can look forward to seeing international stars of contemporary dance. Sharon Eyal will show her latest piece, "OCD Love"—a dark, seductive piece with live music that she created according to the "Gaga" method of her mentor Ohad Naharin. In the German premiere of their work "Mockumentary of a contemporary savior" at Residenztheater Wim Vandekeybus and Ultima Vez confront the existential questions of life. With his piece "Sunny" Emanuel Gat presents a nonchalant, young dance piece, which picks up on the subject of inclusion. Trajal Harrell, an audience magnet at the last festival, combines in his latest work "Caen Amour" the earlier dance avant-garde of a Loie Fuller with the hoochie coochie, a parody of the belly dance; this guest performance is in cooperation with the Münchner Kammerspiele. And after many years VA Wölfl is back in Munich again, this time with his ensemble NEUER TANZ, and his piece "von mit nach t: No 2" ("by with after t: No 2") promises to be a happening between dance and aesthetic exploration.

The dance scene in Munich will be presented in diverse formats: "Minutemade for DANCE" is a production in cooperation with the ballet company of the Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz. The three choreographers Emanuel Gat, Benoît Lachambre, and Nicole Peisl, guests of the DANCE festival, will develop new choreographies with dancers from the Munich company, and thus contribute another world premiere to the festival. The development of the independent dance scene in Munich is the subject of the exhibition "Tanz in München – Archiv in Bewegung" ("Dance in Munich – an archive in motion") by Brygida Ochaim and Katja Schneider that will be held in the foyers of the Gasteig Cultural Center. The exhibition and a podium discussion with Munich dance protagonists from the early years will convey insights into the independent dance scene's dynamic past and present. The performances "Live Events at Gasteig" by Mia Lawrence provide a direct connection to the exhibition. Dancers from Lawrence's training labs will interpret original works by Munich choreographers in public spaces at the Gasteig Cultural Center, and in doing so establish a connection to the historic and present history of performance.

The international and interdisciplinary symposium "Das Rauschen unter der Choreografie. Überlegungen zu 'Stil'" ("The Background Noise in Choreography. Considerations on 'Style' "), in cooperation with Access to Dance and under the direction of Katja Schneider, will examine the subject of "style" in dance, on the stage, and in film and design in lectures, lecture performances, and roundtable discussions during the first weekend of the festival at HochX-Theater.

Advance ticket sales for all of the DANCE events will begin on March 14, 2017; tickets can be purchased at München Ticket and at all of the usual advance ticket sales outlets. The comprehensive festival program will be published at the beginning of March.

The complete information can be found online at www.dance-muenchen.de.

The accreditation process for members of the press will also begin on March 14, 2017.

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