

Press Release

INTERNATIONALE TANZMESSE NRW

Düsseldorf, 11 September 2024

Positive response to the 15th edition of internationale tanzmesse nrw 2024 in Düsseldorf and Krefeld. 1,500 artists and dance professionals from 50 countries are delighted with the hospitality and networking opportunities.

For four days, the Tanzmesse, a project organised by nrw landesbuero tanz, was a hotspot for the international dance scene to exchange views on current developments. The Tanzmesse presented a diverse programme on various stages in Düsseldorf and Krefeld. The Agora, in the rooms of the former central library of the city of Düsseldorf, was the Tanzmesse's networking hub for professional visitors. In addition to the mainly European participants, representatives travelled from all continents, including South Africa and the Ivory Coast, the USA and Canada, New Zealand and Australia, Chile and Argentina, India and Taiwan. All of Tanzmesse's events were fully booked.

The 2022 edition, co-directed by Isa Köhler and Katharina Kucher, initiated a transformation process aimed at questioning established hierarchies in the international dance scene, promoting diversity and creating new connections between participants.

This approach, which sees the exchange of expertise as a dynamic transfer of knowledge, has enabled the Tanzmesse to be the only international event of its kind to respond to the challenges of our time. The newly designed Agora, the performance programme and the Talk & Connect discourse format were an expression of this forward-looking approach. The regional dance scene was also more closely involved through the Pre-Day NRW. The many positive international responses following the 2024 edition confirm the success of this reorientation and underline the importance of the Tanzmesse as a global forum (see below).

After two successful editions, the co-directors are moving on to new tasks. A new director will be responsible for the upcoming 2026 edition. This will be advertised by nrw landesbuero tanz in the coming months in order to continue on the path of reorganisation.

Katharina Kucher & Isa Köhler, co-directors of internationale tanzmesse nrw: *'We are overwhelmed by the positive feedback from dance professionals that we have received from all over the world in recent days.*

Together with our many partners and the numerous professional visitors, we have succeeded in further establishing the Tanzmesse as a place of exchange and encounters for the 30th anniversary of the internationale tanzmesse nrw. It was important to us to give greater visibility to those who were previously less represented.

In cooperation with our international curators and the entire Tanzmesse team, we were able to initiate an important development that emphasises artistic power in politically and socially challenging times and understands international collaborations as enriching encounters between people.

We would like to thank the board and management of nrw landesbuero tanz and all of the Tanzmesse's partners for the trust they have placed in us. We are now looking forward to new tasks in the knowledge that the Tanzmesse, as the most important network meeting for contemporary dance, will enter the future in a stronger position. This year's edition has further emphasised its relevance and sustainably expanded the space for artistic exchange and international networking.'

Heike Lehmke, Managing Director of nrw landesbuero tanz: *'I would like to thank the co-directors Katharina Kucher and Isa Köhler very much for another great Tanzmesse edition and their forward-looking work for the international dance scene, which nrw landesbuero tanz has the honour of hosting every two years in Düsseldorf. We will now enter into discussions with cultural policy-makers on how this successful Tanzmesse model can be continued and further transformed for 2026.'*

Klaus Schäfer, Chairman of the Board of nrw landesbuero tanz e.V.: *'The internationale tanzmesse nrw, now in its 30th year, has once again attracted dance professionals from more than 50 countries to NRW and Düsseldorf.'*

In a time of multiple crises and challenges, the Tanzmesse is more than just a meeting place for artists. It has once again shown that dance, and thus culture, can set important signals for encounters between people from different cultures. Diversity and openness characterise this encounter. I would like to thank both directors: They have set an important exclamation mark with this Tanzmesse. It is therefore all the more important that cultural policy also sends out a clear signal: We are grateful for the funding from the state of NRW and the city of Düsseldorf, we would like to maintain this, because without this funding, the Tanzmesse would be left behind through cutbacks.'

International voices about Tanzmesse 2024 (Excerpt)

„... the new Tanzmesse embodies the change of our times, moving towards deeper connections and conversations, carried out with care and respect.” (participant from NRW)

“I was struck by the dynamic convergence of diverse performance arts. The event showcased an impressive array of repertoires, highlighting how these artistic expressions are exchanged and marketed as cultural products...” “Even though we were only standing in the Agora, it felt like we were traveling the globe.” (participant from Taiwan)

“... diese Tage waren für mich eine der schönsten Tanzmessen. Sehr international, sehr empathisch, es ging mehr um Austausch als um das schnelle Verkaufen von Produktionen.“ (Nina Hümpel, publisher tanznetz.de)

„It has been so connecting and caring spending time at Tanzmesse ...“ (participant from UK)

“... the Tanzmesse is a classmates gathering, where you have a chance to catch up, meet, talk, see and discover.” “What a week at Tanzmesse. Feel so empowered and inspired to build further with all.” (participant from Lithuania)

“... an incredible experience. It's been an inspiring week showcasing the dynamic work of choreographers from Iceland and connecting with the global dance community.” (Performing Arts Centre Iceland)

“What vibrant networking days last week (at Tanzmesse)!” (participant from Hungary)

“Great days at internationale tanzmesse nrw, strong studio showings, articulate presentations, intense performances, meeting new artists and old friends, insight into indigenous artists' works – thank you” (participant from Norway)

nrw landesbuero tanz

The organiser of internationale tanzmesse nrw is the nrw landesbuero tanz under the management of Heike Lehmke. The nrw landesbuero tanz is an information centre, networking point and contact for the professional dance scene in North Rhine-Westphalia. It initiates projects, cooperation and discourses in the field of professional contemporary dance and supports the work of dance professionals in NRW. With its projects, it gives dance public visibility and opens diversity-related approaches to dance.

Pressekontakt: Hendrik von Boxberg, press@tanzmesse.com, T +49 177 7379207

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