



internationale tanzmesse nrw

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Press information

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internationale tanzmesse nrw – Review

After four intensive and eventful days, this year's internationale tanzmesse nrw came to a close on 3 September. The dancing state of North Rhine-Westphalia played host for the 11th time to around 1,800 guests from all over the world, with events held in Düsseldorf, Krefeld and Leverkusen.

A total of almost 800 companies, institutions, performers and services providers from more than 56 countries presented their activities at over 120 booths across an exhibition space of 1,000 square-metres at the NRW-Forum in Düsseldorf.

The event brought together the most significant international network for those involved in dance with a major dance festival, in which Tanzmesse participants were presented more than 90 companies over 75 performances and invited to take part in podium discussions and debates as part of roughly 30 discussion formats.

Felix Wittek, Director at internationale tanzmesse nrw, is delighted with how this year's event went: "In comparison to 2014, we were this year able to welcome an even greater number of companies, more exhibitors and more visitors." The growing popularity of the Tanzmesse was underlined by the fact that of the more than 50 countries taking part, ten nations were participating for the first time, he says.

Wittek believes the success of the project can be put down to three main reasons. One important aspect is of course the way in which the event serves as a global networking forum, Wittek says. "It has now become acknowledged that you really do get to meet and speak to anyone and everyone connected to the dance scene," he adds.

The **internationale tanzmesse nrw** is a project by GZT NRW / nrw landesbuero tanz. www.landesbuerotanz.de The **internationale tanzmesse nrw** is thankful to all its partners as well as to its funding partners:

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In addition, the festival's programme is at the forefront of the dance world, thus making it interesting for organisers all over the world, Wittek says. "You have the chance to see current trends and newcomers, while also experiencing established and globally renowned companies, such as Carte Blanche from Norway, Meimage Dance from Taiwan, Montréal Danse from Canada and Raimund Hoghe from Germany."

The in-depth content that tanzmesse provides is also of great significance, as is reflected by the expansion of the discussion formats at this year's event, he adds.

Wittek is also delighted with the event's concrete output: the number of agreed cooperations and co-productions as well as bookings has increased, projects worthy of funding have been brought into the focus of important foundations, and the Tanzmesse has caught the attention of major national cultural institutions like the British Council, Hong Kong Arts Development Council and Pro Helvetia, he says. "To this end, the fact that Prof. Monika Grütters, state minister for culture and media, helped to open the trade fair also speaks volumes."

The next Tanzmesse will take place in 2018, and already initial agreements and points of contact are being established with respect to the event's concept and programme.

For the 12th internationale tanzmesse nrw, Felix Wittek is targeting an expansion of the festival: "we want to make the performances accessible to an even bigger audience of dance enthusiasts. In addition to Düsseldorf, Leverkusen and Krefeld, we are considering other venues in North Rhine-Westphalia."

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