

* 25 *
COMPETITION

25 years!

Internationales

Solo-Tanz-Theater Festival Stuttgart

Internationales
**SOLO
TANZ
THEATER**

Festival | Stuttgart

May 12. – 16.2021



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The world is dancing in Stuttgart

For 25 years now, artists from all over the world have been invited on to the stage at the International Solo-Dance-Theatre Festival. They come from Switzerland and Senegal, from Portugal and Palestine, from Luxembourg and Lebanon, from Mexico and Mongolia and have been elating their audience in Stuttgart and the rest of the world, year after year. On its anniversary in 2021, owing to Corona, the festival has been rescheduled from March to May and will be held online.



Dagmar Mikasch-Köthner, Director vhs stuttgart



Gudrun Hähnel,
Festival director

I am grateful to have been directing the Stuttgart International Solo-Dance-Theatre Festival since 2006. Together with cultural manager Birgit Brinkmann, we have established the infrastructure for the dance festival's smooth performance. Every year, we look forward to an inspiring dance contest again.

Gudrun Hähnel, Festival director



Birgit Brinkmann,
Cultural manager

Selecting the contestants

Each year, a team of curators under the direction of artistic director Marcelo Santos, selects 18 dance pieces that, aside from displaying technical abilities, combine an individual dance language with the courage to try something new, to dare to experiment on stage. With up to 300 applications per year, this is not an easy task, but a very fulfilling one.

Assessing the performances

The performances will be evaluated by an international five-member jury made up of former participants, awardees and artists from the dance scene in Stuttgart und Baden-Württemberg respectively, presided over by a festival-hardy chairperson. The jurors represent the variety of dance styles at the festival and evaluate participants on several criteria, including the merits of their dance, dramaturgy, style, and creative potential.

An overview of jurors from the past 25 years can be found [here](#):



Erich Payer

Congratulations on your 25th anniversary! 25 years ago, I was able to help Marcelo Santos found the festival in Augsburg. After 10 years as a dance juror in Stuttgart, I am convinced that it was the right decision to move the festival to Stuttgart as a centre for dance. Break a leg for the next 25 years!

Erich Payer, former juror



Itzik Galili

It is rare to find a dance center's venue that allows choreographers to show new works on a unique platform which, if I am not mistaken, is the only one in the world. International Solo-Dance-Theatre Festival exposes these creators on all stages of the world and allows them to develop and deepen their personal artistic world. It is an honor for me to be an active and influential partner. I wish for Marcelo Santos to continue to bring good news. Congratulations on the 25 years of an extensive and successful activity.

Itzik Galili, former juror

Presenting the festival

The festival's presenters always come from an artistic background too and have consistently changed over the past 25 years. Sonia Santiago-Brückner, a former soloist of the Stuttgart Ballet, has been hosting the festival since 2016.

The eve of the festival – Stuttgart Solo Choreo –, has been a staple for Stuttgart's independent dance scene since 2020 and was initialised by Produktionszentrum Tanz und Performance e.V., the cultural department of Stuttgart's city administration, and vhs stuttgart.

The contemporary solo pieces of these nights, as a part of TANZPAKT Stuttgart, will be shown out of competition and reinforce the strength and variety of Stuttgart's dance scene.

The event is funded by TANZPAKT Stadt-Land-Bund with funds from the federal commissioner for culture and media, as well as by the special program "NEUSTART KULTUR" (BKM) and the state capital Stuttgart. The evening is presented by member of the curating panel Petra Mostbacher-Dix.



Sonia Santiago-Brückner, Moderator

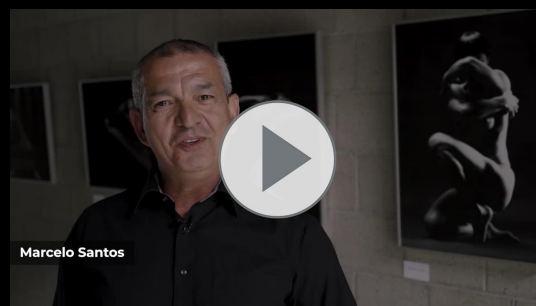


Petra Mostbacher-Dix,
Curator and moderator
Stuttgart Solo Choreo

Making a mark: the artists

Twenty-five years of festival means 25 years of young dancers and choreographers, and respected jurors from across the world converging with an international audience. Crucially, it also means 25 years of support for the solo dance-theatre format. We have all found each other, and the growing number of participants and awardees has become a global group of artists who feel closely connected with the festival and solo dance-theatre as an art form. How wonderful that receiving an award here, in many cases, marks the start of a career in dance. When I established the competition in 1997, I would never have believed that 25 years later, it hasn't lost any of its significance, and I feel a deep gratitude that there have always been people who want to support this project.

Marcelo Santos



Marcelo Santos, Founder and artistic director



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Sidra Bell (USA): Artistic Director of Sidra Bell Company New York; 2014 Member of the Jury; 2011 Winner of the 1st Prize Choreography



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Emre Can Tanis

Before I got involved with the Stuttgart solo festival, I had a chance to watch it live, and I hope you guys are doing well. I'm following you and it looks great like every year. While I was watching I recognized that I had to be part of the festival. From the first look the atmosphere took me in. I really believed I could create a piece that fit to the festival just perfectly. Right at that moment I started to think of an idea for a new piece. Four months later I found my idea, and from there we became a part of the festival. The level of the competition was really high, and we were incredibly happy to be considered for those prizes. What I valued most about the festival was the connections that I got, and to see what is the future of the modern dance from other choreographers.

Emre Can Tanis (Turkey): 2017 Winner of the 2nd Prize Choreography



Roberta Ferrara

Congratulations on this important anniversary! Solo Tanz is a festival that is in my heart! I wish you a good job and I send you good vibes. Thank you!

Roberta Ferrara (Italy): Director and choreographer of Equilibrio Dinamico Company (EDC); 2018 winner of 3rd Prize Choreography

Dancing for passion, awarded for excellence



Independent from the jurors' nomination of dance pieces to the competition finale, on three preliminary nights, our "Public's First Choice Award" gives every audience member a vote to choose their favourite dance piece.

Nicole Weyandt and Michael Deiml,
Sponsors Public's First Choice Award

As a sign of appreciation and as a stimulus, prizes totalling 16,000 EUR are being awarded as part of the festival.

The jury, consisting of celebrated professionals, hands out dance and choreography prizes endowed with 1,500, 2,500, and 3,500 € respectively, among the international performers. The dance awards are funded by the city of Stuttgart, as well as other varying sponsors, and the choreography awards have been donated by Baden-Württemberg's Ministry for Science, Research and Arts since 2001.

Audiences also have the opportunity to vote for a dance piece to be awarded. The Public's Final Choice Award, launched 23 years ago by Christine Gugel, is awarded to a finalist. For the Public's First Choice Award, which has been awarded by Nicole Weyandt and Michael Deiml since 2013, a selection is made from the pool of all festival participants.

I have been a loyal supporter of the festival for 23 years now. At first, it was a business relationship where artists were staying in our hotel. Over the years, I have developed a passion for contemporary dance and this festival.

Christine Gugel,
Sponsor Public's Final Choice Award



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For 5 years, filmmakers Birgit Baumgärtner and Jean Christophe Blavier, founders of 'moving-angel film production', have awarded the **Videodance Prize** to a finalist of their choice. They film a professional dance clip for the winner.

Since 2017, the jurors have presented a **Residence Prize** in various formats. Winners receive the opportunity to rehearse and publicly perform their own choreography with a professional dance company, for example, or to gain valuable experience as an assistant to an artistic director.

The **Eastman Prize Stuttgart** is being awarded since 2018 by the Eastman Company from Antwerp with its artistic director Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. Winners are invited to attend the two-week Eastman Summer Intensive workshop in Antwerp. Due to Corona, this prize is omitted from the festival in 2021.

Supporting and expanding our festival

The International Solo-Dance-Theatre Festival Stuttgart would not be as popular and successful without its contributors who, in many cases, have been supporting the competition and contemporary dance for more than two decades already. The city of Stuttgart, which regularly provides the base funding for the festival and donates awards, has been onboard from the very beginning. Baden-Württemberg's Ministry for Science, Research and Arts provides the choreography awards.

The audience awards come from private sponsors such as Christine Gugel who has been a faithful champion for the International Solo-Dance-Theatre Festival for over 23 years. The festival also formed a long-standing partnership with the Tanja Liedtke Foundation which had been sponsoring a project grant until 2015. In addition to these major sponsors, there are a variety of other contributors, the Residence Prize or the Videodance Prize being prime examples.

Winners of the International Solo-Dance-Theatre Festival get around: together with artistic director Marcelo Santos, they go on tour in Germany and abroad every year. The Gala, held at the TREFFPUNKT Rotenbühlplatz, acts as a prelude to that tour every November, and is followed by touring through Southern Germany. In May, artists attend dance festivals in Brazil, such as the Vivadaça International Festival in Bahia, Encontro de Dança contemporânea de Natal, Mostra Paranaense de Dança Curitiba and Movimento Internacional de Dança. Winners are also invited to numerous other dance festivals.

In addition to workshops, the festival programme includes select exhibitions with, among others, the Stuttgart Ballet, Gauthier Dance and Gert Weigelt.



Video: Ravid Abarbanel
Camera: Christophe Blavier



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