

PRESS RELEASE

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German Dance Award 2023

Malou Airaud, Josephine Ann Endicott, Lutz Förster and Dominique Mercy - four outstanding personalities, former dancers in Pina Bausch's ensemble - receive the German Dance Award 2023

Dance educator Peter Appel will receive the Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award. The performer with a visual impairment Sophia Neises is honored for outstanding development in dance.

The German Dance Award honors distinguished individuals in the field of dance in Germany. At the end of March, the jury (chaired by Dr. Patricia Stöckemann) selected the award winners for 2023. **The German Dance Award 2023 for Malou Airaud, Josephine Ann Endicott, Lutz Förster and Dominique Mercy is endowed with 4 x 5,000 €. The honors for Peter Appel and Sophia Neises also come with a grant of €5,000, respectively.**

On Saturday, October 14, 2023, the German Dance Award 2023 will be presented at the Aalto Theater in Essen - Germany's most prestigious honor in the field of dance.

The jury has selected the winners from numerous proposals submitted by associations, institutions and dance professionals.

Malou Airaud, Josephine Ann Endicott, Lutz Förster and Dominique Mercy were collectively nominated. The jury has endorsed this recommendation and will award the four dance professionals with the **German Dance Award 2023**.

"From the very first years, they shaped the work of Pina Bausch and the Tanztheater Wuppertal by virtue of their personality and their unconditional commitment to a dance aesthetic that broke with existing conventions and generated a new way of thinking in and through dance. [...]"

Beginning in Wuppertal, all four have spread their radiance into the world and continue to be sought-after dance personalities. [...] The German Dance Award 2023 honors their life's work and tireless, individual dedication to dance until today."

The jury honors dance educator **Peter Appel** with an **honorary award for his life's work**.

"His knowledge and insight into the works of the respective choreographers, his dedication and humor have accompanied renowned choreographers and have profoundly shaped and inspired generations of dancers. His lifelong devotion to dance and his pedagogical talent are honored by the jury with the German Dance Award - Lifetime Achievement."

Sophia Neises, as a dance artist with visual impairment, represents the artistic work of people with disabilities in a unique way. The **honor for outstanding development in dance** recognizes her impact on dance and commitment to the field of accessibility.

"As a performer, she identifies herself as an artist with visual impairments. As a result of this self-description, she interacts with limitations in her performative practice [...] She discovers new skills and develops contemporary forms of artistic expression together with other artists in mutual exchange and learning from each other. [...] This creates new aesthetic approaches not only in dance and performance, but in contemporary culture and society as a whole."

Detailed information on the award winners - jury statements and biographies - as well as press photos can be found at: <https://www.deutschertanzpreis.de/service/presse/deutscher-tanzpreis-2023>

The award ceremony will take place as part of a dance gala on Saturday, October 14 at 6 p.m. at the Aalto Theater in Essen. The detailed program will be published in the summer. Advance sales for the event will begin on June 10 via the Ticket Center of Theater Essen. The dance gala will also be available as a live stream.

Accompanying the dance award events, the Dachverband Tanz Deutschland (the German Dance Association) is organizing a **symposium** on the topic of "Promotion, Visibility and Appreciation of Dance" **from October 13 to 14**. Dance professionals from all over Germany will discuss the social relevance and artistic qualities of dance, cultural policy requirements and strategies for their realization.

The German Dance Award is supported by the City of Essen, the Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. Sponsors, foundations and donors support the award ceremony.

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