

GERMAN DANCE AWARD 2020

Raimund Hoghe



Raimund Hoghe © Rosa Frank

Raimund Hoghe has been among the most leading international choreographers for years, setting both aesthetic and political standards. Choreographer and dancer Hoghe summarises one of the driving forces behind his theatre work by quoting Pier Paolo Pasolini: "to throw your body into the fight". In his case, it is a body that conforms neither to the norm nor to common ideals of beauty. His works react to the political course of time without ever losing sight of his own artistic signature. They are dedicated to explosive socio-political topics such as German history, various forms of exclusion or the current political situation, for example Europe's way of dealing with refugees. His works feature a common archive of shared social experiences which can be joined by the viewers' own histories. Hoghe's artistic work has been insisting on and practicing inclusion and diversity for years without explicitly sailing under this flag. Hoghe collaborates with exceptional dance artists to produce his creations, in which people dance and speak, listen to music and act in a variety of ways. He started shaping his own unique aesthetic in the 1990s and has been pursuing it with unique intensity and consistency ever since. His high art of mindfulness, of heightened perception, allows for a new view of dance and is, not least, an unrelenting experiment with beauty. The Dance Award 2020 honours the lifetime achievement of an artist who never tried to serve the system, but rather tried to change it with unusual courage and personal commitment.

Biography

Raimund Hoghe was born in Wuppertal and began his career by writing portraits of outsiders and celebrities for the German weekly newspaper "Die Zeit". These were later compiled in several books. From 1980 to 1989 he worked as dramaturge for Pina Bausch's Tanztheater Wuppertal which also became the subject matter for two more books. Since 1989 he has been working on his own theatre pieces for various dancers and actors. 1992 started his collaboration with the artist Luca Giacomo Schulte, who is till now his artistic collaborator. In 1994 he produced his first solo for himself, "Meinwärts", which together with the subsequent "Chambre séparée" (1997) and "Another Dream" (2000) made up a trilogy on the 20th century.

Hoghe frequently works for television on projects such as "La jeunesse est dans la tête" for ARTE (2016), "Lebensträume" (ZDF/3sat 1994) and 1997 "Der Buckel", a hour-long self portrait for WDR. His books have been translated into several languages and he has presented his performances all over Europe, as well as in North and South America, Asia and Australia. He has been awarded several prizes including the "Deutscher Produzentenpreis für Choreografie" in 2001, the French Prix de la Critique in 2006 for "Swan Lake, 4 Acts" (in the category "Best Foreign Piece"). Critics from the magazin ballet-tanz awarded him "Dancer of the Year" for 2008. In 2019, The French Cultural Ministry appointed Raimund Hoghe "Officier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres". He received the award in recognition of his "significant contributions to the cultural cooperation between Germany and France". Books about his theatre works were published in France, Germany, Great Britain and the United States. Raimund Hoghe lives in Düsseldorf.

"Pier Paolo Pasolini wrote of throwing the body into the fight. These words inspired me to go on stage. Other inspirations are the reality around me, the time in which I live, my memories of history, people, images, feelings and the power and beauty of music and the confrontation with one's own body which, in my case, does not correspond with conventional ideals of beauty. To see bodies on stage that do not comply with the norm is important - not only with regard to history but also with regard to present developments, which are leading humans to the status of design objects. On the question of success: it is important to be able to work and to go your own way - with or without success. I simply do what I have to do."

Raimund Hoghe

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