

**PRESSRELEASE**

**Nele Hertling will receive the German Dance Award 2018**

**The prestigious award provides new impulses**

Essen, 22nd March 2018

On the 22nd of September 2018, the German Dance Award, with its great tradition and new format, will be awarded at the Aalto Theatre in Essen. North Rhine-Westphalia will become a meeting point for dance in Germany and Europe. The gala accompanying the award ceremony will present the diversity of dance in Germany, from contemporary ballet through to contemporary dance.

**THE NEW FORMAT OF THE GERMAN DANCE AWARD**

**For the first time, the German Dance Award will be presented by the German Dance Association (Dachverband Tanz Deutschland), jointly supported by the city of Essen, the Ministry for Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, and by funds from the Federal Government.**

**The German Dance Award will be endowed with the sum of €20,000 for the first time.**

The German Dance Association (Dachverband Tanz Deutschland – DTD), as a nation-wide voice for dance in Germany, with its' various partners, will present the German Dance Award in future. Since the last year, in which the German Dance Award was not awarded, the DTD has worked in close cooperation with the award's previous representatives, the Foundation for Dance Art Germany (Förderverein Tanzkunst Deutschland), the German Professional Association of Dance Teachers (Deutscher Berufsverband für Tanzpädagogik), and the public sponsors to create a new concept for the award.

**The Minister for Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia, Isabel Pfeiffer-Poensgen, says:**  
*“the German Dance Award stands for the diversity, quality and innovative power of dance. Artists and ballet and dance ensembles at municipal, state and national theatres as well as the in the free scene will be honoured with the award. It is a sign for culture, given from the dance world of NRW to the nation and to Europe.”*

**On behalf of the city of Essen Muchtar Al-Ghusain states:** „Essen can look back on almost 100 years of contemporary dance history. At the same time, the local ballet has established its place at the Aalto Theatre. It is a great honour to be able to present the German Dance Award in Essen again, and a great duty to give dance in Essen in all its formats a secure place for the future.

**In future, the German Dance Award will also be awarded in Essen** – with a fixed date at the start of the theatre season and in cooperation with Theater und Philharmonie Essen (TUP). The patron of the German Dance Award is Prof. Dr Norbert Lammert, former President of the Bundestag.

This year, the award representative and the public sponsors appointed an independent jury. The jury decided over the proposals made by numerous associations, their members and institutions of dance.

**Soon an advisory board will accompany the development of the German Dance Award.** The public sponsors, the German Dance Association, the German Professional Association of Dance Teachers, and the Theater und Philharmonie Essen will be represented in the advisory board. Personalities from the world of dance as well as the cultural life of Essen will be invited to join the advisory board. The advisory board discusses the conceptualisation and development of the German Dance Award and names the jury.

## **THE AWARD-WINNERS**

On the 30th of January, the jury of 2018 selected the award-winners.

**The GERMAN DANCE AWARD 2018 will be received by the dramaturge and dance networker, Nele Hertling.**

*Over many decades, Nele Hertling has made an impact on the development of contemporary dance in Germany. Since the 70s, she has drawn exceptional international choreographers to Germany, such as Merce Cunningham and Trisha Brown. As director of the Hebbel Theatre in Berlin (from 1988 to 2003), she established a strong network of European event organisers, presented the Flemish and French dance avant-garde, and founded the festival "Tanz im August". As cultural-political networker and an expert for dance, she continually strengthened the position of independently produced dance. In doing so, she never restricted her efforts to a specific form of dance but directed her attention to the broad horizon of dance in all its diversity within the European cultural landscape.*

**The ballet of Staatstheater Nürnberg will be honoured for an extraordinary development in dance.**

*Under the direction of Goyo Montero, the ballet of Staatstheater Nürnberg has developed into an ensemble of exceptional soloists and artistic personalities. With his exceptional choreographies, which are demanding for both the audience and dancers, he shapes the profile of the ensemble. Building on classical training, the company has also achieved excellence in contemporary dance techniques; an ensemble which captivates the public and is taking stages around the world by storm through its collaboration with world-class choreographers, such as Jiří Kylián, Mats Ek, William Forsythe and Hofesh Shechter.*

**The jury is honouring the choreographer Meg Stuart and her company Damaged Goods as extraordinary artists.**

*American choreographer Meg Stuart lives and works in Berlin and Brussels. In 1994, she founded her company Damaged Goods. Stuart strives to develop a new language for every piece, in collaboration with artists from different creative disciplines and navigates the tension between dance and theatre. Her dance examines the position of the body in the world; it questions, deconstructs and disembodies*

*the body. The performers of Damaged Goods' productions confront us as explorers, driven by passion and longing, inward-looking and exploring physical and emotional states or the memories of them.*

**Martin Puttke, Chairman of the jury:** *the jury's discussion was shaped by differing perspectives on the diversity of dance and it became clear to what extent the Dance Award can be a platform and bridge for a constructive and lively discourse about the present and future of dance. I am all the more pleased that the decision for Nele Hertling to receive the award was reached unanimously. In addition, we are honouring the artists who bring life and form to dance through their work on stage. The diversity of dance art in the present time will be shown through the prize-winners and the performances of the dance gala in what will certainly be a wonderful evening.*

**The gala for the presentation of the German Dance Award**– as was the hallmark of the prize in previous decades – will place artistic contributions centre stage and offer the public a diverse programme of international guests.

The German Dance Association (Dachverband Tanz Deutschland) will host an accompanying **symposium**, which will present exceptional, national projects and innovative developments in dance.

A detailed programme of the dance gala will be published in May. The **ticket sale** begins on 19.4.2018 at the box offices of Theater und Philharmonie Essen.

Further information: [www.deutschertanzpreis.de](http://www.deutschertanzpreis.de)

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