

PRESS RELEASE

## GERMAN DANCE AWARD 2019: DANCE GALA PROGRAMME FINALIZED

**Award ceremony for Gert Weigelt on 19 October/tributes to Jo Parkes and Isabelle Schad on 18 October**

Berlin/Essen, 11 June 2019

**This year's German Dance Award goes to world-famous dance photographer Gert Weigelt. The prizegiving ceremony, which is as steeped in tradition as it is rich in innovation, will take place at the Aalto Theatre in Essen on Saturday, 19 October, at 6 p.m. as part of a top-class gala, which will include companies such as the Berlin State Ballet and the Ballett am Rhein and will feature choreographies by George Balanchine, Isabelle Schad and Martin Schläpfer. Dance and video artist Jo Parkes and dancer and choreographer Isabelle Schad will also be honoured for their work at PACT Zollverein in Essen on Friday, 18 October, at 7 p.m. The award ceremony will be part of the public POSITIONEN: TANZ (POSITIONS: DANCE) symposium.**

The German Dance Award, organized by the Dachverband Tanz Deutschland e.V. and in collaboration with the Theater und Philharmonie Essen GmbH, honours outstanding personalities on the German dance scene who have previously made or are currently making dance-related contributions on stage, in education, journalism, science or other areas of dance. In addition, performers, ensembles and projects in the dance sector are commended for forward-thinking initiatives, model concepts or extraordinary productions.

The 2019 jury selected the awardees on 28 January. The German Dance Award 2019, which includes prize money of 20,000 euros, will go to photographer Gert Weigelt, whose photos contributed to the journalistic breakthrough of German dance theatre in the 70s and 80s and continue to reflect the stylings of the choreographers and the expressiveness of the dancers in an ideal light to this day.

Dance and video artist Jo Parkes and dancer and choreographer Isabelle Schad will each be awarded 5,000 euros for significant developments in contemporary dance.

### TOP-CLASS AWARD CEREMONY GALA

The programme of the two-day event is a highlight both for dance connoisseurs and for the German and European dance scene as a whole. As has been the hallmark of the award in recent decades, the German Dance Award gala, which will take place at the Aalto Theatre on Saturday, 19 October, at 6 p.m. will focus on artistic contributions, making reference to the work of the awardees, and will offer the audience a multifaceted programme featuring international guests. World-famous companies and dancers, such as the Berlin State Ballet, the Ballett am Rhein Düsseldorf-Duisburg, the Bavarian Junior Ballet company from Munich, Lutz Förster, Marlúcia do Amaral, Iana Salenko and Daniil Simkin will perform at the event, with choreographies by George Balanchine, Martin Schläpfer, Isabelle Schad, Laurent Goldring, Sharon Eyal und Xin Peng Wang from the areas of neoclassicism, dance theatre, modernity and independent contemporary dance.

The dramaturgy of the evening is inspired by both the artistic partnerships that were and are formative for Gert Weigelt's biography and the aspiration to represent the broad spectrum of the local dance scene. The work of Jo Parkes will be presented in the form of multimedia-based social and participative projects on stage and via video installation in the foyer. The focal point of the evening will be the presentation of the highest distinction in the field of dance in Germany. The laudation for Gert Weigelt will be given by Thomas Thorausch from the Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln. Subsequently, Isabelle Schad and Jo Parkes will receive the certificates for their awards on stage.

## **DETAILED GALA PROGRAMME:**

### **IM WALD (IN THE FOREST)**

Dance performance by Xin Peng Wang

Music: Camille Pépin

Choreography: Xin Peng Wang

Performance: Bavarian Junior Ballet Company, Munich

*The composition draws on the energy sources of the Tibetan worldview, which range from musical dynamics to metaphysical sonority. Xin Peng Wang takes up Pépin's energetic principle and distils from it the movement language of his creation. For him, the undergrowth, synonym for the natural subconscious, becomes the biotope for a process of development of civilization, which is based on the inner tension between individual and society.*

### **RUBIES**

Ballet by George Balanchine (from "Jewels")

Music: Igor Strawinsky (Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra, 1929)

Choreography: George Balanchine

Performance:

Iana Salenko and Daniil Simkin, soloists and corps de ballet of the Berlin State Ballet

Essen Philharmonic Orchestra

Musical direction: Robert Reimer

*Vital and athletic, full of energy and a tongue-in-cheek zest for life: a truly brilliant dance composition, that has found its way into the international repertoire. With his purist dance style, Balanchine has led the ballet into the modern age and his taste has made him a neoclassicist icon. He plays masterfully with the skills of the dancers, the flair of the ballerina, the structure and mood of the music. Understatement and elegance are the trademarks of his approach.*

### **RAMIFICATIONS**

Dance performance by Martin Schläpfer

Music: György Ligeti

Choreography: Martin Schläpfer

Performance: Marlúcia do Amaral (Ballett am Rhein Düsseldorf Duisburg)

*To complement Ligeti's eponymous orchestral work, the choreographer has the dancer create an architecture of lines and curves and fashions imaginary rooms. Her body grows far beyond its actual size, appears stretched, as if extended, and then very small again. The most demanding technical feats are transformed into a paradoxical lightness for the viewer. The familiar appears foreign and vice versa: the expression of a longing for other states.*

### **COLLECTIVE JUMPS/COLLECTIVE JUMPS (EXCERPTS)**

Project by Isabelle Schad and Laurent Goldring

Sound: Damir Simunovic

Choreography: Isabelle Schad and Laurent Goldring

Performance: Juan Corres Benito, Frederike Doffin, Naïma Ferré, Jasmin Ihrac, Przemyslaw Kaminski, Roni Katz, Mathis Kleinschnittger, Inna Krasnoper, Manuel Lindner, Jan Lorys, Dorota Michalak, Julia Rodriguez, Claudia Tomasi, Nir Vidan, Sunniva Vikør Egenes, Natalia Wilk

*In her work "Collective Jumps," Isabelle Schad deals with the utopia of community building in dance. In collaboration with artist Laurent Goldring, the choreographer and a group of 16 dancers examine the possibilities that arise in the relationship between form and freedom. Important question: Can the creation of an infinite, united, monstrous body be a place of cultural resistance?*

#### **HALF LIFE**

Dance performance by Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar

Music: Ori Lichtik

Choreography: Sharon Eyal/co-choreography: Gai Behar

Performance: dancers of the Berlin State Ballet

*Sharon Eyal is an Israeli choreographer and one of the leading protagonists on the current contemporary dance scene. Clearly influenced by the legendary Batsheva Dance Company, her creations challenge the physicality of the dancers to achieve individual expression. The pull of this work also results from the music created and further developed during the choreographic process.*

Artistic direction: Prof. Martin Puttke, Chairman of the Jury

Organizational management: Tobias Ehinger

**Tickets are available through the Theater und Philharmonie Essen TicketCenter, Tel.**

**+49 (0)201/8122200 or [tickets@theater-essen.de](mailto:tickets@theater-essen.de).**

## **MEETING POINT: GERMAN DANCE SCENE – POSITIONEN: TANZ (POSITIONS: DANCE) SYMPOSIUM**

The actual tribute to Isabelle Schad and Jo Parkes will take at PACT Zollverein the evening prior to the symposium, i.e. on Friday, 18 October, at 7 p.m. Following the awards ceremony, the piece "Collective Jumps" by Isabelle Schad and Laurent Goldring will be performed. The evening will be the highlight

of the public POSITIONEN: TANZ (POSITIONS: DANCE) symposium, which will bring together those involved in the German dance scene on Friday, 18 October, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., and Saturday, 19 October, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., in order to discuss attitudes and ethical questions regarding dance, cultural policy and society. The symposium is geared towards artists, dance students, theatres, production houses,

educational institutions and networks as well as dance projects, dance schools and participatory projects from Essen, North Rhine-Westphalia and Germany as a whole and will feature keynote speeches, panels, working groups and a world café.

The discussion will focus on values and concepts of professional collaboration in education and artistic work processes as well as mutual interaction in collaborations with producers, curators, funding institutions and policy makers. Furthermore, the symposium will address the opportunities and forms through which dance works – in cultural education, for creativity, health and social integration. Approximately 30 artists, thinkers and networkers will share their questions and visions with the conference participants.

**Programme and registration at [www.deutschertanzpreis.de/preisverleihung/tagung/](http://www.deutschertanzpreis.de/preisverleihung/tagung/)**

## THE AWARDEES

Excerpts from the statements by the proposers and the Dance Award jury

### **Gert Weigelt to receive the German Dance Award 2019**

*Gert Weigelt has dedicated his life to dance. As a dancer, he worked with choreographers such as Hans van Manen, Jerome Robbins, Jiří Kylián, Kurt Jooss, Glen Tetley and Birgit Cullberg. Following his dance career and studies in artistic photography, he accompanied the outstanding choreographers of our time, such as Pina Bausch, Hans van Manen, Maurice Béjart, Susanne Linke, William Forsythe, Gerhard Bohner and Martin Schläpfer, with his camera. Weigelt's works are not only documents of dance, they are works of art in their own right. They reveal external form and internal movement. They are a celebration of movement and the body. They are a celebration of dance, which always offers new perspectives and makes the hidden and undiscovered visible to us. At the moment portrayed in the image, the stage, the photographer and the camera seem to have become one to capture the soul of dance – for an instant. Weigelt's works have paved the way for the ephemeral art form of dance to enter the world of journalism and the media, and therefore also the digital world. He places dancers at the centre of his works, portraying those who create dance – with their elegance and passion, their grace and energy, with sex appeal and precision.*

### **Award for outstanding artistic developments in contemporary dance for Isabelle Schad**

*Dancer and choreographer Isabelle Schad studied classical dance in Stuttgart and has danced for numerous choreographers. Since 1999 she has been producing her own choreographic works at the interface between dance, performance and visual arts. Isabelle Schad explores the body. The search for internal impulses of movement, for that which moves in the body, forms the starting point of her choreographies. This means that the body is not simply a tool to create choreographic figures or a certain expression but rather undergoes continuous metamorphoses, is observed and brought into play again and again. Her dance and the bodies of her dancers seek less to create a fixed image or a clear form of expression than to help us to experience how movements turn into art. And when these processes are applied to the dancers, completely new forms of collective work emerge. This particular creative process has had a decisive influence on contemporary dance in recent decades. Isabelle Schad's works are outstanding examples of this development.*

### **Award for outstanding artistic developments in social and participatory dance projects for Jo Parkes**

*Jo Parkes is a dance and video artist. For 17 years she has been initiating and leading participatory dance projects (community dance) and innovative art projects with participants from very different social and cultural backgrounds. JUNCTION, a dance and video workshop programme currently running in four Berlin refugee accommodation centres, was also created in this manner. Motivated by the conviction that everyone has a right to participate in art and especially in contemporary dance art and that dance offers a field of experience in which individual as well as social issues can be worked on and shaped on an aesthetic and expressive level, she has worked with various groups, especially those that are socially and politically disadvantaged and neglected. In an extraordinarily impressive way, Jo Parkes' artistic projects convey how dance can affect our society. They exemplify many developments in community dance in Germany and the social commitment of the protagonists of dance.*

## **BACKGROUND**

The German Dance Award was first presented in 1983. On the initiative of Ulrich Roehm, a legendary figurehead of the German dance scene, the Deutsche Berufsverband für Tanzpädagogik e.V. (DBfT) used the award to honour individuals who had made outstanding contributions in the field of artistic dance in Germany. From 2004 to 2016, the Förderverein Tanzkunst Deutschland e.V. took over the awarding of the prize, and as of 2017, the Dachverband Tanz Deutschland e.V. (DTD) has been responsible for the award, which is presented annually in Roehm's home town of Essen. Previous awardees include Gret Palucca, Tatjana Gsovsky, John Neumeier, Márcia Haydée, Hans van Manen, Maurice Béjart, Pina Bausch, Gregor Seyffert, William Forsythe, Susanne Linke, Heinz Spoerli, Bertram Müller und Martin Puttke.

This year is the second year the German Dance Award will be presented by the Dachverband Tanz Deutschland as the national voice for artistic dance, in close collaboration with former sponsor Förderverein Tanzkunst Deutschland as well as the Deutscher Berufsverband für Tanzpädagogik and the Theater und Philharmonie Essen GmbH. The award is jointly funded by the City of Essen, the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and federal funds. As in previous years, Prof. Norbert Lammert, former President of the Bundestag, will act as the patron of the German Dance Award.

The independent jury was appointed in 2018 by the main sponsor and the additional public sponsors. It considered a number of proposals submitted by numerous associations, their members and dance institutions. An advisory board, consisting of representatives of the public sponsors, the Dachverband Tanz Deutschland, the Deutsche Berufsverband für Tanzpädagogik and the Theater und Philharmonie Essen GmbH, supports the development of the German Dance Award. The advisory board discusses the concept and the further development of the German Dance Award and appoints the jury.

## **MAIN SPONSOR**

Dachverband Tanz Deutschland e.V.  
Nationwide association for artistic dance, supported by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media

## **PATRON**

Prof. Norbert Lammert  
Former President of the German Bundestag

## **ADVISORY BOARD**

City of Essen  
State of North Rhine-Westphalia  
Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media  
Dachverband Tanz Deutschland  
Deutscher Berufsverband für Tanzpädagogik  
Theater und Philharmonie Essen GmbH  
Cultural and public personalities

## JURY

**Prof. Nik Haffner**

(Artistic Director, Inter-University Centre for Dance, Berlin)

**Kathleen McNurney**

(Artistic Director, Tanz Luzern)

**Tim Plegge**

(Ballet Director, Staatstheater Wiesbaden)

**Brit Rodemund**

(Dancer)

**Prof. Patrick Primavesi**

(Dance and theatre scholar, University of Leipzig)

**Prof. Martin Puttke – Chairman of the Jury**

(Dance instructor, Ballet Director at the Aalto Theater in Essen from 1995-2008)

**Gisela Peters-Rohse**

(Dance instructor)

**Helena Waldmann**

(Freelance choreographer)

## DATES AND EVENTS

**"POSITIONEN: TANZ" ("POSITIONS: DANCE") symposium**

Friday, 18 October, 1.00 p.m.-6.00 p.m./Saturday, 19 October, 10.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m.

**Award ceremony for Isabelle Schad and Jo Parkes**

**and performance of "Collective Jumps" by Isabelle Schad and Laurent Goldring**

Friday, 18 October, 7.00 p.m.

PACT Zollverein Essen

**Award ceremony dance gala with award ceremony for Gert Weigelt**

Saturday, 19 October, 6.00 p.m.

Aalto Theatre in Essen

## TICKETS

E-mail: [tickets@theater-essen.de](mailto:tickets@theater-essen.de) / Tel. +49 (0)201/81 22-200

[www.theater-essen.de](http://www.theater-essen.de)

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

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## **PHOTOS TO DOWNLOAD**

Link: <http://www.deutschertanzpreis.de/bilder>  
Access code: Tanzpreis2019