



AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING DEVELOPMENT IN DANCE
as part of the German Dance Award 2024

explore dance
– **Network Dance for Young Audience**

explore dance
TANZPAKT STADT LAND BUND



Nationwide Network

The aim of the *explore dance* network, which was established in 2018 by several federal states, is to develop a sustainable structure for the production of contemporary dance pieces for young audiences and to thus permanently strengthen the visibility of this art form. Through the production, facilitation and reception of dance pieces, the cooperative, federalistic cultural concept of *explore dance* establishes and expands the field of dance for young audiences throughout Germany with a high level of artistic quality. Giving children and young people access to cultural participation is one of the most fundamental tasks of cultural policies. In the field of dance, however, this has so far mostly happened through temporary project financing, which does not enable sustainable work continuity. *explore dance* wants to give all children and young people access to dance as an art form and enable them to participate in artistic experiences, regardless of where they live or of their social background. Contemporary dance is to be anchored permanently and on an equal footing with other art forms and genres in the standard programme of cultural activities available to children and young people. The four partner institutions fabrik moves Potsdam, Fokus Tanz | Tanz und Schule e.V. Munich, K3 | Tanzplan Hamburg and HELLERAU – European Center for the Arts in Dresden are currently cooperating in the network. In the long term, *explore dance* is to be expanded to include partners from other federal states.

Dance Productions for Young Audience

explore dance is building a sustainable structure for the production and touring of contemporary dance pieces for young audiences and thus closes the existing gap in the cultural offering for children and young people. Within the nationwide network,

experienced choreographers are invited to Potsdam, Munich, Dresden and Hamburg to develop and present new works for young audiences. In addition to stage productions, mobile pop-up pieces are created that can be shown in schools, museums, galleries, meeting centers or open air in a technically simple manner and can be toured nationwide and internationally, including in rural areas. During the rehearsal phase, the artists engage in direct exchange with children and young people and involve them in their creative work in various mediation formats such as workshops, rehearsal visits and research sessions. In the first five years of its existence (2018-2023), *explore dance* produced 28 dance pieces for young audiences, realized over 400 performances nationwide and internationally, worked with more than 300 schools and with over 120 artists. For 2024, two *explore dance* pieces were selected as artistically outstanding productions, with invitations to the European network Aerowaves ("Where the boys are") and to the Tanzplattform Deutschland ("Schwanensee in sneakers"). In 2019, the network was awarded the Perspective Award of the German Theater Prize DER FAUST of the German Theater Association.

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