DEUTSCHER TANZPREIS

Sasha Waltz

GERMAN DANCE AWARD 2024

Jury statement

The jury awards the German Dance Award 2024 to Sasha Waltz for her international appeal, her commitment to the independent dance scene structures and, above all, for her artistically unique and disciplinary-bursting oeuvre.

As a dancer, choreographer and director whose life and work is centered in Berlin, she has been a key figure in the development of contemporary dance since the early 1990s. To this day, she has continued to develop her distinctive choreographic signature and aesthetic vision. Sasha Waltz is undisputedly one of Germany's most renowned dance artists, both nationally and internationally.

Sasha Waltz's extensive oeuvre encompasses various creative periods: the early intimate, narrative-humorous pieces that she developed at the Sophiensaele in the 1990s, as well as the large, imposing dance productions at the Schaubühne Berlin in the early 2000s that focused entirely on the relationship between body and space. This was followed by her exploration of the art of opera, which led to a new genre, the 'choreographic opera'. Her intensive research into new relationships between visual art and dance as well as contemporary music and dance runs through her entire oeuvre, not only in her spatial explorations as part of the Dialogue projects, but also in her exchanges with artists from various disciplines. In recent experiments, she has created pieces that can be danced by both professional and non-professional dancers. With all these different approaches, she has both enriched contemporary dance and significantly influenced the development of other artistic genres.

In close collaboration with her life and work partner Jochen Sandig, she has repeatedly opened up new spaces for dance for example by founding the Sophiensæle (1996) and the Radialsystem (2006) and attracted new audiences for dance both nationally and internationally. With 'Sasha Waltz & Guests', a company structure has been created that enables the artist to collaborate on large international projects as well as experiment with new forms and in which the company's dancers are also empowered to be creative.