DEUTSCHER TANZPREIS

explore dance
– Network for Young Audiences

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

Jury Statement

The German Dance Award jury honors the work of the *explore dance* network in the category Outstanding Development in Dance. For less than 6 years, the *explore dance* network has been developing formats across federal states that focus on contemporary dance as an art and cultural practice on stage and in educational projects for young audiences. Its own mission is to "close the gap that still exists in the cultural offerings for children and young people in Germany".

Until 2021, the network's hubs included the three partners: fabrik moves in Potsdam, Fokus Tanz | Tanz und Schule e.V. in Munich and K3 Tanzplan Hamburg. In 2022, the network expanded to include HELLERAU - European Center for the Arts. *explore dance* is funded by the federal government and participating federal states, an exemplary example of TANZPAKT Stadt-Land-Bund.

With a diverse range of thematic offerings from friendship to physics, the network creates spaces at various locations, for example also in kindergartens and schools, for experiencing contemporary dance and the socially relevant issues it addresses. This not only takes place within the project partners' associated programs. Every year, all world premieres of the respective season are presented together in one or more festivals.

With formats such as the Mobile Pop UP, *explore dance* goes beyond its main objectives to offer children and young people dance through performance, it also introduces them to modes of perception and takes them seriously as an audience.

explore dance's focus is not only on dance education through the support of teachers in local networks or through its own magazine, *The Journal*. The touring system, which allows individual members to show their work throughout Germany, is also a special strength of the network. In this way, contemporary dance is actively reaching out to young audiences, as it is an audience that cannot travel to festivals, galas or well-known venues in the same way as working adults.

Networks are constellations without a center. A network that wants to work across federal states needs strong hubs - and the stamina to cultivate and maintain them

sustainably and consistently. This is exactly what *explore dance* achieves - multidirectionally, for six seasons, at several locations, with many creative bodies and minds - for a large audience of children and young people.