



may 20th
– may 29th | 2023
COLOGNE

Press Release, 05.04.2023

CircusDanceFestival 2023 Saturday, 20. May to Monday, 29. May 2023 in Cologne

This year's **CircusDanceFestival in Cologne** will be starting up with a big edition as an innovation project of the Kulturstiftung des Bundes [German Federal Cultural Foundation]. In already its fourth edition, the festival, which is once again curated by the Cologne based circus artist and choreographer Tim Behren, will show a wide range of experimental forms of circus and dance that critically approach society and address their complexities from **20. until 29. May 2023**. It's about political bodies, about our relationship to human and non-human bodies, our connection to architectures and our physical environment.

This year's special: the multifaceted world of international contemporary circus and dance will not only be experienced on the festival grounds An der Schanz in Cologne's north. At the **festival's opening weekend** before Pentecost, contemporary circus will come into the city for everyone. For free and outside, the CircusDanceFestival will celebrate an extraordinary meeting of architecture, bodies, acrobatics and dance in public space **around the Haus der Architektur at the Joseph-Haubrich-Hof on 20. and 21. May.**

From 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, you can see installative circus miniatures and moving bodies by the ensembles Knot on Hands (NL), Compagnie Barks (FR) and Sinking Sideways (BE/DE). In the midst of the city, structures from daily life can be experienced up close and personal when the performers acrobatically redefine stairs, columns and walls in public space. With the help of the Pantograph, an oversized futuristic apparatus, airspace will be measured and weightlessness explored. And in the White Cube in the Haus der Architektur, an acrobatic dance gem is awaiting the audience.

From Wednesday 24. May to Whitsun Monday (29. May), a literally ambitious stage program on the festival grounds and at several outdoor sites will then offer diverse spectacular, humorous and touching statements on the current state of international contemporary circus and dance events. So, for example, „EZ“ by Elena Zanzu (Spain), which deals with pain, vulnerability and care in a philosophical and artistically comprehensive way; the new solo „VanThorhout“ by the renowned choreographer and circus artist Alexander Vantourhout (Belgium), the multi-performative „Sofa Project“ by the clown Marija Baranauskaitė (Lithuania) about the relationship between humans and sofas, „Noise Juice“ by the Ensemble Muovipussi (Finland), an enthralling mix of a concert and circus performance, or also the physically extremely challenging piece „What is left“ by the host company Overhead Project (Germany) for five acrobats.

CircusDanceFestival
20. to 29. May 2023 in Cologne

20. & 21. May 2023
FESTIVAL OPENING – CITY
For free & outside
Joseph-Haubrich-Hof
50676 Köln

20.-29. May 2023
FESTIVALSITE
LATIBUL Theater- &
Zirkuspädagogisches Zentrum
An der Schanz 6
50735 Köln
U-18 Boltenternstraße or
U-13 Slabystraße

EXTERNAL SITES
Stadthalle Köln
Jan-Wellem-Straße 2
51065 Köln
U-4, 13, 18 Wiener Platz

Kulturbunker Mülheim
Berlinerstraße 20
51063 Köln
U-4 Von-Spar-Straße

ZZT Studiotheater
Turmstraße 3–5
50733 Köln
U-12, 15 Florastraße

TanzFaktur
Siegburger Straße 233 W
50679 Köln
U-7 Poller Kirchweg

All information online on:
www.circus-dance-festival.de/en



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In addition, on **27., 28. und 29. May** at the **360° stage** especially designed for the festival, three different sets by a total of nine solo artists or ensembles with short pieces – the so-called “360° shorts” – as well as excerpts from existing works will give insights into current circus-choreographic signatures. Also, there will be a cooperative performance by 10 students of the Zentrum für Zeitgenössischen Tanz (ZZT) of the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln and Brussels’ Ecole Supérieure des Arts du Cirque (ESAC) that was developed over the course of many weeks under the artistic direction of Breno Caetano (BR/BE) in the framework of the „CircusDance Creation Lab“.

A total of 23 different works with a total of 34 performances (many with free admission) will be accompanied by podium discussions, film evenings, concert performances and festival parties, among others. Feminist circus perspectives and interdisciplinary debates about “grotesque” bodies reflect circus’s historic and colonial heritage. The **VOICES magazine** with its focus “**Re-exploring the grotesque. Circus perspectives on diverse bodies**” accompanies the CircusDanceFestival and will already be released in early May by the publishers Theater der Zeit.

Detailed information about the festival program and the possibility to purchase tickets are now available on the festival homepage: www.circus-dance-festival.de/en



k3 berlin –
Kontor für Kultur und Kommunikation

Heike Diehm
_Pressekontakt

bureau@k3berlin.de
+49 (0) 30 695 695 24

Mechtild Tellmann
_Management / PR

pr-festival@overhead-project.de
+ 49 (0) 221 – 99 71 50 20