

Open Call

Come Closer Lab – Exploring audience relations and interactions

Practical Laboratory for Artists / Authors from Catalonia & Cologne/NRW

May 23–30, 2026

CircusDanceFestival Cologne

At CCCC Creation Center Contemporary Circus

Within the framework of *Meridian(s) Catalonia–Germany*

In cooperation with **APCC / Circus Promotion Plan 2023-2026**

About the Lab

Come Closer Lab is a dedicated space for artistic exchange, dialogue, and inspiration. There is no pressure to produce final results; instead, the focus lies on practical sharing and experimentation. The lab is part of this year's CircusDanceFestival edition and follows the same thematic focus: *Come Closer*.

Concept & Focus

The lab brings together ten artists from Catalonia and Cologne/NRW

Participants will practically share, exchange, and experiment with personal approaches to working on the relationship between audience and performers in artistic works.

The lab will be facilitated by Catalanian circus-dance artist Diana Gadish and circus dramaturg and thinker Jenny Patschovsky. During the lab, artists will share and experiment on their personal ideas and artistic approaches with the group.

On two days there will be audience invited to attend the group tryouts.

Who Can Apply

The lab is open to

- Circus artists based/living in Catalonia
- Circus or dance artists based in Cologne / NRW

Applying artists should:

- Be open to sharing knowledge and experiences from their own artistic practice
- Curious to work or experiment with the audience
- Willing to develop short proposals or ideas individually or collectively during the lab

Applicants should be authors of their own work and currently thinking or working on a personal artistic project in which the presence of the audience plays a specific role. This can be participatory formats, specific Non-frontal stage settings, Interventions in public space or others. The working language will be English

Timeline

22nd/23rd Arrival
23rd festival programme with VOICES magazine launch to the editions topic and Aperó Pro lunch (optional)
24th informal kick-off + festival programme
25th till 29th Lab Days
29th evening festival programme(XY/Möbius)
30th Departure

Offer

- Free participations in the laboratory programme
 - Festival pass for specific shows and at CDF 2026
 - Participating at Aperó Pro international networking opportunity
 - Accommodation and travel support for Catalanian artists
 - Accommodation support for NRW artists (only if needed)
 - Festival catering during weekend, group lunch offered during lab week.
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Application

Application is open until 22nd February 2026
Interested professional artists are invited to apply via the application form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwiisM2EO1HquyNI-rafBI52vqWOIkILu3Mw-xD8oExyLCOQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

The application contains:

- Basic information (Name, Nationality, Country of Residence, Website)
- A short bio with education / professional background / discipline



- 1-2 trailer links of previous works or work-in-progress
- A mobile phone video (up to 3 minutes) presenting yourself and speaking (in english) about the following:
Which questions concerning the lab topic do you bring?
How does the topic of audience relations and interactions relate to your own artistic work?

The participants will be selected by **CircusDanceFestival**, and the two lab facilitators. APCC will attend the selection process without decision-making capacity. The results will be announced to the applicants until 3rd march.

Looking forward to your application!

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