Open Call | CircusDanceFestival 2027

360° - Original creations for the Open Air Roundstage & Artist Summit / 360°- Focus Lithuania

CircusDanceFestival is seeking short performances from the circus and dance field, created for a 360° outdoor stage setting. Submit your **solo or duo work**, in the air or on the floor, lasting up to **15 minutes**, until **October 25th 2026.**

Selected works will perform on the **360° Outdoor stage** at **CircusDanceFestival in Cologne** and are invited to join the three-day 360° Artist summit.

In 2027, the festival will host a **focus on** Lithuania in collaboration with Teatronas, Lithuanian Dance Centre and Arts Printing House as partners.

For Lithuanian artists, the submission deadline is extended to 8th November 2026

Performance dates at CircusDanceFestival
May 14th 360° Programme 1 (International)
May 15th 360° Programme 2 (Lithuanian Focus)
May 16th 360° Programme 3 (International)

The basic requirements are:

- The work has a 360° writing/dramaturgy and communicates to an audience placed all around the stage.
- The work can be presented well outdoors and in a daylight situation
- Solo or duo
- Length between 8 and 15 minutes
- Fits the CDF 360° stage technical conditions
- Easy technical setup; suitable for a shared evening with other short works.

You can be a graduate from circus or dance school, an autodidact, young artist, a late-career changer or a cross-disciplinary artist. Your work can be funny, smart, contemplative, queer, poetic, critical – we are curious!

Our focus is on applications from around Europe, to keep travel distances sustainable. Applicants still pursuing their formation are not eligible to apply. Applications by women, LGBTQIA+, BIPOC and people with disabilities or a refugee or migration background are explicitly welcome.

Conditions

- **360° Performances**
  The 360° format will present 4 works each day
  The selection Jury consists of the festival's artistic direction, festival team members and an external international jury member.
  For the 2027 edition, the external international jury member is the Lithuanian cultural

manager Monika Citvaraitė-Lansbergienė.

From the international call, 8 works will be selected.
From the Lithuanian Call, 4 works.
With your application, you confirm your availability.

- **360° Artist Summit**
  All selected artists are invited to be present during the artist summit over the whole 3 days with discussions, workshop exchanges, talks, networking, Apero Pro, and performance programme. Participation is free of charge and optional; please confirm your availability with your application. As your contribution, we ask you to either offer a workshop or take part in an artist talk.

- **Fees**
  Each participating performer receives a net fee of **400€**
  Duo works receive a fee of **800€** (all taxes included).
  Participation in the 3-day artist summit is free, including accommodation, meals, workshops, discussions and performance programme.

- **Travel, Transport & Accommodation**
  Travel and transport expenses of up to **300€ per person**, accommodation, and meals will be covered. In case expenses are expected to be higher, please note it in the application. In case you would love to join from further away, you are also welcome to check with your embassy or other national institutions in your country for travel funding aid.

Technical Info:

- The stage is a 9m diameter round stage covered with a dance carpet. It is surrounded by a 7-metre-high truss structure for aerial work (see details). The audience will be placed 360° around.

- A short rehearsal on site is possible on the respective day of the performance.

- The stage is supervised by a festival technician who can also run simple music cues for you.

- Technical setups in the truss are supervised by a rigger from the festival's technical team.

- Technical helpers are available for quick setups and teardowns.

Please email your submission by Sunday, **October 25th, 2026 (24:00)** through the following form [https://forms.gle/WfRTw9EGroRwwpjN7]

For Lithuanian artists, the submission deadline is extended to 8th November 2026

We are excited and looking forward to your proposals!

We will get back to you with the results of the selection by **15th December 2026**

FAQ

1. Can I propose an extract of a longer performance?
Yes, it can be an extract, but the format is not for try-outs. The extract should have a coherent dramaturgy and must be thought out dramaturgically for the 360° setting.

2. Why is the open call focused on works from around Europe?
For reasons of sustainability, this short format is not intended for long-distance travel from overseas. Therefore, the realistic focus of the open call lies on around Europe, also in relation to the travel costs we are able to provide. Nevertheless, applications from outside Europe are in principle welcome — if you can secure additional travel funding, you are invited to apply from anywhere in the world.

3. I want to bring my technician / Our manager wants to attend.
The format is intended for works with simple technical requirements that can tour without dedicated technical staff. Our technical team is ready to support you, and there is time in the morning or the day before to rehearse your music cues together with them. We can unfortunately not cover extra costs for other team members like management or production. But we can offer to take part in the various networking activities during the festival and to support any extra members with info for finding low-cost accommodation.

4. Can I stay for the whole festival?
Each selected work and artist is invited to join the 360° artist summit, which includes the main festival period on our festival site.

5. How does the selection process work, and who is on the selection board for the applications?
In addition to the artistic direction and the CircusDanceFestival team, one international professional member (changing each year) will join the selection board as a guest.
For the 2027 edition, the external international jury member is the Lithuanian cultural manager Monika Citvaraitė-Lansbergienė.

6. Are there more precise criteria for application?
The application criteria above are quite open in many directions, on purpose. In general, CircusDanceFestival focuses on physical works and less on predominantly language-based works. The work has to fit the basic requirements mentioned above, you should consider the context of an open-air setting. We search for works that are thought 360°, this is important to us. Young graduates from professional circus or dance schools are very welcome, as well as other artists wherever they are in their career.

7. When can I expect a response?
We receive between 100 and 300 submissions each year. It takes some time for the jury to evaluate each proposal with care. Answers will be sent at the latest by **December 15th**

If you have other specific questions that are not answered here, feel free to contact us via info@circus-dance-festival.de

Techrider 360° Stage

General

- Open Air Artistic Rig with 7m trim above stage level

- Round Stage

- Gradin for 130 people.

- Stage Deck with grey Marley on top

Dimensions

Stage Diameter	9 m
Stage height	0,5m
Pickpoint Height	7 m
Pickpoint Load	single point 1t WLL
	two points 500 kg WLL each point
Rig Dimensions	5m x 5m
Floor	Stage Deck with Marley Floor.

Technic

Most of the technical equipment will be rented according to the companies Requirements.

The fixtures listed below are Example/Basic equipment.

Lights:

Light positions from Rig or from Stands behind the Gradin

- 6-8x LED Outdoor Fresnel
- MA Lighting Desk

Sound:

- Digital Desk 16Ch
- 8x 12” Speaker
- 4x 18” Sub
- Mics and Monitors tbd.

Logistics

- Access with Truck up to 7,5 To

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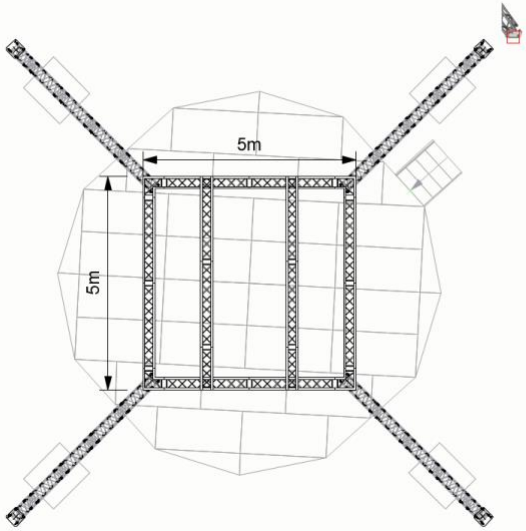

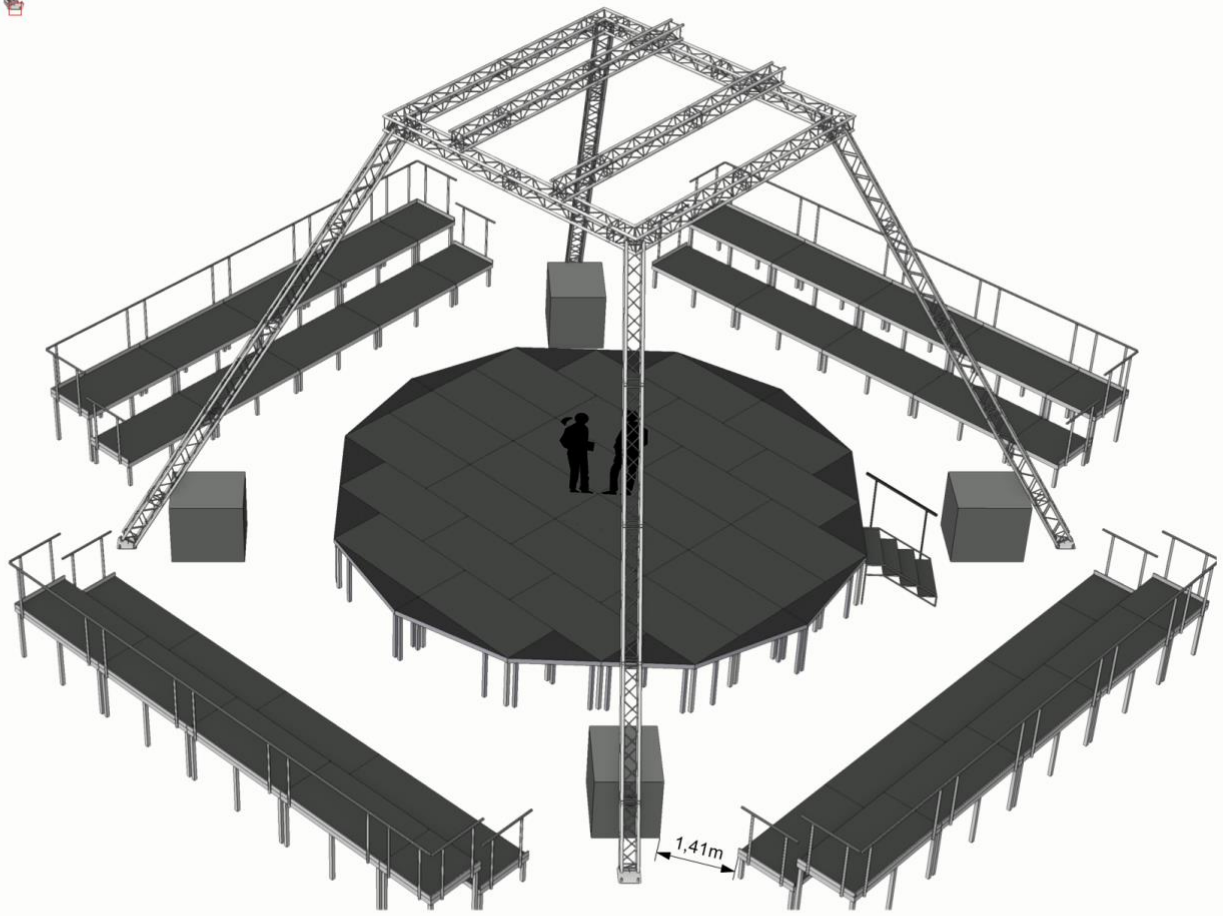

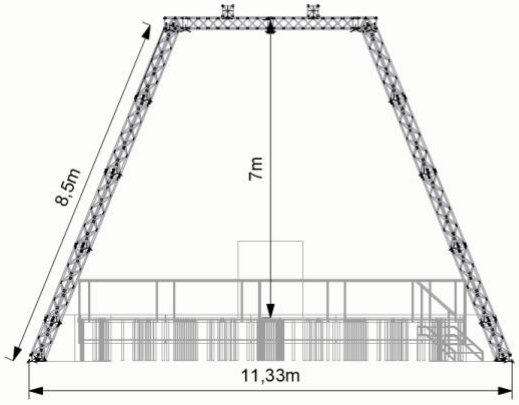

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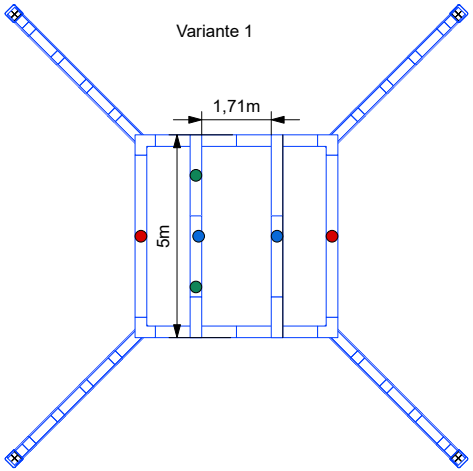

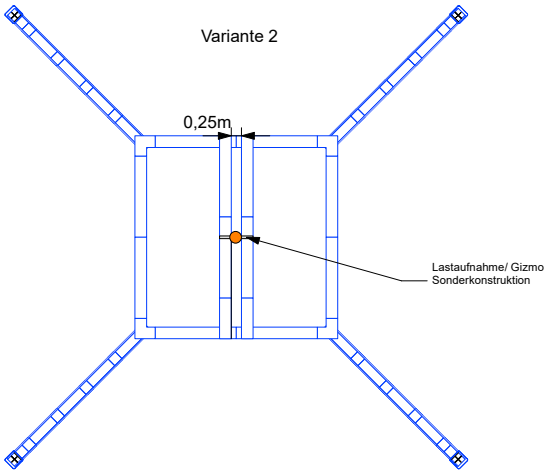

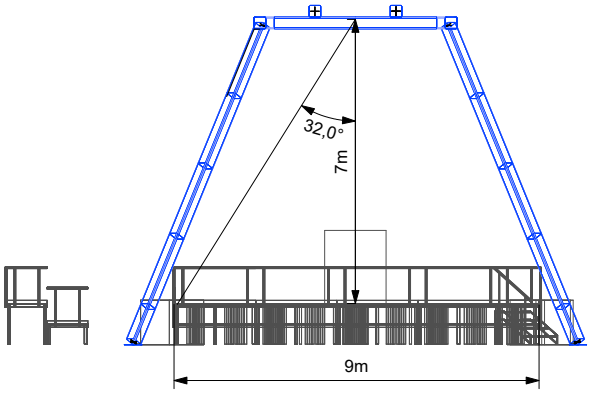

Example load cases

Blue or Red or Green points: 500kg WLL each point per colour
Orange single point 1t WLL

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Planinhalt: Open Air Bühne_RIG	
Produktion: Circus Dance Festival	
Produktionsort: TPZAK, Köln	DATUM: 11.12.2020
	hs
Veranstalter: CDF	MASSSTAB: WIE EINZELN BESTIMMT
Technische Planunug: hanno sons	PLANNUMMER: 3

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