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Press Release

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30th Internationales Solo-Tanz-Theater Festival Stuttgart
11th – 15th March 2026

30 Years of Solo Dance in Stuttgart – International Dance Festival Showcases Creative Visions Despite Financial Challenges

30 years of the Internationales Solo-Tanz-Theater Festival! What began as a bold idea has now become a fixture in the international dance calendar – a place where visions take shape and where the careers of young emerging talents are truly given a boost. From March 12 to 15, 2026, it's that time again: Artists from China, the USA, Ivory Coast, Israel, and numerous European countries will bring contemporary dance theater into the spotlight at TREFFPUNKT Rotebühlplatz in Stuttgart and face the expert judgment of a renowned jury. This year's jury includes: Itzik Galili (Israel, choreographer), Fernando Melo (Brazil, choreographer, director), Olga Roriz (Portugal, choreographer, dancer, and director of Companhia Olga Roriz), Erika Silgoner (Italy, choreographer), and Lucy Van Cleef (USA, head of dramaturgy and publications, Stuttgart Ballet).

For Marcelo Santos, artistic director and festival founder, the festival is more than just a stage: "For me, it's above all about trust in young artists. Giving them the freedom to try new things – without pressure, without justification. What touches me most is seeing that the encounters during the festival days have an impact far beyond the festival itself and often last for years. This creates a vibrant, growing network of solo dance artists that is constantly evolving. I look forward to many new voices and perspectives."

This year, the festival faces major financial challenges due to cuts in the City of Stuttgart's 2026/2027 budget. However, festival director Elly Walch is not discouraged: "The cuts are

drastic, and it hits us hard that, especially now for the anniversary, we have to cancel the accompanying program that was developed over many years with numerous partners. But we're not giving up! It remains important to us that, above all, the artists who come to us from all over the world to participate in the competition do not have to accept any compromises. Supporting emerging talent is our mission and our special commitment. How we will be able to fulfill this after 2026 is still uncertain."

The Internationales Solo-Tanz-Theater Festival stands for the creative power of contemporary dance. The performances address topics that are perceived as relevant in socio-political discourse: artificial intelligence, migration, emancipation, psychological stress, queerness, and, time and again, the question of what identity is and how we locate it in society. From very different perspectives, the artists take a look at the body as the most intimate, sensitive, and fragile vessel of existence – and they do so profoundly, inquisitively, movingly, ironically, and sometimes humorously.

The festival will open on March 11, 2026, with **Stuttgart Solo Choreo**, an event in cooperation with the Produktionszentrum Tanz und Performance e. V., where choreographers and dancers from the independent dance scene will demonstrate which exciting contemporary pieces are being produced in Stuttgart and the region. These pieces are shown outside of the competition and will not be awarded prizes.

This year's contributions and participants of the festival

Thursday, 12 March 2026, 8 p.m.

ritournelle n. 1 "chaOsmos"
Choreography & Performance: Thomas Barbarisi (France)

Just an ordinary woman
Choreography: Natasa Frantzi (Greece)
Performance: Valentina Di Lullo (Italy)

Primal Echoes
Choreography: Valerio Iurato (Italy)
Performance: Samuel van der Veer (The Netherlands)

Sommeil Ambulant
Choreography & Performance: Guy Roland Kah (Republic Côte d'Ivoire)

A Heavy Parting
Choreography & Performance: Yingyu Lyu (China)

Mother Gone
Choreography: Ashley Davis (USA)
Performance: Tom Blanc (France)

Friday, 13 March 2026, 8 p.m.

locker_room
Choreography: Giovanni Careccia (Italy)
Performance: Alessandro Bonacina (Italy)

Why Theater
Choreography & Performance: Lisha Chen (China)

Go Figure
Choreography & Performance: Paul Davidson (Great Britain)

I Could Also Be a Black Swan
Choreography & Performance: Klil Ela Rotshtain (Israel)

Mickey
Choreography: Adi Schwarz (Czech Republic, Israel)
Performance: Michele Simi (Italy)

INTERFERENCE
Choreograpfy: Alessandra Scalambrino (Italy)
Performance: Rachele Masciocchi (Italy)

Saturday, 14 March 2026, 8 p.m.

Perda Perdida
Choreography: Nina Plantefève-Castryck (Belgium)
Performance: Beatriz Baptista (Portugal)

Any (ID)ea?
Choreography & Performance: Liam Meier (Switzerland)

Metamorph
Choreography & Performance: Sophie Tukker (The Netherlands)

The Source
Choreography: Javier Ubell (USA)
Performance: Anja Dermer (Germany)

I believe it because it’s absurd
Choreography & Performance: Ondine Malfoy (France)

Room for sadness
Choreography & Performance: Wojciech Furman (Polen)

Prizes

The artists compete for three prizes in each of the categories choreography and performance, which are endowed with between € 3,500 to € 1,500. Each of the three competition evenings showcases six productions apiece. On the third evening, the jury will announce the nominees for the finale on Sunday. The audience can also award two prizes of € 500 apiece.
In addition, residency prizes such as the DAF International Award, sponsored by DAF / Dance Arts Faculty (Italy), can be won. The festival is supported by the City of Stuttgart, the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts Baden-Württemberg, and the LBBW Foundation.

The festival at a glance / dates and prices

Wednesday, 11 March 2026, 8 p.m., € 20,- / € 18,-: Stuttgart Solo Choreo
Thursday, 12 **to Saturday**, 14 March 2026, 8 p.m., € 20,- / € 18,-: Competition pieces
Sunday, 15 March 2026, 5 p.m., € 22,- / € 20,-: Grand Finale with awards ceremony
www.solo-tanz-theater.de

Artistic Director: Marcelo Santos
Festival Director: Elly Walch