

PRESS RELEASE

Dancefestival SideBySide-net: live and online

The 6th international online-dancefestival SideBySide-net starts on August 27th with live-performances and video-art at Theaterkantine Düsseldorf. After that, the participating artists of different styles and (dance) cultures will enter the virtual stage: the website www.side-by-side.net

In the international dance scene, „SideBySide-net“ has become quite well known: As every year, numerous artists from all over the world have applied to take part. “The variety and quality of applications has convinced me as well as the choice of artists we finally nominated for the festival”, says juror Peter Schmehl, who has worked as executive director of the arts foundation North Rhine-Westphalia and was professionally responsible for free scene for 16 years.

The eight exclusively nominated artists will now personally come to Düsseldorf to join the festival’s opening: among them are classical dancers from Spain and Mexico, a breakdancer from England, choreographers from South Korea, Brazil and Germany as well as video-artists from the Netherlands and the US. From August 28th till November 28th, the festival will take place online: At www.side-by-side.net, viewers can watch all nominees’ dance videos as often as they like, write their direct feedback and vote on what they’ve seen (claim: watch & vote! The audiences’ favourite artists finally receive prizes summing up to 3.000 Euro).

“The strong feedback from artists and audiences likewise proves that innovative art can be mediated through new channels of presentation”, says Mario Alfonso, the festival’s innovator and creative director, whose institution SideBySide art center will again be present at this year’s Tanzmesse NRW. The festival provides dance and its artists with the deserved attention – in recent years, it has in sum been visited by around 125.000 people worldwide. SideBySide-net 2010 is powered by the minister president’s office of North Rhine-Westphalia and the foundation for arts and culture of Stadtparkasse Düsseldorf

The live-opening of SideBySide-net 2010 starts on August 27th at 20h in Theaterkantine, Lenaustraße 29, 40470 Düsseldorf. Tickets are free, but limited, and can be booked via e-mail: info@side-by-side.net

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Voices on SideBySide-net

“SideBySide-net puts dance on a new platform and connects it with the world.”

Kajo Nelles, director of Tanzmesse NRW

„Everybody sits in the first row, gets the best in- and oversight and can repeat scenes as often as he or she likes“

www.tanznetz.de

„By the use of internet, dance becomes tangible for people who might not necessarily visit a dance theatre, especially young people.“

Carlos Maria Romero, audience favourite at SideBySide-net 2005

"The festival created by Mario Alfonso offers a forum to young talents from all over the world, gives them the opportunity to perform in Düsseldorf and opens new perspectives. Taking this into account, the concept sustainably supports the international offspring of dance.

Martina Waetermans, foundation for arts and culture, Sparkasse Düsseldorf

„SideBySide-net ambitiously and innovatively crosses art divisions and national borders likewise“

Barbara Seppi, district government of Düsseldorf

"SideBySide-net is an outstanding project to present and document art and culture, which greatly contributes to international cultural exchange. The personal effort of the festival organizers deserves all our respect"

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Wagner, arts foundation North Rhine-Westphalia