

PRESS RELEASE THE DANCE CONGRESS 2009 ENDS

(08.11.09)

The DANCE CONGRESS 2009, which ended on Sunday at Kampnagel in Hamburg, was met by an overwhelming response. According to directors Katharina von Wilcke and Sabine Gehm, more than 3,000 people engaged or interested in dance took part in the four-day congress at Kampnagel.

Under the motto “No Step without Movement!”, 200 international lecturers in 80 events shed light on dance from an artistic, sociological, philosophical, and cultural-historical perspective. The great need for exchange among experts, for reflection and critical examination on the level of art and society became clear in this context, stated Sabine Gehm. She emphasised the potential of the Dance Congress as a platform for exchange “that by no means only serves individual interests, but increasingly addresses a wide public and covers a large spectrum: from pedagogy and art to science and cultural education.”

With great intensity and passion, the congress participants discussed theoretical issues and, based on practical examples, forward-looking working methods in choreography and education, as well as the sustainable enhancement of production conditions, promotion structures and marketing strategies.

It was pointed out in numerous events that an independent national representation of dance succeeding Tanzplan Deutschland is required to continue the unique spotlighting of this art genre and anchor it in the awareness of the public. At the same time, politics was asked to maintain, expand and further develop the municipal and state structures created by Tanzplan together with representatives of dance.

Tanzplan Deutschland is an initiative of the Federal Cultural Foundation endowed with a budget of 12.5 million euros for the period from 2005 to 2010. The aim is to enhance the framework conditions for dance in Germany and establish it as an equal art form alongside opera and theatre in regard to the way it is perceived by the public and in cultural policy. Within the frame of Tanzplan Deutschland, the Federal Cultural Foundation organized the Dance Congress Germany in 2006 and 2009.

President of the Bundestag, Norbert Lammert, who opened the congress on Thursday, stated: “The great interest which the DANCE CONGRESS 2009 has met reflects the vitality and diversity of the dance scene in Germany and at the same time highlights the need for action on the side of cultural policy.” He went on to say that, in order to effectively support the status of dance in our cultural landscape, long-term financial and structural measures are needed, for which, according to our federal constitutional order, the states and municipalities are foremost responsible, but whom the federal government should promote and strengthen within the scope of its possibilities.

Hortensia Völckers, Artistic Director of the Federal Cultural Foundation, said that after the knowledge of dance had been set in motion at the first Dance Congress 2006, one could now see how much self-confidence dance and those engaged in it have gained. She called it the perhaps most important task of the congress to draw attention to the requirements of continuity, so that what has been achieved is not forfeited. Völckers added that the Federal Cultural Foundation will continue to place a main focus on dance: “The success of the Dance Congress 2009 gives us hope that dance is on a good path to finding a proper place in the cultural landscape and in society.”

The DANCE CONGRESS 2009 is an event by the Federal Cultural Foundation in cooperation with Kampnagel, K3 – Zentrum für Choreographie | Tanzplan Hamburg and the Centre for Performance Studies of the University of Hamburg. Supported by the Hamburg Senate for Culture, Sports and Media, and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation, DFG).

Press contact: k3 berlin /// +49 30 695 695 24 /// bureau@k3berlin.de

Further informations: www.tanzkongress.de