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**Curiosity is the gateway to experience! The 31st annual TANEC PRAHA Festival is just around the corner**

**The 31st TANEC PRAHA International Festival of Contemporary Dance and Movement Theatre will be launched by spontaneous and non-conformist Korean choreographer Eun-Me Ahn with her work *Let Me Change Your Name*. The opening of the festival will take place over three evenings from June 3 – 5 at the PONEC Theatre. Another event of the season will be the performance of *OCD Love* by the L-E-V DANCE COMPANY and world-renowned choreographer Sharon Eyal, while French acrobat and choreographer Yoann Bourgeois will take care of the closing ceremonies. The event will last until June 22 and besides Prague will also be held in 22 other Czech towns and municipalities. More at www.tanecpraha.cz**

In addition to this triumvirate of world-famous dance stars, the festival will present a number of prominent international artists from places like France and Switzerland, as well as more distant Madagascar, Indonesia and Ghana. Domestic artists have a significant presence in the program, this time not only in the regions. TANEC PRAHA has joined the Prague Quadrennial (PQ), which this year will be held from June 6 – 16, and thus the Czech Dance Focus for PQ + programming line has been created, which is also included in the PQ program and will present the premieres of new festival productions and the most successful co-productions by Tanec Praha in recent years. The presence of international PQ guests offers significant visibility to selected works.

"We have carefully selected from among hundreds of entries to ensure a varied, high-quality program that is able to reach out to a variety of target groups," says **Yvona Kreuzmannová**, the director and founder of Tanec Praha. "We therefore mark as 'Family Friendly' those works that have been created for adult viewers but are also open to school age children, so experiences can be shared among generations. In addition to three events, we managed to present strong contemporary stories in countries with their own profound traditions, whether Madagascar, Ghana or the Indonesian island of Java. Young talents from the European Aerowaves platform promise great contrasts and surprises, and one of them will also join JAMU students in a two-day workshop. Tabea Martin was once also a discovery of this platform; her distinctive, now mature approach is not afraid to address taboos for teenagers and their parents. There are also a number of Czech works, and not only in the regions, thanks to close cooperation with PQ. There is plenty to look forward to!"

**Events of the season**

**Eun-Me Ahn**, a world-renowned South Korean artist, thrilled audiences with her pulsating energy in the performance of *Dancing Grandmothers* at the 30th anniversary festival. The natural youthful energy of the dancers blends with the minimalist hypnotizing performance of the author, and light and darkness, subtle and gaudy shades, solemnity and humour are transformed before our eyes, as is the dancers' identity.

Israeli choreographer **Sharon Eyal**, a former member and artistic director of the Batsheva Dance Company, who with her **L-E-V Dance Company** adapted Neil Hilborn's "OCD" into an impressive dance poem about obsessive-compulsive disorder, will bring to the audience an original and essentially spontaneous experience. The show's energy, underlined by the excellent live music by one of the forefathers of the Israeli techno scene DJ Ori Lichtik, will hit the six dancers and the audience itself in the deepest recesses of their souls. Live music, but of a completely different genre, also underscores the third Event of the Season. The program of this year's festival will also feature a project by French artist **Yoanna Bourgeoise** entitled *Tentative approaches to a point of suspension* performed at the National Gallery in Prague – Trade Fair Palace. Characters and objects intertwine with each other in a different space beyond the physical, in an effort to reach a single moment – the "stop moment". It is an absolutely fascinating experience full of poetry. Tanec Praha will be presenting the work of **Sharon Eyal** and **Yoanna Bourgeoise** for the first time in the festival's history.

**Dance of other continents**

The festival dramaturgy continues to explore the worlds of different cultures. This year it presents a courageous solo by Madagascar dancer and choreographer **Judith Olivia Manantenasoa** called *Métamorphose*. The work is a stunning personal confession not only of the author herself, but also of the female generation as such. Meanwhile **Rianto**, an Indonesian dancer and choreographer, opens the window to the blending of Asian cultures. In his solo he draws on the traditional Lengger dance and music of Central Java. His virtuoso body language accompanies the gentle voice and percussion of the artist from the same **Cahwati** region in perfect symbiosis. A **new international co-production** of the festival with the support of the Czech Embassy in Ghana, entitled *"Eymen" Point of View*, originates from the interplay of choreographer and dancer **Lenka Kniha Bartůňková** and singer **Ridina Ahmedová**. They worked with the Ghana Dance Ensemble from Africa and invited two artists to collaborate with the Czech creative team. They have created a work that unites West African and Central European traditions dealing with old age and death.

**Dance NEWs**

As part of the **Dance NEWs** line the festival gives space to original young artists who have succeeded at the Aerowaves European dance platform. This year it presents the outdoor performance *House Beating* by Polish-Austrian ensemble **Body Architects Hygina Delimata** with the participation of students from **JAMU** in Brno as well as a work by Croatian-French-Italian ensemble **Premier** **Stratagème** *Forecasting*, which in a slightly eccentric form explores the role of YouTube in our lives. The third is the French choreographer **Sylvain Bouillet**, who in the unique duet *White Gestures* plays out his relationship with eight-year-old son Charlie on stage.

**TANEC PRAHA JUNIOR**

Like every year, the dramaturgy also thinks about children and adolescents. In the **TP JUNIOR** section, it presents the remarkable work of Swiss choreographer **Tabey Martin** *Pink for Girls and Blue for Boys*, which plays with gender stereotypes in a fun way, and within PQ + the successful interactive dance performance by **Barbora Látalová** *Animal Carnival*, which was created on the basis of the eponymous musical suite of French composer Camille Saint-Saëns. The festival invites viewers to take a look at the process of **creating a new production** by the same author, where she works with the writer and performer Tereza Říčana, under the name *Goats Horsing Around*.

**Czech Dance Focus for PQ+**

In this line, viewers can watch the successful dance-audio-visual project by **Věra Ondrašíková** *GUIDE*, which has won numerous awards at home and abroad, and the remarkable performance of **Viktor Černický's** *PLI*, which this year won the main prize at the Czech Dance Platform. There is also an original solo by **Tereza Hradilková** *Don't Stop*, accompanied live by multimedia artist **Floex**, or the humorous duet of French-Belgian author **Karine Ponties** *SAME SAME*, in which theatre director **Petra Tejnorová** dances together with choreographer and dancer **Tereza Ondrová**, who was also awarded for her performance this year at the Czech Dance Platform. Both works also received special mention from the international jury at the same festival.

**Dance in the regions**

The festival is an excellent opportunity to present the most interesting works of Czech artists all over the Czech Republic, optimally combined with international works. As a rule, it is a combination of indoor and outdoor productions that are selected from the rich offer by the festival's regional partners – see the TANEC PRAHA program in the regions.

**Accompanying program**

In Prague and the regions, we also present the work of selected artists in the **accompanying program**, which offers workshops, discussions and photographic documentation from research on the African continent. The perception of the context of the creation of selected artists is important for a deeper understanding of the works presented.

The TANEC PRAHA International Festival of Contemporary Dance and Movement Theatre is one of the biggest events in the Czech cultural calendar. Every year since 1989, the festival has presented the variety and quality of the current international and domestic dance scene, giving space for experimentation and overlaps to other genres, and supporting the emergence of new works as a co-producer.

**Organizer:** Tanec Praha z.ú.

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**Support:** Austrian Cultural Forum, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Accra, Plzen Region, French Institute in Prague, Embassy of Israel in the Czech Republic

**The main media partner** of the festival is Czech Television

**Thank you to all our partners and supporters, a list of whom you will find at:** https://tanecpraha.cz/cs/partners

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