

DANCE ON

Press Release

Berlin, 1 September 2022

Experts affirm Dance On's exemplary nature and international reach

International experts from the fields of culture, politics and academia came together for a round table discussion on the Dance On initiative, which champions the value of age in dance. After evaluating its approach and social impact, the participants concluded that the project should continue and made a series of recommendations for how to do this.

The Dance On Ensemble is the only dance company in Europe for professional dancers over the age of 40. Founded seven years ago, it has established itself as a successful and in-demand company that works with internationally renowned choreographers and artists and reaches a broad and diverse audience.

From the very beginning, the Dance On initiative has succeeded in shaping the public discourse around the issue of age discrimination in dance and, in the process, has drawn attention to the artistic excellence of older dancers. The fact that dance is the profession with the harshest upper age limit in the cultural sector is obviously problematic, and Dance On has addressed this in a comprehensive way, through artistic and participatory projects that have given the audience a real and visceral sense of the issue.

The experts unanimously agreed that Dance On is having an impact far beyond the dance sector and that everyone – dance, dancers and society – profits when entrenched attitudes finally begin to shift.

Since 2014, Dance On has been funded by the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) on the basis of a series of direct interventions by the Budget Committee of the German Bundestag. Co-financing is provided by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union, the State of Berlin's Senate Department for Culture and Europe, numerous international coproduction partners and income from ticket sales. No funding from the BKM has been secured beyond 2023.

Background to the evaluation

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Co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union as part of DANCE ON, PASS ON, DREAM ON

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 Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien

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On 20 April 2022, the non-profit cultural organisation Diehl+Ritter, which runs the Dance On initiative, hosted a round table discussion with 15 leading experts from the fields of dance, culture, the third sector, academia and politics. Its aim was to evaluate Dance On, understand its impact and social significance, and make recommendations for its future. Dr Cornelia Dümcke of the Berlin-based organisation CULTURE CONCEPTS moderated the round table and, together with Philipp Dümke, was responsible for the overall event and its documentation. The results were published in a policy paper: www.dance-on.net

Participants in the round table discussion

Ty Boomershine (Artistic Director Dance On Ensemble)

Isa Kathrin Edelhoff (Senior Advisor K27 / Theatre, Dance, Performance at BKM)

Almuth Fricke (Director Kubia Centre for Creative Ageing and Inclusive Arts)

Simone Maria Graf (Dramaturg and Producer Dance On)

Erhard Grundl (MP, Spokesperson for the Culture and Media Working Group of the Bündnis 90/Die Grünen parliamentary group, member of the Bundestag Committee on Culture and the Media)

Julie Guibert (Artistic Director Ballet de l'Opéra de Lyon)

Helge Lindh (MP, Spokesperson for Culture and Media of the SPD Parliamentary Group, Bundestag Committee Chairman for Culture and Media)

Johanna Lühr (Head of Communications Diehl+Ritter)

Hélène Philippot (Project Manager and Producer Dance On)

Anna Sarah Richter (Scientific Advisor, German Association for Public and Private Welfare/Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge e.V.)

Madeline Ritter (Artistic and Executive Director Diehl+Ritter)

Barbara Stacher (Senior Expert, Cultural and Creative Industries Unit of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission)

Bettina Wagner-Bergelt (Artistic Director Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch)

Hasko Weber (General Director German National Theater Weimar and Staatskapelle Weimar, Vice President of the Deutsche Bühnenverein)

Samuel Wuersten (Artistic and Executive Director Holland Dance Festival)

Caroline Waldeck (Head of Department K27 / Theatre, Dance, Performance at BKM)

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