



PRESS CONFERENCE

Season 2024/25

23. May 2024, 11 am
Studio of the Dresden Frankfurt Dance
Company – Schmidtstraße 12
60326 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

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PRESS MATERIAL TO DOWNLOAD

All press materials as press images, the season brochure are available on our website on www.dfdc.de/presse

PRESS CONTACT

Lilli Christoph-Homberg
Head of Communications
Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company
christoph-homberg@dfdc.de
Mob.: +49 (0)172 86 22 735
www.dfdc.de

PROGRAMME 2024/25

JOIN

Choreography: Ioannis Mandafounis

World premiere in Dresden: 19. September 2024, 8 pm

Frankfurt-Premiere: 10. October 2024, 8 pm

Light. Something appears: an image, a formation, movement, development, transformation. Dark. And light. Something new: it is massive, it turns, it vibrates, it encompasses everything. Dark. And light. Surprise. And dark. And light. And dark.

"Join" makes a simple and yet difficult attempt: How can dancers come together at completely different points in their personal and professional trajectory? How can an ensemble of professionals working at the highest level dance together with a group of students? How do people come together in their diversity? What connections are possible beyond a standardising and unifying norm? "Join" takes a step in this direction for dance. Students from the city where the performance takes place dance together with the ensemble of the Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company. The dramaturgy of the evening is determined by instant blackouts, which lend the scenes a sense of immediacy and constantly challenge the audience's perception.

"Join" is funded by the "Fonds Zero" programme of the German Federal Cultural Foundation. This is intended to support cultural institutions in trying out climate-friendly forms of production and new aesthetics with the lowest possible climate impact. The CO₂-emissions are recorded during the process. Any emerging potential for cutting emissions is intended to make our working methods more sustainable in the future.

NEW WORK

Choreography: Ioannis Mandafounis

World premiere Dresden: 28. February 2025, 8 pm

Frankfurt-Premiere: 04. April 2025, 8 pm

How do you get close to a person, really? By being told an intimate story? By looking deep into each other's eyes? By experiencing something special, perhaps challenging, together?

The relation between the private and the public has changed radically. Today, many people are no longer afraid to share details that would previously have been considered too private. At the same time, more and more people feel lonely. The way we understand ourselves and our own lives is virtually impossible to separate from the way we present ourselves to other people. Where does the urge to publicly share intimate things come from? And what is required of a connection in order to satisfy this longing?

In this work, the dancers reveal themselves personally – with their stories, memories, wishes. And perhaps body language and dance can create a stronger connection than words alone.

SCH!

Choreography: Ioannis Mandafounis

Dance: Dancers of the Regionteater Väst

Premiere in Germany, Frankfurt: 26. April 2025, 4 pm

Dresden-Premiere: 3. May 2025, 4 pm

For everyone aged 8 and older

Two dancers acting strangely. They talk incessantly and incomprehensibly. Where does their story come from? They describe an imaginary world, first with language, then more and more with their bodies. They do lots of things at the same time while also continuously engaging with their surroundings. The language becomes a whisper, a cry, singing, rhythm, music. „Sch!“ is the opposite of silence. The play shows a world filled with constant noise. Different impressions and bits of information stream in from all directions. Which voice should you listen to, which movement should you follow? Those who surrender to the improvised flow of dance, music and voice may even find out more about themselves than about the story of the two oddballs.

„Sch!“ is danced by two dancers from Regionteater Väst, which is Sweden's largest touring performing arts institution for young audiences and one of the country's largest dance and theatre producers. The Regionteater Väst creates accessible and challenging performances aimed primarily at people between the ages of 6 and 16.

FORSYTHE / HAUERT

New Works

Choreographies: William Forsythe, Thomas Hauert

World premiere Dresden: 23. May 2025, 8 pm

Frankfurt-Premiere: 5. June 2025, 7:30 pm

The ensemble attends to the demanding improvisation techniques of two guest choreographers.

This is a full circle moment. William Forsythe is regarded as one of the most important choreographers of the late 20th century – and rightly so. His innovative approach to the tradition of ballet has allowed dance to go down paths that would otherwise have been difficult to imagine. From 1984 to 2004, Forsythe directed the Ballett Frankfurt and from 2005 to 2015 The Forsythe Company, which was later renamed Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company. Ioannis Mandafounis, the current artistic director of the company, was a dancer with Forsythe for several years and is therefore clearly influenced by him. Live choreography, the improvisation methodology with which the company works today, builds on many of the principles developed by Forsythe and takes the paradigm of improvisation one step further. Now, this radicalised movement practice meets the artistic signature from which it once emerged. What will be created within this special connection?

For Thomas Hauert, improvisation is not primarily a means of expressing oneself, but rather a means of creating and composing movements. Is it possible to free the body from the limits of thought? If you let it, it will find more complex and exciting movements than your brain could come up with. Hauert founded the company ZOO at the end of the 90s. With a relatively constant constellation of dancers throughout, he has been exploring the tension between freedom and restriction in dance ever since. When dancers improvise together in a group, they have to find a new way of dealing with control. Improvisation can be very purposeful, it can give a group a common focus for their practice. Tasks, rules and restrictions can disrupt the conditioning of the body in such a way that something unexpected emerges. Freedom and resistance, individual and group, order and disorder, formlessness and form.

ONE ONE ONE

Choreography: Ioannis Mandafounis

14. September 2024 in Dresden

16. October 2024 in Frankfurt

More dates will be announced on our website

One chair, one dancer – that's the starting point for "One One One". Whoever takes a seat becomes the focus of the dance, as the performers improvise based on impulses given by the person in the chair. They continue dancing for as long as eye contact is maintained by both sides. The result is a silent dialogue, an exclusive encounter and an opportunity to see dance through new eyes.

"One One One" is a unique interaction, one that also offers those viewing the scene an experience rich in emotional and choreographic nuances and developments. Initially created in 2015, "One One One" can be staged anywhere and has been performed in streets and squares, in hospitals, schools and shopping centers around the world.

GUEST CHOREOGRAPHERS

WILLIAM FORSYTHE

William Forsythe has been active in the field of choreography for over 50 years. His work is acknowledged for reorienting the practice of ballet from its identification with classical repertoire to a dynamic 21st century art form. Forsythe danced with the Joffrey Ballet and later the Stuttgart Ballet, where he was appointed Resident Choreographer in 1976. In 1984, he began a 20-year tenure as director of the Ballet Frankfurt after which he founded and directed The Forsythe Company until 2015. Forsythe's deep interest in the fundamental principles of organisation of choreography has led him to produce a wide range of projects including installations, films, and web-based knowledge creation. While his work for the stage resides in the repertoire of ensembles worldwide, his installations are presented internationally in exhibitions and museums. Forsythe has been the recipient of numerous awards, which include the Golden Lion of the Venice Biennale and DER FAUST German Theatre Award, both for lifetime achievement.

THOMAS HAUERT

Thomas Hauert founded his company ZOO in Brussels in 1998. 'Cows in Space' was his first piece, which was immediately honoured at the Rencontres de Seine-Saint-Denis/Bagnolet. Since then, the company has developed more than 21 pieces. In addition to his work for ZOO, Hauert has been a guest choreographer for the Zurich Ballet, Toronto Dance Theatre, Candoco Dance Company, Ballet Junior de Genève and the Ballet de Lorraine, among others. Inspired by his choreographic work, Hauert developed an internationally recognised teaching method based on his movement research with ZOO. Since 2013, he has been the artistic director of the Bachelor's programme in contemporary dance at La Manufacture, the Lausanne School of Performing Arts.

THE COMPANY

We are a contemporary dance ensemble under the artistic direction of Ioannis Mandafounis. We develop, present and communicate dance with the intention of bringing people together, inspiring them and fueling their enthusiasm for dance. Whether through energetic, invigorating performances or quiet, intimate moments – dance has the power to unite even the most diverse individuals.

We combine contemporary ideas with the tradition of dance by experimenting, rethinking and refining established notions of choreography. A central pillar of the ensemble's work is the methodology developed by Ioannis Mandafounis, which enables the dancers to create choreographies live on stage, using their bodies, movements and actions afresh in every performance and with every moment. This generates a collaborative process that empowers the individual artists and opens itself up towards the audience.

Our ensemble brings together creative individuals with a range of experiences and backgrounds. Most of the dancers have already realised a number of their own artistic projects. The performers engage in an open exchange with each other, and their diversity enriches how we work together every day. We regularly invite guest choreographers to collaborate with us; during the selection process, artistic conviction, passion for new forms of dance, and fairness in dealing with others are our key considerations.

We are the company-in-residence at two performance venues: HELLERAU – European Centre for the Arts in Dresden and the Bockenheimer Depot in Frankfurt am Main. As an internationally acclaimed ensemble, we tour regularly. In addition, we cooperate with educational institutions and prestigious national and international cultural organisations, offering a range of education and outreach programmes. Our goal is to facilitate cultural and aesthetic experiences regardless of background, socialisation, education, age or physical ability.

IOANNIS MANDAFOUNIS

Ioannis Mandafounis was born in Athens and studied dance at the Paris Conservatory. He danced with GöteborgsOperans Danskompani, Nederlands Dans Theater II and The Forsythe Company. In 2004 he started his career as a choreographer. From 2009 onwards he was part of the successful Frankfurt-based collective mamaza. At the same time, he led his own company in Switzerland and toured worldwide.

Over the course of his career, he has been commissioned to create pieces for a variety of international companies, including Lyon Opera Ballet, the Grand Théâtre de Genève, Corpus at the Royal Danish Ballet, the Greek National Opera Ballet, the National Theater in Athens, the Theater Junge Generation Dresden, Norrdans, the Gärtnerplatztheater in Munich and Regionsteater Väst.

Since the 2023/24 season, he has been the artistic director of the Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company. He works with the ensemble using a methodology he developed himself: live choreography. This enables the dancers to create, live on stage, in every performance and with every moment and action, a new choreography in real time.

EDUCATION

ANYONE CAN EXPERIENCE DANCE WITH US!

Young or old; with a lot, some or no previous knowledge – everyone can dance with us and learn about our art.

We pass on our knowledge and focus in particular on the works and improvisation methods of our artistic director Ioannis Mandafounis. We also refer to different traditions and the development of contemporary dance, as well as to the work of our guest choreographers.

Dancing and trying out your own artistic skills is at the centre of our workshops. We give space to the diversity of our participants so that everyone can discover and expand on their own modes of expression. In addition to our workshops, we regularly visit schools and go out into the public, working with various community partners in Frankfurt and Dresden. We offer an extensive supplementary programme around our performances. In talks and other formats, you can exchange ideas with us and find out a lot about dance.



Workshops and offers are available from 1. September on our website:
www.dfdc.de/education

SUPPORTERS & COOPERATION PARTNERS

The Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company is supported by the state capital Dresden and the Free State of Saxony as well as the city of Frankfurt am Main and the state of Hesse. Company-in-Residence at HELLERAU - European Center for the Arts in Dresden and at Bockenheimer Depot in Frankfurt am Main.

EVENT PARTNERS

HELLERAU Europäisches
Zentrum
der Künste



STÄDTISCHE BÜHNEN
FRANKFURT AM MAIN GMBH



SEASON PARTNERS



PARTNERS OF THE PRODUCTIONS 2024/25

JOIN

A cooperation with

HELLERAU Europäisches
Zentrum
der Künste

In collaboration with the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Frankfurt, the Palucca Hochschule für Tanz Dresden and the F°LAB – Festival for Performing Arts in Frankfurt.


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SCH!

With the kind support of:

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foundation**

FORSYTHE /
HAUERT

In coproduction with DE SINGEL – International Arts Centre and the Romaeuropa Festival.

With the support of Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels.

With the kind support of our partner in Frankfurt:

 **KULTURFONDS**
Frankfurt RheinMain

ONE ONE ONE

Originally produced in 2015 by: ++1, Prairie (Migros-Kulturproduzent) and Tanzfest 2015

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mandafounis