

# IMPULSTANZ

## Vienna International Dance Festival

Press release / 12 August 2019

### **ImPulsTanz – Young Choreographers' Award 2019**

**Sponsored by Mikme**

Jury Statement

Art is not a world of winner takes all, and dance can be about moving in two directions simultaneously.

The 2019 ImPulsTanz – Young Choreographers' Award needs to be shared between two vastly different and incomparable works which stand shoulder to shoulder and look us squarely in the eye; from the heart of Europe, the work *Such Sweet Thunder* by Tobias Koch, Thibault Lac and Tore Wallert ... and from the soul of Russia, the work *Time to Time* by Tatiana Chizhikova and Roman Kutnov.

*Such Sweet Thunder* ticks all the right boxes while *Time to Time* dispenses with ticks and boxes. Both works pose questions rather than present answers in strategies which are almost diametrically opposed and equally successful.

*Such Sweet Thunder* is a shared vision of artists from different (related) disciplines in a contemporary vernacular with a rich and seductive scenography, a like-able personality and idiosyncratic dance vocabulary ... an un-slutty selling of itself, delicate in every artistic choice it makes and the way it executes those while exploring a range of issues from fantasy to reality through fragile masculinity.

*Time to Time* is an uncompromising interrogation of everything in its path in an impossibly unique, brutal but poetic, language which is almost neologistic in its ingenuity. It is the shock of the now and dense with innovation in its starkness of form and depth of content, fearless in its disregard for dance-market conventions. Stripped of every artifice, it is where we clearly see that young can mean mature, in a kind of compaction of experience of lives lived in an age of information. *Time to Time* is a work where the violence of lack is turned to victory through discipline and restraint exquisitely executed. Both works share a modus operandi which is a collaboration of choreographer and sound artist, both are profoundly astonishing in the success they achieve where the auditory landscape blends and enriches flesh and bone anatomy in movement. Both works are data and feeling, both breathe and sweat, both works please and hurt, charm and repel, delight and dismay, invite and challenge, are made with thought and make us think.

Surpassing simply speaking to us, or dancing for us, both works have somewhere to go ... and because they are conscious of where, how and why, they carry us with them on a voyage of discovery which is as much about inner us as about outer them.

More than enrich the choreographic landscape, these two new works are equally necessary. They don't play the game, they change it. And with that, us!

Steven Cohen, Gabriele Coura and Anastasia Proshutinskaya