

IMPULSTANZ

Vienna International Dance Festival

Press release / 29th April 2020

ImPulsTanz 2020: Cancellation of the festival 2020 & postponement of certain projects

On 17th April 2020 the Austrian Federal Government announced further steps regarding its measures against COVID-19. Those measures as well as the international situation, the continuing massive travel restrictions and unpredictable visa problems, force us to take a painful but nevertheless clear step: The 37th edition of the ImPulsTanz – Vienna International Dance Festival from 9th July to 9th August 2020 cannot take place in its originally planned and later adapted form.

As of February 2020, **240 workshops and research projects** by and with **150 teachers** from **50 countries** and more than **100 performances** by **50 international and Austrian companies** were planned in the Burg- and Akademietheater, Odeon, Kasino am Schwarzenbergplatz, Schauspielhaus and in the workshop centre Arsenal. Furthermore, we were looking forward to cooperations with the **mumok – Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien**, the **Leopold Museum**, the **Austrian Film Museum** and the **Kunsthistorisches Museum** as well as to a focus on **Swiss artists**, a cooperation with **Flanders** and an exchange with the **THEATRUM Festival** in Moscow.

A new, major focus of ImPulsTanz is the expansion of the workshop series **Public Moves**, which takes place daily, outdoor and free of charge during the festival. In addition to its already highly popular locations, the Anton-Benya-Park and the Vienna Prater, this year's series will also happen in Donaustadt.

Further venues and formats were in the planning. Our artistic and creative energy was indeed far from exhausted when it became clear in mid-March that we would have to deal with a well-conceived adaptation and reduction of the programme rather than with further projects. The adjusted [workshop programme](#) with 156 workshops and research projects, the catalogue as well as a preview of selected [performance highlights](#) were published on the ImPulsTanz website on 9th April 2020.

That all of this cannot take place now is sad. We would like to allow ourselves this one, emotional moment while we – like so many others – are busy with understanding the general situation and especially our role in this time: as an international festival that has always highlighted sensuality, contact, encounter, joy of life and the passionate and critical accompaniment of our present. This includes responsibility towards our artists, staff, guests, participants and audience.

By cancelling the planned programme, we are following the measures of the Austrian Federal Government. At the same time, we support the manifold as well international activities by civil society and artistic communities in dealing with COVID-19.

We are currently holding intensive discussions with artists, sponsors, our cooperation partners and the venues, where we are guests, about how to proceed. Especially the ImPulsTanz festival – as well as our whole artform – thrives on live atmosphere, diversity and international, transcultural exchange. Therefore, we are doing our utmost in order to revive this atmosphere, if at all possible, with **Public Moves in summer** and together with our **museum partners in autumn**. **The 2020 programme** will be largely maintained for **ImPulsTanz 2021** (15th July to 15th August). Nevertheless, it is important to be open for **new artistic works**, that are still being created in response to this crisis, for the upcoming programme.

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