

DANCE ON

Press release

Berlin, 12 December 2022

Dance On initiative receives renewed federal funding to focus on sustainability in dance

The Berlin-based Dance On initiative, which focuses on sustainability in dance, can continue its successful artistic and community-based work for another four years. This has been made possible by a decision by the members of the ruling coalition in the Bundestag, who passed the budget for the federal government's cultural and media policy at the beginning of November. In total, the Dance On initiative will receive federal funding of 2.8 million euros from 2023 to 2027.

“DANCE ON goes on and on and on. My commitment to fund this project from the budget of the German Bundestag is based on the simple conviction that DANCE ON is moving away from the dressage of professional dance and its focus on youthful athleticism, towards the force of a lived life. There is probably no other artistic genre in which ageism is as powerfully present on stage as it is in dance. The DANCE ON initiative poses questions that are both aesthetic and socially relevant: about the art form itself, and about older dancers' right to work. DANCE ON represents a veto of great significance, on both a national and an international level: The DANCE ON ENSEMBLE is recalibrating the coordinates of body, time and dance. Instead of playing on our fears of frailty, deterioration and death, DANCE ON celebrates curiosity and our desire to change and evolve as we age. By upending problematic traditions, the initiative is an “exploder of systems” in the very best sense of the word. Right on!” (Helge Lindh, Spokesperson for Cultural Policy, SPD)

“I am very pleased that we have been able to send such a decisive and positive signal for culture in this year's federal budget and thus make it clear, even in times of war and crisis, that the cultural and creative sectors are of enormous importance to our society. For me, being able to individually support the fields of dance, music, literature and theatre makes this cultural budget especially radiant. We, the Free Democrats, believe that the arts and the cultural sector strengthen the cohesion and development

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of our society. We are therefore strongly committed to ensuring that this strength is maintained in the long term.” (Anikò Glogowski-Merten, Spokesperson for Cultural Policy, FDP)

“DANCE ON is a remarkable intergenerational dance project with an international reach, and we as the ‘Ampel’-coalition are delighted to support its aims. The project demonstrates how expressively and enrichingly dance can represent human emotions and ideas, and how each generation of dancers makes its very own contribution.” (Erhard Grundl, Spokesperson for Cultural Policy, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen)

The Dance On Initiative was launched in 2015 by the non-profit cultural organisation Bureau Ritter. With its international Dance On Ensemble and an ambitious programme of participatory activities, it supports the careers of dancers over 40 and makes a powerful artistic statement against ageism in dance and in society.

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