

Internet-Dancefestival SideBySide-net 2009: a success on all stages

The audience's favourites are from Austria, Germany and Switzerland

156 choreographers applied, seven artists from seven countries were nominated, now around 24.000 viewers from all over the world have made their decision: The audience prizes of the 5th international internet-dancefestival SideBySide-net go to Birgitt Bodingbauer from Germany (1st prize), Adriana Cubides from Austria (2nd prize) and Marcel Leemann from Switzerland (3rd prize).

All choreographers who took part in the festival have in common to have reached a broadly spread international audience. "For the artists, this does not just mean appreciation and valuation. From our experience this also leads to a lot of new contacts, networks and assignments", explains festival director Mario Alfonso. The festival made in Düsseldorf, which accounts to about 125.000 viewers in five years, is said to have established itself as a cross-cultural platform for the freelance dance scene, since it brings talented artists together and opens up new vistas – and because it gives dance in general a stronger presence in people's minds.

The first highlight of this year's festival was its opening in the city museum Düsseldorf, where all nominees introduced themselves via live performances and dance videos and received a big applause. In an extra show a few weeks later in an arts gallery of the painter Walter Padoa, visitors had a similar pleasure in watching the diversity of the festival's dance videos.

Finally, after Alfonso and his team introduced their festival concept to listening experts at the Scandinavian dance congress Kedja in Oslo, preparations for next year's festivals have already begun. The festival's success is not at last due to a continuous cooperation with diverse partners and supporters. In 2009, these were the state chancellery of North-Rhine Westphalia, arts foundation North-Rhine Westphalia, foundation for arts and culture of Sparkasse Düsseldorf, Stadtmuseum Düsseldorf and the advertisement company Wall.

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