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The Week in Germany: Culture

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Virtual Festival Brings Together Young International Dancers



ODC

With six outstanding choreographers, the 4th Internet dance festival known as "SideBySide" will offer professional dancers and amateurs an unparalleled opportunity to interact in a new cultural platform. The virtual event is set to begin August 28, the first day of the international dance fair in Düsseldorf.

"SideBySide" will host a virtual portal featuring everything to do with dance. The festival is especially concerned with the promotion of young artists and interdisciplinary, international cooperation.



**Sylvain
Émard
Danse**
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Etcheverry

Since its early days, the virtual dance festival has been an international forum without a real stage. As contemporary dance in Germany has grown in popularity, so has the festival.

Last year around 125 choreographers applied to compete in the dance contest – this year around 150 artists submitted applications to participate in the online event, with more than half coming from abroad. Enthusiastic online participants will be able to watch dancers and select the best choreographed videos. The videos are a maximum four minutes in length.

SideBySide's audience is also growing in size. The first three festivals each drew around 35,000 spectators to the computer screen. This year's festival is expected to receive a larger audience.

Online viewers will be able to choose the best dance videos from choreographers Alexeider Abad Gonzales (Cuba), Magali Sander Fett (Brazil), Ilona Pászthy (Germany), Carolina Zimmerman (Argentina) Shang Chi Sun (Taiwan) and Anat Katz (Israel).

The SideBySide dance festival will run through Oct. 1.

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Dansgroep
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(TWIG, August 25, 2006)