

Press Release

Review of the Cannes - Côte d'Azur Dance Festival France 2023 : A celebration of the world's dancing diversity

From November 24 to December 10, the Festival de Danse Cannes - Côte d'Azur France 2023 dazzled dance professionals and enthusiasts alike, offering a symphony of movement, culture and discovery under the inspiring artistic direction of Didier Deschamps.

« For almost three weeks, Cannes and the Côte d'Azur were alive with the rhythms of "Dance". Accompanied by the festival's formidable teams, each artist offered us a singular vision of the world, its beauties and its questionings, with as many ways of thinking about movement, mobilizing the body and sharing emotions and sometimes astonishments with us.

Dance unfurled on the stages of theaters, but in Cannes it was also in the public space, on facades and screens... Intense moments of sharing and celebration:

It's the Body,
It's the Heart,
It's Cannes! »

Didier Deschamps, Artistic Director

SHARON EYAL - GAI BEHAR || CCN - MALANDAIN BALLET BIARRITZ || COMPAGNIE NATIONALE DE DANSE CONTEMPORAINE DE NORVÈGE - CARTE BLANCHE - ANNABELLE BONNÉRY - ELLE SOFE SARA & JOAR NANGO || COMPAGNIE MOUVIMENTO - WENDY CORNU || ETAY AXELROAD || ALEXANDER VANTOURNHOUT || B.DANCE - PO-CHENG TSAI || COMPAGNIE LÉZARDS BLEUS - ANTOINE LE MENESTREL || KOR'SIA - MATTIA RUSSO - ANTONIO DE ROSA || PAULA COMITRE || MICHEL KELEMENIS || RECIRQUEL CIRQUE DANSE || JANN GALLOIS || PLATEFORME STUDIOTRADE AVEC EMAN HUSSEIN, MARIE GOURDAIN ET FELIX BAUMANN, SILKE Z., SVEINBJÖRG THORAHALLSDÓTTIR, KOSSIVI SÉNAGBÉ AFIADÉGNIGBAN || DAVID CORIA || TRISHA BROWN DANCE COMPANY - NOÉ SOULIER || LARA BARSACQ || BALLET DU GRAND THÉÂTRE DE GENÈVE - DAMIEN JALET - FOUAD BOUSSOUF || MICHÈLE NOIRET || PHILIPPE SAIRE || AMALA DIANOR - GRÉGOIRE KORGANOW || CCN DE TOURS - THOMAS LEBRUN || CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE || LES RECONTRES DES ECOLES NATIONALES SUPERIEURES DE DANSE AVEC Cndc ANGERS, CNSMD LYON, CNSMD PARIS, PNSD ROSELLA HIGHTOWER et PSPBB

With the support of 8 Côte d'Azur cultural organisations, united around the Palais des Festivals in Cannes, Anthéa - Antibes, Forum Jacques Prévert - Carros, Scène 55 - Mougins, Théâtre Le Forum - Fréjus, Théâtres en Dracénie - Draguignan, Théâtre de Grasse, Théâtre La Licorne - Cannes La Bocca, Théâtre national de Nice, the event covered an essential aspect of contemporary artistic creation dear to the city of Cannes. Dance was showcased on the stages of theatres across the Côte d'Azur and in Cannes, too, in the public space, on facades and screens... Intense moments for all dance professionals and enthusiasts, presenting a symphony of cultures and discoveries.

Diversity and openness

This year's festival was a hymn to diversity, bringing together 27 companies from 13 countries to celebrate the richness of choreographic expression.

Each dance company invited over the three weeks brilliantly showcased the vivacity of contemporary dance, invariably capturing the essence of our humanity.

Transdisciplinarity and discovery

Exploring the boundaries between dance and other artistic disciplines was at the heart of the festival, showcasing cross-disciplinary performances between dance, circus, song and music, as well as cinema and new technologies, offering an immersive and captivating experience.

Training and education

At the heart of this celebration, the spotlight was on young people, with dazzling performances by France's five national dance schools, who opened the Festival on 24 November.

The week dedicated to these five schools was a time for sharing, reflection and teaching, underlining the importance of training and integrating future professionals.

As part of the 100% EAC programme set up by the City of Cannes, the Festival is continuing its work to develop the audiences of tomorrow. As of the start of the 2023 school year, Cannes schoolchildren have been made aware of the Festival's work through practical workshops and eye-opening visits to their schools by dancers and choreographers programmed at the Festival.

Unique creations

The festival saw a number of world and French premieres, offering a striking panorama of artistic diversity. New works were created, mixing contemporary themes with traditional expressions, creating unique artistic experiences by taking over 13 stages in the region, including more or less surprising places in the urban space to meet all audiences.

MOV'IN Cannes : Dance in the image, a successful premiere

The international dance film competition, MOV'IN Cannes, celebrated dance through the cinematic lens, offering a platform for filmmakers and directors to capture the essence of movement.

The winners of this first edition were chosen by a jury of directors, choreographers and dance professionals chaired by Mathilda May, author, director and actress.

GRAND PRIX : ÉIST DE STEPHANIE KEANE

1 week creative residency in Cannes, Bastide Rouge, a centre dedicated to the creative economy and image professions, within the Georges Méliès Campus.

PRIX DU MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE : ALERTE D'ETIENNE ROCHEFORT

Awarded a €5,000 creation grant by the Ministry of Culture - Direction générale de la création artistique (DGCA) - Délégation à la danse.

MENTION SPECIAL DU JURY : RUNNING ERRANDS D'OREN FISCHER

Programmed as part of the programme of the Cineum, partner of the event.

PRIX DES ÉTUDIANTS : GHOSTS DE (LA)HORDE – BRUTTI / DEBROUWER / HAREL

The winner will be invited to Cannes to give a master class to BTS audiovisual and Université Côte d'Azur students in 2024.

PRIX DU PUBLIC : I JUST WANNA DANCE D'AMANDA BEANE

Screening as part of the programme at the Cineum, partner of the event.

Commitment and international influence

Since 1985, the Festival de Danse Cannes - Côte d'Azur France has been committed to promoting dance as a major art form, offering a diverse and accessible programme. Its international reputation has made it a benchmark on the world choreographic scene.

This year's festival, directed by Didier Deschamps, was not only a vibrant testament to different cultures and artistic expressions, but also a celebration of the art of dance in all its diversity. The Festival de Danse Cannes - Côte d'Azur France 2023 will be remembered as an ode to universal creativity, open-mindedness and a passion for dance that knows no borders.

The 2023 Festival in figures

15,000 festival-goers, including 171 professionals and 34 journalists from the national and international press

New for 2023: 1 international dance film competition MOV'IN Cannes: 18 films selected and screened from the 111 entries received

- **27** international companies invited from 13 countries
- **252** performers
- **15** premieres in 2023, including 3 world premieres and 3 French premieres
- **37** performances (22 in Cannes and 15 in partner theatres)
- **8** partner theatres alongside the Palais des Festivals in Cannes: ANTHEA (Antibes), FORUM JACQUES PREVERT (Carros), SCENE 55 (Mougins), THEATRE DE GRASSE, THEATRE NATIONAL DE NICE, THEATRE LE FORUM, ESTEREL COTE D'AZUR (Fréjus), THEATRES EN DRACENIE (Draguignan), THEATRE DE LA LICORNE (Cannes)
- **13** stages across the region, including 5 free performances in public spaces: the front of the Cineum, Place Roubaud, the forecourt of the Palais des Festivals, etc.
- **4** film screenings
- **6** master classes, including 1 GAGA Class and 1 "Dance and Cinema" Master Class
- **1** symposium "How to encounter a work of dance" .
- **1** round table "Integration and training of young dancers" .
- **1** Studiotrade European network platform

In the run-up to the Festival, awareness-raising activities with :

- **2** touring shows in 15 schools and universities, raising awareness among 1,600 young people
- **6** dance workshops for around 100 students and young dancers