

Press release

Cannes, 24 April 2021



CANNES - COTE D'AZUR FRANCE DANCE FESTIVAL

Back to our roots to dance into the future!

27 November to 12 December 2021
Under the artistic direction of Brigitte Lefèvre

After this long break, the desire to be together is all the stronger because we have been deprived of such gatherings that connect a work with its audience. So it is with particular joy and hope that the festival will welcome spectators for this 2021 edition, to celebrate dance and rediscover the underlying excitement of choreographic diversity.

This new edition brings together **28 French and international companies** to celebrate dance in all its creativity. **Fourteen creations** including **4 world premieres, 2 French** and **1 European**, make up the highlights of the event.

A unifying project

The first cultural event labelled Côte d'Azur France, the Festival, now called the **Cannes - Côte d'Azur France Dance Festival**, continues its unifying work on the Côte d'Azur cultural fabric with the region's theatres. Everyone wants to get involved in this joint event, conceived through mutual interaction and fruitful exchanges: Anthéa (Antibes), Forum Jacques Prévert (Carros), Scene 55 (Mougins), Théâtre de Grasse, Théâtres en Dracénie (Draguignan), Théâtre La Licorne (Cannes), Théâtre National de Nice and, a new partner for 2021, the Théâtre Intercommunal Le Forum (Fréjus).

The Festival, through its partnerships, seeks to open dance up to a wide audience and help the movement of spectators across the region, with shuttles between the concert halls and a coordinated pricing policy adapted for everyone.

To allow as many people as possible access to culture by increasing **awareness-raising activities** and **practical workshops, master classes** delivered by dancers or programmed choreographers are all part of the philosophy behind the event and support the 100% EAC policy introduced by the City of Cannes.

Women in the spotlight

Brigitte Lefèvre wanted to present her fourth and final edition, under the sign of the fourth element, earth. This is evidenced by the powerful, explosive woman on the festival poster. This dancer from the **Martha Graham Dance Company** sums up in many ways the **editorial line** of this event which devotes a **major place to women**, and especially those pioneers who

contributed so much to the invention of modern and contemporary dance by rooting their movements in the earth.

To open, the Festival welcomes the **Martha Graham Dance Company** from New York, a **unique date in France** this year that marks the 30th anniversary of the death of this figure of modern American dance.

However, this edition also wants to bring together all the dance trends in a round-up that embraces its entire history: from the advent of romantic ballet with *The Sylph*, to the emergence of young choreographers such as **Balkis Moutashar**, **Eugénie Andrin**, via such unmissable artists as **Carolyn Carlson**, **Régine Chopinot**, or the creation of **Honji Wang** with three performers, three women, each incarnating distinct cultures.

It's also an opportunity to showcase remarkable dancer-choreographers by the names of **Louise Lecavalier**, **Bintou Dembélé**, **Rocío Molina** or a performer as exceptional as **Marthe Krummenacher** in the solo *Janet on the Roof* by Pierre Pontvianne.

As a form of recognition, Brazilian company **Mimulus** revisits ballroom dancing to the music of films by Pedro Almodóvar, who magnifies women so well in his works. As for **Salim Mzé Hamadi Moissi**, he is inspired in his work *Massiwa* (The Islands) by the Comorian matriarchal society in which he was born and which is one of the few to exist.

Plateforme Studiotrade, orchestrated in partnership with Eric Oberdorff, will also honour women choreographers from the independent European choreographic scene by presenting their works in the form of **showcases** and screenings of **short films**. In full swing, on-screen dance will be the subject of a specific masterclass inviting along **Pedro Sena Nunes**, producer and co-director of the InShadow Festival (dance and cinema) in Lisbon.

The forerunners of yesterday as seen by those of today

The Festival brings together the forerunners of yesterday and today: **Jérôme Bel** offers a portrait of **Isadora Duncan**, an iconic figure of modern dance, **Dominique Brun** recreates legendary works by **Bronislava Nijinska and Vaslav Nijinski** (*The Wedding*, *The Rite of Spring*) including a *Bolero* with **François Chaignaud**. You can also discover with the **Malandain Ballet Biarritz**, during the same evening, a new version of the *Rite of Spring* recreated by Martin Harriague, while Thierry Malandain will give his vision of *The Firebird*, originally created by Michel Fokine. Continuing the past/present theme, the CCN Ballet de Lorraine confronts the radicalism of **Merce Cunningham** and that of **Maud Le Pladec**.

A festival that meets the challenges of our world

This edition also includes the **creations of artists** who reflect on the state and concerns of our current world, whether it's **the environment** - such as *Planet [wanderer]* by choreographer **Damien Jalet** and visual artist **Kohei Nawa**, *Kantus* by **Système Castafiore** - or the **crises we're going through** like *Breathe, Breathe!* by **Eugénie Andrin**, *NOW* by **Sébastien Ly** and *All I need* by **Edouard Hue**.

Brigitte Lefèvre has commissioned two young choreographers to present their latest pieces as a World Premier at the festival: **Pierre Pontvianne's** duo *Kernel* and *All I need*, the latest creation by French-Swiss choreographer **Edouard Hue**.

Finally, some focus on more spiritual thoughts where the musical source plays a major role: this is the case of *Offrande* by **Mié Coquempot**, **Bruno Bouché** and **Béatrice Massin**, or *Sottovoce* by the **Linga company**.

The dynamism of youth and regional creation

The festival is particularly attentive to the dynamism of the **region's young choreographers** and supports the creations of **Eugénie Andrin**, **Balkis Moutashar** and **Sébastien Ly**, who all take a look at our world with the acuity of their generation.

Works specially aimed at young people will be presented: a young audience creation by **Kaori Ito**, in partnership with the Théâtre La Licorne, a national scene of interest "Art, Childhood and Youth" and the **8M³** project, an initiative by KLAP, Maison pour la Danse directed by Michel Kelemenis. These are solos, created around the metaphor of confinement that can be danced anywhere, which will visit the colleges and high schools of Cannes to allow meetings between students and choreographer performers.

The strong partnership between the festival and the National Higher Dance Centre, led by Paola Cantalupo, this year marks the 60th anniversary of the Rosella Hightower Higher School of Dance and will be an opportunity to pay tribute, through the presence of **Cannes Jeune Ballet**, to this figure from the world of dance who has worked so hard for the transmission of choreographic art in Cannes.

Raising awareness of choreographic art

In addition to the show schedule, **exhibitions** further support this 2021 edition. One, dedicated to **Rosella Hightower** as part of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Rosella Hightower International Dance Centre, the other on the aesthetics and prolific imagination of **Système Castafiore**. Like the previous edition, **a film tour, meetings, conferences, a thematic symposium**, in partnership with the dance section of the Côte d'Azur University, and a **seminar** on the transmission of choreographic works are being organised. All these events help people deepen their knowledge or consider new approaches to dance.

For her fourth and final edition, Brigitte Lefèvre has created a prolific festival both in terms of the number of works presented, their diversity, and events open to all audiences.

A festival in the grip of the current challenges of our society in all their problems that sets out to magnify the beauty and fragility of our world.

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