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A high level of expertise in dance and theatre, with networks and enthusiasm

Christian Watty will be the new festival director and artistic director of the European theatre and dance festival euro-scene Leipzig beginning in 2021

After 30 years under the directorship of festival director Ann-Elisabeth Wolff, the theatre and dance festival euro-scene Leipzig will have a new director and artistic director beginning in 2021: Christian Watty. He was born in Dusseldorf in 1968, has been working as an advisor for the internationale tanzmesse nrw in Dusseldorf as well as for numerous theatres and festivals in France and Germany since 2004. Since 2006, he has been organizing tours in the field of dance and Nouveau Cirque (New Circus) with a production office in Paris and Lausanne. Since 2011, he has been directing the "Tanzrecherche NRW" grant programme for the NRW KULTURsekretariat in Wuppertal. And since 2013, he has been a member of the Artistic Advisory Council of euro-scene Leipzig.

Christian Watty studied German literature and Romance studies at the universities in Dusseldorf and Brussels (Magister Atium in 1996) as well as cultural management in Cologne. He worked at the city theatres in Nuremberg and Neuss as an assistant director, dramaturge, theatre teacher and press representative. He was a research associate at the Franz Kafka research centre of the Universität Wuppertal. He is a member of the European network for theatre and dance professionals IETM (International network for contemporary performing arts) and speaks five languages.

The selection process was completed with a 5member expert committee: Prof. Dr. Claudia Jeschke (dance scientist in Munich and New York, former director of the Tanzarchiv Leipzig), Nike Wagner (director and managing director of the Beethovenfest Bonn, former director of the Kunstfest Weimar), Michael Freundt (codirector of the Internationales Theaterinstitut (ITI) and managing director of the Dachverband Tanz Deutschland, Berlin), Knut Geißler (artistic director of the Off Europa festival, Leipzig/Dresden/Chemnitz) as well as Prof. Dr. Günther Heeg (theatre scientist, director of the Centre of Competence for Theatre Leipzig). Due to the permanently precarious financing of euro-scene Leipzig, the contract negotiations were quite difficult. 26 candidates reacted with applications to the call for tender from the organizing association. Christian Watty was unanimously recommended and confirmed by the board of trustees. The committee certified his great expert knowledge in the field of dance and theatre as well as in funding politics, while having strong networks and a contagious enthusiasm.

Ann-Elisabeth Wolff (born in 1953) decided to pass on the directorship after the 30th festival anniversary in 2020 in order to enable the festival to have an optimal transition into the future; she will direct her attention to new tasks after 2020. The last two festivals under her directorship will take place from 05. – 10.11.2019 and 03. – 08.11.2020. euro-scene Leipzig was founded in 1991 and belongs to the annual highlights in Leipzig's cultural life as well as the most important theatre and dance festivals of its kind in Europe.

Link to photo Christian Watty:

https://www.euro-scene.de/v2/de/festivals/2019/presse/fotos-allgemein/downloads/2019-09-12_christian_watty.zip

Photograf: Joerg Letz, Dusseldorf

Ann-Elisabeth Wolff
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