

PRESS RELEASE | SEPTEMBER 27th 2023

The program of the 33rd euro-scene Leipzig: critical, poetic and relevant

euro-scene Leipzig 2023 highlights our society's challenges and crises

Outstanding dance on the Große Bühne at the Schauspielhaus, a world premiere, two international coproductions, a focus on the exceptional artist Steven Cohen and a connection to the Leipzig Book Fair shape the program.

euro-scene Leipzig 2023 will take place from **November 7th to 12th** and will show **15 productions**, among them **1 world premiere, 6 German premieres as well as 2 international coproductions**. In addition, **2 further German premieres** will be presented in cooperation with the Berliner Festspiele and the Fast Forward Festival of the Staatsschauspiel Dresden. In total, the festival program includes **26 events. Companies from 9 countries** (Belgium, Germany, France, Greece, Kosovo, Portugal, Slovenia, Syria, Ukraine) will be traveling to Leipzig to show their creations at this European dance and theater festival.

Two major dance pieces frame this year's festival program at the Große Haus des Schauspiel Leipzig. For the festival opening on November 7th at 7:30 pm, the Belgian star choreographers Miet Warlop invokes the spirit of community in her unusually strong performance **ONE SONG**, which was listed by the New York Times as one of the best pieces in 2022.

To close the festival, Tânia Carvalho – an important female representative of the current Portuguese dance scene – will show an expressionist journey between dreams and reality in **ONIRONAUTA** on November 12th at 7:30 pm.

By presenting three pieces by Steven Cohen, the program sets a thematic emphasis on this internationally celebrated choreographer, visual artist and performer's mutability and political commitment. **PUT YOUR HEART UNDER YOUR FEET ... AND WALK!** offers us an intimate grieving ritual and strong aesthetic and political manifesto about losing a loved one as well as the way we deal with death onto the stage on November 9th and 10th. His doubleheader, **SPHINCTÉROGRAPHIE + DEFACE**, which will be showing on November 11th, highlights the connection between the private and political and also offers a deep insight into the comprehensive work that Cohen has created in the last three decades.

This year's coproductions, **NEGOTIATING PEACE** and **THE LONG SHADOW OF ALOIS BRUNNER**, look at war and fleeing as well as the hope for peace and forgiveness. With a pan-European team in **NEGOTIATING PEACE**, Qendra Multimedia from Kosovo looks into different peace negotiations from recent decades on November 8th and 9th. Also in anticipation of the end of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the piece visualizes the backgrounds, challenges, fears and hopes that are associated with it. On November 11th and 12th, the world premiere of **THE LONG SHADOW OF ALOIS BRUNNER** connects dark chapters of German and Syrian history in the 20th and 21st centuries. The piece by the Syrian exile theater group Collective Ma'louba takes on questions of justice, the experience of fleeing, going underground and theater as an act of unveiling. On November 11th, the Dakh Daughters collective of women from Kiev creates a symbol for peace and freedom in a captivating performance between punk, activism and cabaret.

Based on the book *Less is more* by the economic anthropologist Jason Hickel, Žiga Divjak and his team in **KRIZE** explore our global economic system on November 8th and 9th; it is based on

exploitation and growth and thus the cause for current crises. Festival director Christian Watty explains: “*In the Slovenian guest performance KRIZE, as well as in other pieces at this year’s euro-scene Leipzig, the effects of 500 years of capitalism are a leitmotif. This form of economic activity with the imperative of endless growth is only possible if one considers a large portion of people, animals and nature as objects: raw material or resources that one can expropriate, enslave, colonize and exploit. The result is a lack of empathy and the suppression of suffering and death.*”

In the two solos **KOULOUNISATION** and **TO BE POSSESSED** on November 7th and 9th, euro-scene Leipzig presents two talented newcomers. In his first theater piece **KOULOUNISATION**, Salim Djaferi examines the history of Algeria’s colonization and explores the power of language in repressing his parents’ homeland with plenty of humor, biting irony and strong images. On November 10th and 11th, the choreographer Chara Kotsali analyzes the motif of a “possessed woman” in different cultural contexts in her first own work, **TO BE POSSESSED**. She shows an ecstatic sound and movement collage with an enormous technical precision.

Portraits of two extraordinary dancers are the focus in **XIAO KE** and **SCARBO** on November 10th and 11th. In **XIAO KE** by the star choreographer Jérôme Bel, the eponymous Chinese dancer describes her personal history between folk dancing, modern and contemporary dance and the simultaneous rapid development of the country from the Maoist cultural revolution to a capitalist economic system. In the intimate solo **SCARBO**, choreographed by Ioannis Mandafounis, the unique dancer Manon Parent offers insights into her inner heights and discord.

The theme day **ALLES AUSSER FLACH – NEW LITERATURE FROM FLANDERS** makes a connection to the Leipzig Book Fair for the first time on November 8th. In 2024, Flanders and the Netherlands will be the focus with their guest country appearance. In addition to the festival opening with the dance piece **ONE SONG** from Ghent, the scenic reading **SHOWCASE: SECHS NEUE THEATERTEXTE AUS FLANDERN (SIX NEW THEATER TEXTS FROM FLANDERS)** and the literary performance **LITI/FAMILIE** underlines the diversity and high quality of Flemish literature.

You can find the entire stage program, including two performances with audio descriptions, and the discursive plus-program with multiple events with free admission on our [website](#) as well as here in the [program brochure download](#).

Euro-scene Leipzig could not be realized without strong partners and supporters at its side. Above all, we would like to thank our main supporters: the **City of Leipzig** and the **Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism**. Our thanks also go out to **Leipzig’s mayor Burkhard Jung**, who is assuming the patronage of euro-scene Leipzig for the 18th time.

Advance sales for euro-scene Leipzig 2023 begin on September 30th at www.euro-scene.de, at the festival box office at IntercityHotel (Tröndlinring 2, 04105 Leipzig), at 0341 217 16 48 (ticket line) as well as at all advance sales outlets that are connected to eventim.

Accreditation for journalists is also available from **September 30th**. Please write a mail request to presse@euro-scene.de.

Photo material for all productions is available here [for download here](#).

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