



April 2009

PRESS RELEASE

Forget all you know about dance!

20 countries, 83 artists, 40 performances

iDANS International Contemporary Dance and Performance Festival 2009

Bimeras Cultural Foundation presents the iDANS International Contemporary Dance and Performance Festival between May 04 – June 03 2009. Artists from Turkey, France, Belgium, USA, Holland, Germany, Lebanon, Croatia, Spain, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Egypt, Serbia, Slovenia, Cambodia, England, Italy, Iran, Russia and Singapore will be participating in the event that will welcome important figures that lead the contemporary dance and performance field in the world.

Some 40 works from 20 countries will be presented in iDANS Festival which is organized for the second time in May 2009. This edition's concept is determined as "Dance On Time!". iDANS was launched in 2007 as Turkey's only large scale international contemporary dance and performance event.

Performances will be held at various venues such as French Cultural Institute, garajistanbul, Lycee of Notre Dame de Sion, ÇATI Dance Studio, and Roxy Club. An interactive question-answer session will be carried out between the artists and the audience after the performances.

iDANS is a multi-disciplinary event which expands the notion of "choreography" and encompasses video installations, concerts, lecture/performances as well as dance works.

In the second edition of iDANS International Contemporary Dance and Performance Festival organized around the concept of "Time", Bimeras Cultural Foundation presents works that challenge conventional definitions of dance, body, and time. Since iDANS is also a curatorial project conceived around a particular theme for each edition, it also contributes significantly to the field of contemporary performance theoretically and conceptually. In this sense, iDANS is the only festival of its kind in Turkey, as well as being one of the few worldwide.

What's in the program?

An immobile award-winning dance performance !

One of the performances in the festival is by a Croatian artist Ivana Müller that exhibits a show without any motion. A dance performance without any movement might be considered strange by many, however, the piece has been rewarded with the Award of Charlotte Köhler that is granted by Prince Bernhard Culture Fund.



Ex-soloist of British Royal Ballet

One of the most important choreographers of England, former soloist of British Royal Ballet, Jonathan Burrows will present the dance of words in "Speaking Dance". This is a minimalist performance Burrows realized with Italian musician Matteo Fargion. Burrows and Fargion received the prestigious "Bessie" Award in New York in 2004.

Excavating the Archive: The Atlas Group

In a lecture-performance, Walid Raad will present part of an on-going investigation by The Atlas Group into the events and experiences surrounding the use of car bombs in the 1975-1991 Lebanese wars.

Cambodian Dance Beyond the Killing Fields

Singapore based theater director and curator Ong Keng Sen will present the 76 year old classical Cambodian dancer Em Theay, one of the few survivors of the "killing fields" of Khmer Rouge in a docu-performance.

Producing music by dancing

Belgian film director Thierry de Mey is participating iDANS with "Light Music" which he realized in collaboration with French percussionist Jean Geoffroy. Using movement sensor technologies Jean Geoffroy produces sound and magical images with the movement of his hands as if conducting an invisible orchestra.

The performance movie-lovers should not miss!

Croatian artist Andrea Božić presents on stage a film crew shooting a catastrophe survival scene. This film gets continuously interrupted by scenes from other films, and catastrophe gradually becomes real. Božić was inspired by Wolfgang Petersen's "Das Boot", Ridley Scott's "Blade Runner", Andrei Tarkovsky's "Solaris" and Alfred Hitchcock's "Birds" for this extraordinary performance.

Special weekend with local artists

iDANS presents local choreographers on 22-24 May with a special program. The weekend will commence at the French Cultural Institute with a selection of emerging local choreographers and will continue with the latest works of Taldans and Movement Atelier and a video screening of Mehmet Sander.

International conference for international festival

What does "time" correspond to in the making and researching of dance? Questions such as these will be explored from multiple angles in an international conference which will be held on 16-17 May 2009 at Istanbul Modern. Participants include dramaturgs, academicians, choreographers and researchers such as Geisha Fontaine, Myriam van Imschoot, Rudi Laermans, Boyan Manchev.

The Dancing Wu Li Masters: physicists discussing time and dance

One of the contributors to the conference is Velimir Abramovic, founder of the Institute of the Science of Time. The physicist-philosopher will be analyzing dance from a mathematical vector.

%50 discount for those who watch 12 performances

The admission fee for the performances and concerts is 12 TL and 18 TL. The entrance to the conference is free. It is impossible to watch the stage works of iDANS at this price anywhere in the world. Much more than this, Bimeras Cultural Foundation will return half of the admission fee to those who have watched 12 performances in the festival, in line with its aim to introduce the latest ongoing trends in this field to the Turkish audience and choreographers.



Festival Venues

Performances: garajistanbul, Concert Hall of Notre Dame de Sion Highschool, Roxy, Pera Museum, French Cultural Institute, ÇATI Dance Studio

Conference: Istanbul Museum of Modern Art

Tickets: Biletix and garajistanbul box office (for all festival venues)

Detailed Information: www.idans.info

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iDANS May 2009 Facts and Figures

- 04.05 – 03.06.2009
- 30 days of activities
- 83 artists from 20 countries
- 40 projects
- 52 performances
- 6 venues
- International conference on 16-17 May 2009 at Istanbul Modern
- All of the works are Turkey premiers
- A multi-disciplinary event including dance, performance, film screening, video installations



Bimeras Cultural Foundation

Bimeras Cultural Foundation was founded as the culmination of a decade of research and effort in order to support and promote international collaborations in the field of contemporary dance and performance. The most desired result of this effort was the establishment of an international contemporary dance festival in 2007. Aiming to contribute to the perception of dance as a legitimate artistic and theoretical field, iDANS International Contemporary Dance and Performance Festival brings together the most challenging artists of the scene in Istanbul.

