

## PRESS RELEASE | 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

### The programme of the 32nd euro-scene Leipzig: political, aesthetic, sustainable and inclusive

#### Focus for the first time also on non-European perspectives

The 32nd euro-scene Leipzig will take place from **8 to 13 November 2022** and feature 12 productions from Belgium, France, Italy, Congo, Mozambique and Hungary, among others, including three world premieres, four German premieres and four international co-productions. In total, the programme of the European dance and theatre festival includes 32 events this year.

In the opening guest performance **ANY ATTEMPT WILL END IN CRUSHED BODIES AND SHATTERED BONES** on 8 November at 7.30 pm, star choreographer Jan Martens from Flanders explores with his 17 dancers aged between 17 and 70 how collective action and political rebellion for more democracy, freedom and civil rights can work. His piece was triggered in 2019 by the street protests for freedom in Hong Kong as well as the movements of yellow waistcoats, extinction rebellion and angry citizens demonstrating simultaneously in Europe.

With the three plays **MENTIRAS APLAUDIDAS**, **THE GHOSTS ARE RETURNING** and **TEATRO AMAZONAS**, euro-scene Leipzig is focusing for the first time on **non-European and postcolonial perspectives**, as festival director Christian Watty explains: *"Topics that we have not paid attention to for a long time are now at the top of the social agenda: the longing for more respect, diversity and gender justice, the desire for an end to exclusion, discrimination, exploitation and racism. People in the global North, with their often boundless egoism, and especially we in Europe, are called upon to confront our colonial past and neo-colonial present: the long shadow of oppression and domination, colonisation in the name of God or capitalism, both of which have already claimed and continue to claim millions of victims."*

In the world premiere of **MENTIRAS APLAUDIDAS**, choreographer Panaibra Gabriel Canda from Mozambique invites us to allow other perspectives on the history of civilisation by questioning historical narratives and notions of dominance and identity. The music theatre production **THE GHOSTS ARE RETURNING** also deals with a highly topical debate: **GROUP50:50**, a collective of artists from Congo, Switzerland and Germany, recalls the fate of seven "pygmy" skeletons that a Swiss doctor brought from Congo to Geneva in 1952 and which are still stored there today in the private possession of his heiress. In addition, the Chilean-Spanish directing duo AzkonaToloza is coming to Germany for the first time thanks to a cooperation between euro-scene Leipzig and the Schaubude in Berlin: in their play **TEATRO AMAZONAS**, the artists examine the systematic destruction of the Amazon rainforest, which has been going on for over 500 years. In addition, euro-scene Leipzig offers the two-day free discourse programme **THE TIME FOR DENIAL IS OVER**, which deals with the question of restitution of human remains and cultural treasures from colonial times through short films and contributions by experts from Africa and Europe.

Two other remarkable guest performances will be presented on the main stage of the Schauspiel Leipzig: The electrifying and award-winning dance piece **SOUL CHAIN**, choreographed for tanzmainz by Sharon Eyal, an icon of the young generation of choreographers in Israel, was supposed to close the festival last year but had to be cancelled at short notice. Now it will be repeated with two performances on 9 and 10 November. **MY LAND** will also be shown twice: an outstanding production that combines circus and dance and could not be more up-to-date. Seven of the best circus acrobats from Ukraine make a fast-paced, poetic and touching declaration of love to their

homeland, to which they have not been able to return since February due to the outbreak of war (performance on 11 November and afternoon performance on 12 November with especially cheap tickets for families with children!)

The popular competition at euro-scene Leipzig has been redesigned. Under the title **UBUNTU CONNECTION**, a new format has been created in which 16 artists from the genres of dance and new circus, accompanied by a live band, will compete not against but for and with each other on two evenings at the Schaubühne Lindenfels.

At the end of the festival, a cooperation between euro-scene Leipzig and the Leipzig Ballet will premiere for the first time at the Leipzig Opera House. The programme includes a double evening by **Maguy Marin**, the most important representative of dance theatre in France, and the Leipzig Ballet director Mario Schröder. With DUO D'EDEN (1986) and GROSSE FUGE (2001), the Leipzig Ballet will be the first German company to present two classics from the work of the great French dancer and choreographer, and Mario Schröder will complete the evening with the premiere of a new piece.

The entire **programme**, including three performances with **audio description** and numerous events with **free admission**, can be found on our [website](#) and here in the [programme booklet for download](#).

euro-scene Leipzig would not be possible without strong partners and supporters at its side. Above all, we would like to thank our main sponsors: the **City of Leipzig** and the **Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism**. Our thanks also go to the **Mayor of Leipzig, Burkhard Jung**, who is the patron of euro-scene Leipzig.

Advance booking for the complete festival programme begins on 6 October at [www.euro-scene.de](http://www.euro-scene.de) at the festival box office in the IntercityHotel (Tröndlinring 2, 04105 Leipzig), at 0341 217 16 48 (ticket hotline) and at all advance booking offices affiliated with eventim.

Accreditation for journalists will also begin on 6 October. Please send an e-mail to [presse@euro-scene.de](mailto:presse@euro-scene.de). Pictures of all productions can be [downloaded here](#).

#### **Press contact**

Vera Fleischer  
+ 49 (0)163 1373931  
[presse@euro-scene.de](mailto:presse@euro-scene.de)

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#### **Festival office**

euro-scene Leipzig, Harkortstraße 10, 04107 Leipzig, Phone: 0341 980 02 84, [info@euro-scene.de](mailto:info@euro-scene.de)

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