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1st Press Release

Towards an expanded iDANS Festival!

iDANS 06 (September 2012 – May 2013)

iDANS International Contemporary Dance and Performance Festival had always an extensive program which was hardly fitting into a single month every year since 2007. Already in the fourth edition, iDANS was to break a record in Istanbul for the number of invited artists from abroad, with 41 projects of 154 artists from 21 countries. This year, the festival organizers of Bimeras decided to expand iDANS into the whole season until May, and present a program which will encompass not only diverse expressions of contemporary dance but will also feature some of the most cutting edge theater and trans-disciplinary live arts from the international scene.

The decision to extend the festival came as a reaction to the difficulty of securing the necessary number of venues for October in Istanbul, where state art institutions have always priority in receiving venues against the independent scene. Recently, Besiktas Municipality withdrew Fulya Sanat from iDANS Festival, and gave its previously reserved dates to the State Opera and Ballet instead. iDANS is reacting to this challenge by extending the program into the whole season and preparing an even more comprehensive program, which will result in iDANS becoming the biggest festival in Istanbul. iDANS had been deemed worthy of funding by the Culture Program of the European Commission, becoming the first festival from Turkey to receive the prestigious support.

A contemporary Silk Road

Inspired by the historical caravan trail that had extended some 6500 km interlinking trade routes across the Afro-Eurasian landmass that connected East, South, West Asia with the Mediterranean and the European world as well as parts of North and East Africa, iDANS 06 will be framed around the metaphor of the Silk Road. As well as programming the work of established and upcoming artists from Europe and the Near East, the program will include contemporary performing arts from East and Southeast Asia, and will explore the migration, evolution and cross-pollination of diverse movement styles and expressions.

Before human species invented words for nations or passports, they were highly mobile and were engaged in trading across large distances spanning entire continents. The trade of material goods out of ecological, economical or spiritual needs facilitated the exchange and hybridization of ideologies, religions, beliefs, aesthetic know-how, movements and gestures. In its 6th edition iDANS brings together a diverse array of artistic approaches to highlight the transformations across time and space, in an attempt to trace out a contemporary silk road of dance.

Obviously, iDANS program's exploration is not exhaustive of what's out there in Asia. Yet, it marks for iDANS the beginning of a deeper research and investment in contemporary performing arts in and around Central, East, and South East Asia.

iDANS 06 activities and program are clustered under separate sections that take their name and characteristics from the goods traded along the Silk Road. These sub-headings will be: 'Gemstones', 'Spices', 'Silk', and 'Paper'. 'Gemstones' features staged contemporary dance and theatre performances of some established artists such as Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker (BE), Rimini Protokoll (DE), Saburo Teshigawara (JP). 'Spices' introduces some quite challenging, pungent and tasty works of numerous upcoming artists such as Aakash Odedra (UK), Anne-Linn Akselsen & Adrián Minkowitz (NO/AR), and heralds the news from the next generation of contemporary dance with P.A.R.T.S.' recent graduates' freshest works. 'Silk' features Tao Dance Theater from Beijing and Toshiki Okada from Tokyo. 'Paper' section encompasses the knowledge production and exchange projects of iDANS, namely, "Critical Endeavour Turkey 2012", "Teaching the Teachers" as well as public lectures and talks.

An Overview of iDANS 06 Program

The festival program will include an increasing number of events until May 2013 that include live performances, presentation of iDANS' very own co-productions, film screenings, a photography exhibition, and talks. Besides, iDANS 06 also hosts two training and capacity development programs geared towards the professionalization of the field of contemporary performing arts. Below is an overview of iDANS 06.

Training and Capacity Development Programs

Critical Endeavour Turkey:

The international performing arts writing and journalism workshop Critical Endeavour, carried out in the 2010 edition of iDANS as a joint event of the EU supported network Jardin d'Europe, took place again in 2011 as a local edition titled "Critical Endeavour Turkey" in iDANS 05 with participants from Turkey. As an education and development program for those specializing in contemporary dance and performing arts journalism, Critical Endeavour Turkey will again be organized within iDANS 06 in 2012. **Critical Endeavour Turkey aims to contribute to the development of a literary culture which confronts the challenges, responsibilities and inquiries of critical practices in the dance field.** Critical Endeavour is at the same time the resident writer program of iDANS. Some 15 participants determined via an open call follow all events and performances throughout the festival and publish their reviews, critiques, interviews, articles and essays – in English and Turkish - on the interactive festival blog idansblog.org

Teaching the Teachers:

In collaboration with **Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts Department of Contemporary Dance**, iDANS hosts on October 20th and 21st an intensive session on "**Alternative Pedagogies and Models in Contemporary Dance Education**". The session is part of a series on the "**Teaching the Teachers**" activities co-designed and implemented by Jardin d'Europe Network partners, funded by the European Commission.

Photography Exhibition

In the first photography exhibition ever presented at iDANS, the renowned photographer **Peggy Jarrell Kaplan**, who is also the resident photographer at iDANS 06, takes us into an analogue journey in contemporary dance through the 'faces' of its creators. The exhibition entitled **Portraits of Choreographers: Body into Face** can be viewed at festival venues throughout the duration of the festival.

A Unique Social Creativity Project: iKEDİ

iKEDİ was designed by Austrian theatre-director Airan Berg and South African/British designer Roger Titley for iDANS in 2010. Continuing in 2011 as a school project each month at designated public schools in less privileged neighborhoods, the giant cat sculptures of iKEDİ will once more navigate the streets of Istanbul and gather people of all ages around creativity in puppet building workshops in 12 different urban spaces between 1st of September – 7th of October, 2012. (Detailed schedule on www.ikedi.info)

Highlights from Performances at iDANS 06 (Detailed program on www.idans.info)

Gemstones

Who dances what?

Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker (ATDK) is back on the iDANS stage, this time with her seminal work **Rosas danst Rosas** that will be presented for the first time in Turkey. After the international breakthrough of her 1982 creation *Fase* (presented in iDANS 05 in 2011), the choreographer had surprised audiences once more with her powerful composition. Becoming a huge international success at its onset in 1983, the production had also marked the start of the Rosas Company. It was performed countless times all over the world. It became a classic and in the 29 years since its creation it has been learned over and over by new groups of dancers. In 1997 Thierry De Mey (presented within iDANS 02 in 2009 with his *Light Music*) made a film of the work in which the various casts and generations came together. 29 years later, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker is once again taking her place on stage to dance along with three members of the third generation. This very piece has also been the subject of a recent controversy regarding issues of 'author's rights' and 'choreographic plagiarism' marking an interesting instance of the marriage of avant-garde art with popular culture.

Rosas/Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker – **Rosas danst Rosas** | Date to be announced

Muezzins' call to theater

One of the most successful examples of 'documentary theater' by **Rimini Protokoll**, **Radio Muezzin** opens a window into the lives of **four muezzins from Cairo** and depicts in an extremely touching and humane way the 'precarization' of 'spiritual workers' through the processes of mechanization and centralization.

Stefan Kaegi (Rimini Protokoll) - **Radio Muezzin** | 4/5.10.2012 | Haliç Congress Center | 20:00

Obsessions

Created by the internationally renowned Japanese choreographer **Saburo Teshigawara**, *Obsession* is interpreted by Teshigawara himself and the equally fascinating dancer **Rihoko Sato**. It is inspired by the surrealist short film *Un Chien Andalou* based on a script by Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dalí. An impressive duet unfolds in the figuration of impossible desires and inner conflict.

Saburo Teshigawara – *Obsession* | 09.10.2012 | Haliç Congress Center | 20:00

Spices

Raising Odedra

Rising is an evening of dance performed by **Aakash Odedra**, considered as the upcoming star of British South Asian Dance, which explores different processes and aesthetics to create a new personal language. The evening consists of pieces created by renowned international choreographers **Akram Khan**, **Russell Maliphant** and **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui** as well as a piece of Odedra's own creation.

Aakash Odedra - *Rising* | 06.10.2012 | Haliç Congress Center | 20:00

Are you game for a game?

One of iDANS's co-productions this year, *Dry Act # 2: South Domino* deals with games that are considered culturally fundamental to a country, such as Backgammon in Turkey, Truco in Argentina or Chinese Chess in China. They use these games as a way to look at social interaction, decision-making and competitiveness and expose how such games can be seen both as metaphors and actual structures of interaction.

Anne-Linn Akselsen & Adrián Minkowitz - *Dry Act #2 South Domino* (World premiere) | 12.10.2012 | MSGSÜ Bomonti Campus Şebnem Selçuk Aksan Stage | 20:00

The 'news' from the next generation

Every two years, a new cohort of promising choreographers raised in the most successful dance school of Europe goes on tour around Europe. Come and witness the latest developments in dance hosted on its iDANS station!

P.A.R.T.S – “**New Works**” | Program 1: 19.10.2012; Program 2: 20.10.2012 | garajistanbul | 20:00

Silk

Minimalism Made in China

In this critically acclaimed double bill, choreographer and company founder **Tao Ye** explores the purity of movement and the body's untapped possibilities. Two sections from the triptych *Weight x 3* are performed to a soundtrack composed by the godfather of minimalist music **Steve Reich**. The performance is followed by *2*, a duet set to a soundscape by Chinese folk-rock composer/musician Xiao He.

TAO Dance Theater- *Weight x 3* and *2* | | Date to be announced

What did you just say?

In this triptych of related short plays, communication is not as smooth as silk: words are out of synch with gestures and each office worker seems to be dancing to his/her own drummer! Tokyo based theater company **chelfitsch** led by the writer and director **Toshiki Okada** depicts in his signature style of humorous cynicism the “selfishness” of a generation in Japan.

Toshiki Okada & chelfitsch - *Hot Pepper, Air Conditioner and the Farewell Speech* | 23.10.2012 | garajistanbul | 20:00

Digging into Bumpy Roads

A solo climate summit

Cry Me A River is a solo about inner and outer climate catastrophes. Walking the thin ice between the personal and the political the piece deals with the complexity of climate change communication and its rhetoric. With this piece, Anna Mendelssohn received the “Dietmar N. Schmidt Actor’s Award” in 2011 at Festival Impulse (Germany).

Anna Mendelssohn – ***Cry Me A River*** | 02/03.10.2012 | garajistanbul | 20:00

Making out with an excavator

Korean dancer/choreographer Geumhyung Jeong tells us of the pursuit of the subject of her desire in the form of an extremely unique lecture that becomes a meta-performance of her existing work.

Geumhyung Jeong – ***Oil Pressure Vibrator*** | 03.10.2012 | garajistanbul | 22.00

Die together, live alone

A post on craigslist, two people waiting for a response... Visions of mass suicide, a bucket list, the idea of dying for a cause... Someone trapped between the mundane and the extraordinary, is taking a final look at the space she/he occupies on earth... *Re: Fwd: die in good company* is based on political loss, dreams of a revolution and the idea of reaching the end of all. biriken’s new work is an iDANS co-production.

biriken – ***Re: Fwd: die in good company*** | 13/14.10.2012 | garajistanbul | 20:00

Extraordinary love

A “mechanical dancer”, namely, a digger –nowadays an omnipotent image in urban redevelopment almost everywhere in the world- performs an unusual *pas-de-deux* in public space.

Dominique Bouvin – ***Transports Exceptionnels*** | 20/21.10.2012 | Beşiktaş Barbaros Meydanı | Two sessions: 16:00 ve 18:00

Closing Act

The Show Goes On at iDANS!

One of the most important masters in contemporary choreography, Jérôme Bel’s *The Show Must Go On*, premiered in 2001, was re-interpreted by an all-local cast as part of the 5th iDANS Festival last year. Due to popular demand, the work is back on stage! It is among the most unmissable performances in iDANS Festival with its dances and dancers as well as its conceptual proposals.

Jérôme Bel - ***The Show Must Go On*** | Date to be announced

iDANS 06 visuals along with the logos can be downloaded from the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/idcvtofszz5c92y/301DHz5gPY>

We encourage you to use more than one image in order to highlight the diversity of the program of iDANS.

Ticket Information:

Ticket information will be available on www.idans.info by September 3rd.

Bimeras

Bimeras 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 2006. 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. Bimeras is a partner of three major European Networks: Jardin d'Europe, DÉPARTS, and Europe in Motion.

iDANS International Contemporary Dance and Performance Festival

iDANS is the first and only international transdisciplinary festival that encompasses visual and live arts in Turkey. It is organized annually by Bimeras. Each edition is framed around a curatorial concept and hosts around 40 projects of visual arts, staged performances, lecture/performances and performative installations as well as symposiums and publications around the selected theme.

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