

# NATIONAL PERFORMANCE NETWORK (NPN) GERMANY

## MISSION

Six German dance organizers are founding members and network partners of the National Performance Network (NPN). The goal is the ongoing exchange of dance productions within Germany. To accomplish this goal, the NPN supports trans-regional guest performances of contemporary dance. These guest performances are made possible by collaboration with Germany's federal government and a high number of its federal states.

## WHAT IS THE NPN?

The National Performance Network is a cooperative venture which is unique in Europe: the German federal government and eleven of its federal states support selected German dance productions by defraying up to 35% of the costs of guest performances. If event organizers invites dance companies from another federal state, the organizers are eligible to apply for support from NPN to defray part of the cost of the guest performance. The NPN contributes to the continued growth of the audience for high-quality contemporary dance. Because many guest performances would not have been possible support from the NPN, its support thus helps to encourage artistic exchange throughout Germany. The federal government and the several states are financial contributors to this unique project, which is active across state boundaries. The "pioneers" in 1999 were: the federal government's appointee for affairs related to culture and the media, the federal states of Bavaria, Berlin, Bremen, North Rhine-Westphalia, and Thuringia, as well as the six network partners. Additional partners joined the NPN in the years prior to 2001. They are: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate, Baden-Württemberg, Hamburg, and Hesse.

## NETWORK PARTNERS

The founders and network partners of the NPN have been producing and/or presenting contemporary dance for many years. In addition to their own work, they also devote their efforts to the improvement of working conditions and presentation possibilities for contemporary in dance in Germany.

Hebbel-Theater, Berlin  
JOINT ADVENTURES, Munich  
Das Meininger Theater  
Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt  
Tanzhaus NRW, Düsseldorf  
Theater im Pfalzbau, Ludwigshafen

## **SPONSORING FEDERAL STATES**

In addition to the appointee charged with the relevant responsibility by the federal government, eleven ministries also provide concrete support for the realization of trans-regional guest performances. The sponsors are:

- Bavarian State Ministry for Science, Research, and Art
- Ministry for Science, Research, and Culture, Brandenburg
- Senate's Administration for Science, Research, and Culture, Berlin
- Senator for the Interior, Culture and Sports of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen
- Cultural Authorities of the Free Hanseatic City of Hamburg
- Hessian Ministry for Science and Art
- Lower Saxon Ministry for Science and Culture
- Ministry for Education, Science and Culture, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- Ministry for Urban Construction and Housing, Culture and Sports of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia
- Ministry for Culture, Youth, the Family, and Women, Rhineland-Palatinate
- Ministry for Science, Research, and Art, Thuringia
- Appointee of the Federal Government for Affairs Related to Culture and the Media.

## **CRITERIA FOR SUPPORT**

The possibility of receiving support is linked with the fulfillment of the following support criteria:

- The production must have recognized artistic quality.
- The artistic work must be of trans-regional significance.
- The event organizer must guarantee the professional quality of the organization and stage-technical realization.
- The event organizer must abide by the fee structures specified by the NPN. He agrees to pay the artists for the performance(s), as well as for the costs of travel and overnight lodging. He further agrees to pay per diem and rehearsal payments, as well as an administrative lump-sum payment in the amount of the specified minimum.

## **JURY**

A jury decides who shall receive supportive monies from the NPN. The jury is composed of recognized experts and dance specialists. The independent jurors award funds according to the catalogue of criteria which ensures that the only projects to receive funding are those which can demonstrate recognized artistic quality.

The following individuals are members of the jury in 2003:

- Edith Boxberger, dance critic and journalist, Hamburg
- Walter Heun, event organizer and producer, Munich
- Prof. Claudia Jeschke, dance historian and instructor at institutions of higher learning, Cologne
- Michael Freundt, event organizer and freelance journalist, Leipzig/Berlin
- Dr. Janine Schulze, manager dance archive Leipzig

## POTENTIAL APPLICANTS

Potential applicants come from throughout the Federal Republic of Germany and include independent organizers, production centers, private theaters, public theaters, dance festivals, universities, communities, and/or dance companies insofar as they function in the role of event organizers. This organizers can apply for financial support for dance ensembles which are based in another federal state and which give guest performances in the organizer's state. Privately supported organizers are eligible for NPN funding in the amount of 25% of the costs of the guest performance; publicly supported organizers are eligible for funding in the amount of 35% of the costs of the guest performance.

Thanks to the NPN's minimization of the expenses of guest performances, organizers are more strongly motivated to arrange for guest performances. Furthermore, the guaranteed minimum fees paid to the artists ensure that the performers are adequately paid for their services. This active, nationwide sharing of cultural events also benefits the continually growing audience for contemporary dance.

The National Performance Network thus makes an important contribution to the genre of contemporary dance.

## ADMINISTRATION

JOINT ADVENTURES, the Munich-based producer and event organizer, organizes the carrying out the NPN project. This organizational work includes communication with the several ministries, coordination of meetings with state appointees and network partners, submission of applications, administration of the necessary funds, as well as press relations and public-relations work. JOINT ADVENTURES is also a source of information and advice for event organizers and artists. Applications for support are available from JOINT ADVENTURES. Since 2001, these applications have also been available for downloading via the Internet at <[www.jointadventures.net/npn](http://www.jointadventures.net/npn)>. The original documents should be filled out by the event organizer and submitted to JOINT ADVENTURES. Deadlines for submission are January 31 and April 15 of each year. After the second deadline and in exceptional cases, JOINT ADVENTURES may opt to disburse remaining funds to applicants. If an applicant fulfils all formal preconditions, a jury of experts will consider that applicant's request for support. The jury's decision will be communicated to the applicants as speedily as possible. Event organizers who have been awarded funds are required to pay minimum fees to the guest performance group and to explicitly mention the NPN in all publications printed in the context of the guest performance. Funds will be paid by bank transfer after the performance has taken place and after the organizer has furnished all necessary documentation of how monies have been spent.

### **Information and application forms are available from:**

**National Performance Network**

**c/o JOINT ADVENTURES**

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