

# BUNDESKUNSTHALLE

Media Information

## DANCE WORLDS

27 September 2024 until 16 February 2025



Pina Bausch's Spring Opera in Sadlers Wells, London, Photo Robbie Jack © Corbis via Getty Images

One thesis on the origins of dance is that it was initially a way of communicating. Whether developed from movements at work or as a reaction to natural phenomena, dance has always described human interactions.

Even in the earliest cultures, dance was an important part of rituals, ceremonies, festivals and entertainment. It may also have played a central role in the transmission of stories before they were recorded in writing. In many parts of the world, dancing is deeply rooted in the community and creates a sense of belonging.

The exhibition presents dance as a global form of representation and expression and tells multi-perspective stories of the interweaving of dance in its social functions and its role as an art form. In thematically organised chapters, it looks at the multitude of different manifestations and styles and illuminates dance as an essential part of our existence.

The central chapter *Dancing Together*, which presents dance as a collective experience and thematises its socio-cultural functions, develops into four major sections: *Imagining Dances*, *Telling Stories*, *On:Breaks* and *Show Time!* They shed light on the ritual, spiritual, political, identity-forming and entertaining functions of dance, blurring the boundaries between everyday and high culture. The chapter *Dancing together* presents classical ballet

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as a storyteller as well as the narrative dances of the African continent and various forms of dance theatre. *Imagining Dances* explores examples of spiritual and art-philosophical dance worlds and sheds light on the topic of appropriation and cultural transfer. Dancing as an expression of protest and resistance and as a counter-movement is the subject of the chapter *On:Breaks* and the section *Show Time!* illuminates the entertaining aspects.

Since dance rarely stands alone, the exhibition also looks at its many connections to other art forms. The exhibits range from dance representations in early cultures to modern visual arts and examples of contemporary dance.

In addition, the exhibition becomes a dance platform: videos and projections, but above all the live interventions and performances convey dance. Professional dancers rehearse and dance in the specially equipped dance hall in the East Gallery. The public is offered insights into choreographic processes as well as dance workshops and tutorials, but also tango and Lindy Hop evenings to join in. LET'S DANCE!

Curators: Katharina Chrubasik, Daniela Ebert, Claudia Jeschke



Leon James and Willa Mae Ricker dancing  
Lindy Hop © Gjon Mili / The LIFE Picture Collection /  
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Zaouli dance © Awasso

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