



## **TANEC PRAHA Festival 2022 a success, despite culture crisis attendance exceeds expectations**

**Prague, 1 July 2022 – The highlight of the 34<sup>th</sup> edition of the TANEC PRAHA international festival was the radical concept of *Umwelt* by choreographer Maguy Marin on the New Stage of the National Theatre. Strong female personalities have dominated this year's program since the opening ceremony on June 1 with Ann Van den Broek. Louise Lecavalier's solo was also an exceptional experience, but many other works resonated no less, not only in theatres, but also in the public space with the involvement of a number of local professional artists and laypeople.**

At a time when culture is fighting for every spectator, the TANEC PRAHA Festival recorded very successful attendance of approximately 90%. The festival was held in 23 cities and towns across the country, where more than 25 different productions were staged. The *Woods* project – an installation of human bodies evoking missing trees in Brno, Ostrava, Plzen and Prague – had the longest run (a total of 12 performances in the Czech Republic). The public's interest in performances in theatres and non-traditional spaces exceeded the organizers' expectations, especially in today's era of inflation and the crisis in attendance at cultural events.

This year, the festival organizer placed great emphasis on connecting audiences and dancers, including the direct involvement of the audience in the performance, including children, teenagers and seniors. It also tried to accommodate the audience by staging a number of performances outdoors and for free and by providing an accompanying program. It was significantly aided in these efforts by the EU programs Creative Europe and the new Perform Europe, where it is one of the most successful applicants. Thanks to this, Focus Ukraine could also be organized to support dancers who fled to the Czech Republic before the war. With these activities, the TANEC PRAHA Festival perfectly fulfils its mission: to present high-quality and diverse works of contemporary dance and movement theatre to the general public and to create opportunities for Czech artists to participate in international co-productions.

The home scene of the TANEC PRAHA Festival and the Czech Dance Platform, the PONEC Theatre, is preparing a new dance season starting in September, when, in addition to dance, audiences can also look forward to other overlaps of contemporary live art into the life of society.

Please direct requests for more information or photos to:

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**TANEC PRAHA** – The International Festival of Contemporary Dance and Movement Theatre is one of the biggest events in the cultural calendar of the Czech Republic. Since 1989, every year in June (during the pandemic also in autumn), the festival presents the variety and quality of the current foreign and domestic dance scene, gives space for experimentation and crossover into other genres, supports the creation of new works as a co-producer. Currently, the festival's program offer is presented in more than 20 cities and towns, both indoors and outdoors.

The TANEC PRAHA Festival was the motivation for the founding of the Tanec Praha NGO back in 1991 and remains its main activity to this day.

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