

Would you care to dance? Ever dreamed trying yourself as a ballerina or break dancer? On 27 April, this dream could come true. That is Day of Dance, when Swiss dance schools and theatres will be opening their doors and asking people to the dance floor for free trial lessons. What kind of promotion does dance in Switzerland need to find its audience? The symposium in Zurich on 15 April will try and provide some answers. Dance, finally, is also featuring in a special intercultural event. As part of the 60 Years Jubilee of the Indo-Swiss Treaty of Friendship, the Swiss dance performance company DA MOTUS! will take the stage in New Delhi at the end of March.

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Cultural history of Central Switzerland

The exhibition "Zugluft", featuring in the "echoes - folk culture for tomorrow" programme, is dedicated to the arts and culture of Central Switzerland from 1920 to 1950. This was a period in which a generation of young artists struggled to find new ways of expression in a mostly hostile environment of highly conservative rural traditions. The exhibition will be on display at the Salzmagazin and Höfli in Stans from 13 April to 27 July. You will find further information [here](#)



Dance performance in India

The Swiss dance performance company DA MOTUS! will be performing in New Delhi and Jaipur from 26 to 29 March. DA MOTUS! productions cannot simply be classified either as dance or as theatre. Time and again, they astonish audiences with their bubbling, constantly resurging creativity. The group, founded in 1987 by Antonio Bühler and Brigitte Meuwly has a track record of performances in over 100 cities and 30 countries. Their production entitled "en vie... en ville" will be staged as part of the celebrations marking the 60 Years Jubilee of the Indo-Swiss Treaty of Friendship. Further information at www.prohelvetia.in



Lighten up the day with dancing

Feel like ballet or break dance? Waltz or Bollywood? On Sunday, 27 April, dance schools and theatres throughout Switzerland are opening their doors to the public and offering trial lessons for a whole day in a great variety of dance styles. The lessons are free of charge and can be attended with no prior knowledge required. A modern ball will conclude this Day of Dance. The event is to be held in Basel, Bern, Biel, Chiasso, Geneva, Jura, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Lausanne, Thurgau, Winterthur and Zurich. Further information at www.dansetanzdanza.ch



Literature Days in Solothurn

The Solothurn Literature Days, from 2 to 4 May this year, are celebrating their 30th anniversary. Pro Helvetia is inviting guests from the Baltics, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Italy, Belgium and Norway - publishers, academics, librarians, as well as other conveyers of literature, who have been committed to Swiss literature for many years. A brochure containing original texts in Switzerland's national languages will be issued in connection with the main programme entitled "New texts from Switzerland". More details at www.literatur.ch



Spezialmaterial on tour in South America

The Zurich-based electronic music label "Spezialmaterial" is part of a

global network in the field of experimental and danceable electronic music. Its latest tour is taking it to Columbia, Argentina, Peru, Brazil and Uruguay. Besides concerts, the tour programme includes conferences, workshops and the production of a compilation of Latin American electronic music. The tour is scheduled to last until 26 April. Find a sample [here](#)



Ouch, we're alive!

How are young people made fit for the market? How is the older generation disposed of? This year's AUAWIRLEBEN theatre festival is exploring generational issues under the heading "When I'm big, when I'm dead". From 23 April to 4 May, productions from Switzerland and other European countries will be shown dealing with life in an age of globalisation, aging populations, pension reforms and precarious living conditions. More details at www.auawirleben.ch

Swiss percussionists in South Africa

Beat Bag Bohemia, a Swiss-South African drum quartet, will be touring South Africa from 25 March to 5 April. The band is scheduled to perform in Cape Town, East London, Durban and Maputo. Musicians Lucas Niggli, Peter Conradin Zumthor, Kesivan Naidoo and Rolando Lumssene will be presenting their debut CD with their energy-driven, explosive contemporary percussion music. Find out more at www.prohelvetia.org.za and www.lucasniggli.ch



Avalanche at the chamber orchestra

The Bernese Chamber Orchestra will perform the world premiere of a commissioned composition by Kaspar Ewald entitled "Schneebrett" (a form of avalanche) at the Kulturcasino Bern on 6 May. With his piece for alphorn, dulcimer and chamber orchestra, this young and versatile composer is seeking a "helvetic tonal language" combining elements of orchestral music with elements of free jazz. Alphorn player Eliana Burki and dulcimer player Töbi Tobler will be supplementing the Bernese Chamber Orchestra. You can find the programme [here](#)



THE ARTS COUNCIL

Awards for publishers

As part of its comprehensive literature promoting policy, Pro Helvetia is supporting publishing houses that are particularly committed to Swiss literature. Two monetary awards a year go to publishers who distinguish themselves by outstanding programmes and promotional measures. Two publishing houses from the French/Italian part of Switzerland were selected last year; this year publishers from the German-speaking are entitled to apply. The deadline for applications is 1 June 2008. You will find further details [here](#)

Contributions to visits by programme managers

Pro Helvetia is fostering exchange between programme managers on the one hand and Swiss dance and theatre companies on the other to boost the presence of Swiss dance and theatre productions at home and abroad. To this end, it contributes towards the costs for visits by programme managers of international theatres and festivals who come to view Swiss dance and theatre productions. Forging and maintaining such contacts can make a significant contribution to the success of dance and theatre companies. Further information is available [here](#)



TIPS

Theatre between East and West

The "Ouest - Est" festival is, for the fourth time, presenting dance, music and theatre gems from the French-speaking (western) and German-speaking (eastern) parts of Switzerland. The organisers at the

Dampfzentrale and Schlachthaus in Bern and the Théâtre Arsenic in Lausanne aim to intensify the exchange between the two linguistic regions. This inter-disciplinary festival is being held in Bern and lasts until 30 March. More details at www.dampfzentrale.ch



How can dance find its audience?

Promotion of the arts is often invoked. Yet what kind of promotion does dance in Switzerland need in its quest for an audience? The symposium "Compulsory Happiness" scheduled for 15 April in Zurich will try and find appropriate answers. The "Migros-Kulturprozent", the Federal Office for Culture, Pro Helvetia and Reso, the Swiss dance network, are inviting cultural policy makers, dance practitioners and organisers to discuss this relevant theme. Further information can be found [here](#)



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Pro Helvetia

Arts Council of Switzerland
Communication
Hirschengraben 22
8024 Zurich
E-Mail: communication@prohelvetia.ch
www.prohelvetia.ch

Editor: Janine Messerli

Translations: Martin Striegel

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