



# COLOURS INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL 2025

Dear journalists,

Enjoying the anticipation: we hope you can already feel a hint of summer and lots of positive vibes when you read this press release. Because after a longer-than-usual wait of three years, the biennial **COLOURS International Dance Festival**, produced by Theaterhaus Stuttgart, makes its return, from now on also to the familiar rhythm of odd-numbered years. A prospect that is certainly welcome in times like these, carrying the promise of 18 days full of dance and artistic happiness. After all, that's what the **15 stage programmes, including two world premieres as well as four European and two German premieres** stand for. The 2025 line-up once again features an exquisite mix of world-famous names such as Eastman | Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (BEL), Hofesh Shechter Company (UK) and Compagnie Marie Chouinard (CAN), in combination with productions by established companies such as Gravity & Other Myths (AUS) and Dorrance Dance (USA). The COLOURS palette is completed by rising stars in the dance world, including Botis Seva | Far From The Norm (UK), OtroLado Dance (CUB), Marco da Silva Ferreira (PT), Côté Danse (CAN), Compagnie Virginie Brunelle (CAN), Shahar Binyamini (ISR) and Compagnie Amala Dianor (FR). What's more, during a three-week COLOURS residency, Sofia Nappi and her company KOMOCO (IT) will lay the foundations for a new piece – which is expected to be on the programme at COLOURS 2027.

The hosts from Theaterhaus Stuttgart will be taking part in COLOURS with two new full-length productions. Gauthier Dance will open the festival with the Akram Khan bill *Turning of Bones*, consisting of the eponymous world premiere, the duet *Mud of Sorrow* and scenes from *iTMOi (In the Mind of Igor)*, *Jungle Book reimagined* and *DESH*. The new artist in residence Barak Marshall contributes the world premiere *Barker* with the Gauthier Dance JUNIORS – a dance theatre piece for all generations, conceived for the Theaterhaus Sports Hall and for mobile use in schools as part of the outreach initiative MOVES FOR FUTURE.

Speaking of outreach: The second important pillar of the festival is the extensive **COLOURS in the City** programme. In addition to the established participatory formats COLOURS Playground on Stuttgart's central square Schlossplatz, the COLOURS Family Day in cooperation with Wilhelma – Zoological-Botanical Garden Stuttgart and the COLOURS Pop-Ups with „animator“ Eric Gauthier in the city districts, there will also be a new series in 2025. With the **COLOURS Collaborations**, the festival pays flying visits to renowned Stuttgart partner organisers and events, in the form of short shows in varying artistic constellations. The programme is still in the making. We will keep you up to date!

**We are looking forward to your first announcements of COLOURS 2025!** Please let me know if you would like to get in touch with the artistic director Eric Gauthier and the head of programme Meinrad Huber – or if there is anything else I can do.

Best regards,  
Nicola Steller  
Press Relations 5th COLOURS International Dance Festival 2025

PS: Especially in times like these, it is good to see the power of dance and of dancing together. Watch our [aftermovie](#) to take a stroll down memory lane to the last COLOURS summer 2022. Enjoy!

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**June 26 to July 13, 2025**  
**5th COLOURS International Dance Festival**  
**The Festival. The Programme.**

### **COLOURS 2025: The stage programme in Theaterhaus Stuttgart**

Cutting-edge contemporary dance – that is the shortest way to describe COLOURS. The name of the festival conveys how this mission is to be accomplished. It is the diversity of styles and international trends that are represented here. Accordingly, programme director Meinrad Huber is always on the lookout for new choreographic perspectives and positions.

If there is a common thread running through the multifaceted COLOURS 2025 programme, then it is this: the longing for community, which is almost palpable in most of the pieces and finds its expression in choreographies that intensely evoke togetherness and the harmony of a group. They achieve this in ways that are as different as the artists themselves. Nevertheless, the focus of the selected productions is always on the intense physicality of dance.

**Please find the festival schedule below.**

#### **Theaterhaus T1**

- Gauthier Dance opens the festival with an exclusive programme, tailor-made for the hosts by Akram Khan. With the eponymous world premiere *Turning of Bones* as well as scenes from *iTMOi (In the Mind of Igor)* and *Jungle Book reimagined*, the striking „head dance“ solo from *DESH* and the duet *Mud of Sorrow*, the British star choreographer immerses himself in the deep layers of his own works – entrusting them to another company for the first time.
- Gauthier Dance artist in residence Hofesh Shechter is bringing his own company to Stuttgart for a change, with the choreographic sensation *Theatre of Dreams*. Between hard rhythms and bossa nova, the phenomenal dancers from London transform the realm of dreams into a dark piece of world theatre.
- With *Nomad* for his company Eastman, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui has created a thoroughly contemporary classic. A piece about the desert, and at the same time a piece about the human condition – about the vulnerability and the boundless freedom of people,

about their nomadic existence and their best, indeed only, chance of survival: solidarity.

- The pacemakers of contemporary tap dance from New York have enlisted the support of the urban dance scene. Under the evocative title *The Center Will Not Hold*, the Dorrance Dance Production, created by Ephrat Asherie and Michelle Dorrance, is a danced statement against chaos, in desperate search of togetherness and the lost centre.

### Theaterhaus T2

- The COLOURS audience favourites of 2017 are back! With their new programme *Ten Thousand Hours*, the superb artists and nouveau-cirque heroes of Gravity & Other Myths prove once again how relative gravity is – provided you can blindly trust the group's support.
- Minimal movements, maximum intensity: in Christos Papadopoulos' *MELLOWING*, the mature personalities of the Dance On Ensemble make the most of the mesmerising effect that arises from their combined decades of artistic experience.
- Hip-hop meets fantasy: In haunting, mythically charged images, Botis Seva's *Until We Sleep* tells the story of a warrior and her rebel troop in search of meaning. Dark, belligerent and with the power that springs from anger.
- Focus on Bach: With her Compagnie Marie Chouinard, the avant-garde choreographer from Canada is currently working on a new creation set to J.S. Bach's *MAGNIFICAT*. It will be combined with a short version of her iconic deconstruction of classical ballet: *bODY\_rEMIX/gOLDBERG\_vARIATIONS v2*, in which her dancers perform with prostheses, crutches and sticks in addition to pointe shoes.
- Virginie Brunelle has already created several successful pieces for Gauthier Dance. At COLOURS, the Canadian choreographer now presents a work by her own company, *Les Corps Avalés*. Dance tableaux of poetic, vibrant beauty, accompanied by the sounds of a classical string quartet.

### Theaterhaus T3

- French-Senegalese choreographer Amala Dianor regularly causes a sensation with his energetic fusion of hip-hop with contemporary and African elements. At COLOURS, he contrasts the calm duet for two dancers *M&M* with the explosive *Level Up*, a group piece that bursts with the charisma and virtuosity of the young urban dancers.
- Norge Cedeño Raffo from Cuba is currently on the verge of a breakthrough in Europe. After choreographing for Gauthier Dance as part of the *Meet the Talents* format of COLOURS 2019, he has now been invited to the festival with his own company OtroLado. Set to rousing music and danced with virtuosity, the two pieces *Paradox* and *Ritual Garden* tell of female self-discovery in very different ways.
- *Burn Baby, Burn*: What sounds like a pop song is actually a wake-up call. The world is on fire and we're doing nothing about it. Canadian choreographer Guillaume Côté and his company Côté Danse are looking for the backburn within ourselves.
- Discovered and influenced by Hofesh Shechter, Portuguese choreographer Marco da Silva Ferreira conjures up the power of the group. With the utmost urgency, *CARCAÇA* not only fuses styles from urban dance to folk dance – the piece also pushes the performers to the limits of what is physically possible.

- Shahar Binyamini was the first resident choreographer of COLOURS in 2022. What began back then with the nucleus *More than* is now returning to Stuttgart as a finished piece. In the Israeli Gaga tradition, *NEW EARTH* explores the connection to our planet in unworldly, almost archaic images.

### **Theaterhaus Sports Hall**

As in previous editions, a COLOURS evening ideally starts in the relaxed atmosphere of the Theaterhaus Sports Hall and with a production by the hosts. This time it's a full-length world premiere for the JUNIORS by artist in residence Barak Marshall. *Barker* is the first programme of Gauthier Dance that is aimed at an audience of all generations and is suitable for children aged 6 and over. Six servants rebel against their masters. Mind you, Barak Marshall is not staging a gloomy social drama, but a humorously exaggerated, hopeful journey to freedom, accompanied by the lively music of the Balkans. Once again, the audience is invited to watch the creation process. The premiere takes place at „festival halftime“ on July 4, 2025, with further shows until the COLOURS closing weekend.

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### **KOMOCO / Sofia Nappi: COLOURS Residency 2025 & COLOURS Youth Project**

Sofia Nappi's world premiere *IMA* for her company KOMOCO in co-production with COLOURS was one of the major highlights of the last festival. A lot has happened since then, not least Sofia Nappi's international breakthrough. Now the Italian choreographer is returning to Stuttgart for the COLOURS residency. She will spend three weeks working on her next piece *SORA* (Japanese for heaven or emptiness) in the Gauthier Dance studio. The world premiere is planned for February 2026 – with an eye to a performance at COLOURS 2027. On July 12, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., Sofia Nappi will present the first scenes from the new work in progress in a showing in the Theaterhaus Sports Hall.

But that's not all. Together with Carmen Scarano from the THEATERHAUS+ education team, KOMOCO is also involved in a creation workshop for the COLOURS Youth Project 2025. Young people aged 14 to 18 will learn a five-minute choreography. And thus become, so to speak, the supporting act for the Gauthier Dance JUNIORS. The results will be shown from Wednesday, July 9, 2025 before each *Barker* performance.

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### **COLOURS in the City 2025**

COLOURS brings dance to the people – not only on the Theaterhaus stages! As usual, Eric Gauthier and the company as well as first-rate instructors want to get the whole of Stuttgart moving: mostly open-air and irresistibly persuasive. A new format will be added in 2025: the COLOURS Collaborations in cooperation with Stuttgart culture partners.

### **COLOURS Playground from Friday, June 20 to Sunday, June 22, 2025**

Preceding and promoting the festival in Theaterhaus, the dance studio on the central square Schlossplatz charms dance aficionados and spontaneous passers-by alike. With plenty on offer for children and young people, the free open workshops and presentations of

the [COLOURS Playground](#) invite everybody to dance along in a variety of styles ranging from breakdance to ballet. From 7:00 p.m. there will be introductions to tango (Friday), line dancing (Saturday) and Lindy Hop (Sunday). From 8:00 p.m., the Playground finally switches into enjoyment mode - for a long summer evening of dancing accompanied by live music.

The [COLOURS Pop-Ups](#) from **Monday, June 23 to Wednesday, June 25, 2025** Shortly before the opening in Theaterhaus, Eric Gauthier is also putting Stuttgart's outskirts in a dancing mood! In a converted pick-up truck with a dance floor, the artistic director of Gauthier Dance will be heading for the Schlossplatz and central squares in the city's districts – the 2025 stops are Löwenmarkt in Stuttgart-Weilimdorf, Kelterplatz in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen, Wilhelm-Geiger-Platz in Stuttgart-Feuerbach, Agnes-Kneher-Platz in Stuttgart-Degerloch, Kelter in Stuttgart-Wangen, the town hall in Stuttgart-Obertürkheim, the market square in Stuttgart-Botnang and Lukasplatz in Stuttgart-Ost.

### **COLOURS Family Day on Sunday, July 6, 2025**

It is impossible to imagine the festival without the [COLOURS Family Day](#) in co-operation with Stuttgart's zoological-botanical gardens Wilhelma. Eric Gauthier's animal dances, demonstrated and performed by his dancers, have an almost magical attraction for children and transform them into dancing animals in no time at all.

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### **Thursday, June 26, 2025**

8:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T1

**Festival opening**

**Gauthier Dance//Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)**

**World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Akram Khan, [Turning of Bones](#)**

### **Friday, June 27, 2025**

5:30 p.m., Theaterhaus Sports Hall

**Gauthier Dance JUNIORS//Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)**

**World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Open rehearsal Barak Marshall, [Barker](#)**

8:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T1

**Gauthier Dance//Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)**

**World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Akram Khan, [Turning of Bones](#)**

8:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T3

**Compagnie Amala Dianor (France)**

**[M&M + Level Up](#)**

### **Samstag, 28. Juni 2025**

5:30 p.m., Theaterhaus Sports Hall

**Gauthier Dance JUNIORS//Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)**

**World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Open rehearsal Barak Marshall, [Barker](#)**

7:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T2

**Gravity & Other Myths (Australia)**

[Ten Thousand Hours](#)

8:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T1

**Gauthier Dance//Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)**

**World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Akram Khan, [Turning of Bones](#)**

8:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T3

**Compagnie Amala Dianor (France)**

[M&M + Level Up](#)

### **Sunday, June 29, 2025**

4:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T2

**Gravity & Other Myths (Australia)**

[Ten Thousand Hours](#)

5:30 p.m., Theaterhaus Sports Hall

**Gauthier Dance JUNIORS//Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)**

**World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Open rehearsal Barak Marshall, [Barker](#)**

7:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T1

**Gauthier Dance//Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)**

**World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Akram Khan, [Turning of Bones](#)**

7:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T2

**Gravity & Other Myths (Australia)**

[Ten Thousand Hours](#)

### **Tuesday, July 1, 2025**

8:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T2

**Dance On Ensemble (Germany)**

[MELLOWING](#)

8:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T3

**OtroLado Dance Company (Cuba)**

**European premiere [Paradox & Ritual Garden](#)**

**Wednesday, July 2, 2025**

8:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T2  
Dance On Ensemble (Germany)

[MELLOWING](#)

8:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T3  
OtroLado Dance Company (Cuba)  
European premiere [Paradox & Ritual Garden](#)

**Thursday, July 3, 2025**

8:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T1  
Hofesh Shechter Company (UK)

[Theatre of Dreams](#)

**Friday, July 4, 2025**

7:00 p.m., Sporthalle Theaterhaus  
Gauthier Dance JUNIORS//Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)  
World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Premiere Barak Marshall, [Barker](#)

8:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T1  
Hofesh Shechter Company (UK)

[Theatre of Dreams](#)

9:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T3  
Côté Danse (Canada)  
European premiere [Burn Baby, Burn](#)

**Saturday, July 5, 2025**

7:00 p.m., Sporthalle Theaterhaus  
Gauthier Dance JUNIORS//Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)  
World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Barak Marshall, [Barker](#)

8:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T2  
Botis Seva | Far From The Norm (UK)

[Until We Sleep](#)

9:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T3  
Côté Danse (Canada)  
European premiere [Burn Baby, Burn](#)

Sunday, July 6, 2025

6:00 p.m., Sporthalle Theaterhaus

Gauthier Dance JUNIORS//Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)

World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Barak Marshall, [Barker](#)

7:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T2

Botis Seva | Far From The Norm (UK)

[Until We Sleep](#)

Monday, July 7, 2025

8:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T1

Eastman | Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (Belgium)

[Nomad](#)

Tuesday, July 8, 2022

7:00 p.m., Sporthalle Theaterhaus

Gauthier Dance JUNIORS//Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)

World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Barak Marshall, [Barker](#)

8:15 p.m., Theaterhaus T3

Marco da Silva Ferreira (Portugal)

[CARCAÇA](#)

8:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T1

Eastman | Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (Belgium)

[Nomad](#)

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

11:00 a.m., Sporthalle Theaterhaus

Gauthier Dance JUNIORS//Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)

World premiere in co-production with COLOURS School performance Barak Marshall, [Barker](#)

7:00 p.m., Sporthalle Theaterhaus

Gauthier Dance JUNIORS//Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)

World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Barak Marshall, [Barker](#)

8:15 p.m., Theaterhaus T3



<https://www.coloursdancefestival.com/en/program-tickets/carcaca/842>

8:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T2

Compagnie Marie Chouinard (Canada)

German premiere [bODY\\_rEMIX/gOLDBERG\\_vARIATIONS v2 & MAGNIFICAT](#)

#### Thursday, July 10, 2025

7:00 p.m., Sporthalle Theaterhaus

Gauthier Dance JUNIORS//Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)

World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Barak Marshall, [Barker](#)

7:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T2

Compagnie Marie Chouinard (Canada)

German premiere [bODY\\_rEMIX/gOLDBERG\\_vARIATIONS v2 & MAGNIFICAT](#)

#### Friday, July 11, 2025

7:00 p.m., Sporthalle Theaterhaus

Gauthier Dance JUNIORS//Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)

World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Barak Marshall, [Barker](#)

8:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T1

A Dorrance Dance production created by Ephrat Asherie and Michelle Dorrance (USA)

European premiere [The Center Will Not Hold](#)

#### Saturday, July 12, 2025

4:00 p.m., Sporthalle Theaterhaus

Gauthier Dance JUNIORS//Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)

World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Barak Marshall, [Barker](#)

7:00 p.m., Sporthalle Theaterhaus

Gauthier Dance JUNIORS//Theaterhaus Stuttgart (Germany)

World premiere in co-production with COLOURS Barak Marshall, [Barker](#)

7:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T2

Compagnie Virginie Brunelle (Canada)

European premiere [Les Corps Avalés](#)

8:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T3

Shahar Binyamini (Israel)

German premiere [NEW EARTH](#)

9:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T1

A Dorrance Dance production created by Ephrat Asherie and Michelle Dorrance (USA)  
European premiere [The Center Will Not Hold](#)

Sunday, July 13, 2025

7:00 p.m., Theaterhaus T2

Compagnie Virginie Brunelle (Canada)  
European premiere [Les Corps Avalés](#)

7:30 p.m., Theaterhaus T3

Shahar Binyamini (Israel)  
German premiere [NEW EARTH](#)

More information: [www.coloursdancefestival.com](http://www.coloursdancefestival.com)

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COLOURS International Dance Festival 2025: a selection of images

We are happy to send you high-res versions on request!

For your captions

Gauthier Dance//Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart, rehearsal photo Akram Khan, *Turning of Bones*. Photo Jeanette Bak  
from left to right: Shori Yamamoto, Sidney Elizabeth Turtschi

Stage photos

Botis Seva | Far From The Norm, *Until We Sleep*. Photo Tom Visser  
Hofesh Shechter Company, *Theatre of Dreams*. Photo Tom Visser  
Shahar Binyamini, *NEW EARTH*. Photo Studio Pramudiya

COLOURS 2022

Opening night in front of Theaterhaus Stuttgart. Photo Maks Richter  
COLOURS Pop-Up with Eric Gauthier, Löwenmarkt in Stuttgart-Weilimdorf. Photo Jeanette Bak

Press releases, press photos and logos are available for download in the [press section of www.coloursdancefestival.com](#).

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A warm thank you to our partners:

# COLOURS International Dance Festival 2025

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Produced by:  **THEATERHAUS  
STUTTGART**

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Dank an die Stihl AG

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