

Second daCi Germany Festival

Over 200 young dancers and 90 dance teachers from all over Germany attended daCi Germany's second national dance festival on Oct 1-2 2005 in Berlin. Dr. Ronit Land of the Akademie Remscheid spoke as patron and keynoter on the festival theme "A Different Step".

Modelled on the daCi international conferences, the festival offered workshops for the young dancers, formal and informal performing opportunities and discussions and workshops for teachers. The location, a huge leisure activity center situated in a park, provided opportunities for site specific work. Samples of these as well as of the work done in the other workshops were shown each day before the more formal performances. A very broad range of workshops was on offer, - "Life in a Sardine Can", "From Pop-Art to Dance", "Rhythmic Movement meets Passionate Melody" were some of the titles.

A lively discussion on "Creativity or technical perfection - what's more important in a dance production with young dancers", chaired by Leanore Ickstadt and moderated by Dr. Corinna Vogel, opened the teachers' program which included workshops in "HipHop Meets Dance Theater", Pilates training, "Close-up on Choreography".

At its business meeting daCi Germany decided to encourage dance in the schools programs which are being initiated in several German states and to continue support for the scholarship program "Dancing Across Borders" (Tanzen Uber Grenzen - TUG) which sends a German youngster abroad for a summer course each year. daCi Germany will hold its next annual meeting on 18/19. March 2006 in Munich

After a plenary session which included a discussion by young delegates about their reasons for dancing, Sonja Schultz, daCi Germany's Past Chair spoke about the coming Conference in The Hague. An excerpt from the video of the opening ceremony in Brazil 2003 helped give the young audience a taste of what an international conference is like. Many youngsters and teachers hope to come to the Hague.

daCi Germany is grateful to daCi member Claudia Lehmann who organized the Festival practically singlehanded, and to the Berlin members who provided on-site assistance.