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Education and Culture DG

Culture Programme

The deadline has passed

The Aerowaves application deadline has passed for another year and we've received an unprecedented number of applications – 580 in total.

France has topped the list with 102 applications followed by 72 from the UK, 51 from Italy, 43 from Germany and 38 from Spain.

At the end of October the Aerowaves partners will meet in Moscow to decide which twenty they will nominate as their Priority Companies for 2011. John Ashford commented: 'For us to reach a consensus with 170 more applications than ever before will be the most demanding job in Aerowaves' fifteen year history. It is certain that presenters will also make some choices outside those twenty since there are now so many great works on offer. This response from artists is very exciting, and reflects the rapidly increasing number of opportunities that result from Aerowaves application. Not only will there be performances around Europe throughout next year, but also the first Aerowaves Spring Forward festival in Ljubljana will attract promoters beyond the Aerowaves network, and beyond Europe.'

The Moscow meeting is being hosted by TsEKh Dance Agency which is currently celebrating its tenth birthday. In the last decade TsEKh has created a space for experimentation and innovation. Dedicated to establishing a fertile artistic environment, it has developed national and international networks and represents the interests of Russian dancers, choreographers and performers at all levels.

What's happening now?

All the DVDs are being catalogued and assessed. Those which are too long or too short or won't work are excluded. All of them - around 300 hours of new dance - will fit in one DJ box that we will take to our meeting in Moscow. Forty Partners will gather there for three intensive days of research, discussion and voting. Each DVD will be seen in extract or in full by at least six people, who together will select around seventy for special attention. It seems like an impossible job, but it is the same process that has come up with reliable results in the past, and is always conducted in a spirit of democratic generosity. After further examination, those seventy will be reduced to the twenty Priority Companies for Aerowaves in 2011.

And then?

The Priority Companies will be announced in the next eNews on 10.11.10 and many of them will be offered opportunities immediately for the earlier months of 2011, including performances in Aerowaves Spring Forward, the first festival in Ljubljana 25-27 March. But further opportunities will keep on coming throughout the year, and they will not necessarily be limited to the Priority Companies. Any artist might benefit. Applications are already open for 2012.

La Macana triumph



'Ven' is the short duet by Cuban Alexis Fernandez and Galician Caterina Varela which founded their company La Macana a couple of years ago. It has now been performed over 70 times since it won the Certamen in Madrid and was selected as a priority for Aerowaves. Danced to two classic tracks by German iconoclasts Einstürzende Neubauten, the playful dynamic tension between the couple is very personal, and yet at the same time everyone can find their own associations, bringing audiences to their feet in Spain, Cuba, Germany, Sweden, Brazil, France, Portugal, Italy, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and the UK. The quality of their performance is distinguished by a winning combination of the unassuming and the virtuoso. Which Aerowaves applicant for 2011 might follow in their footsteps?

An extract of 'Ven' can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=beAbMHCOP_Y and you can read more at www.blogdelamacana.blogspot.com