



2025 Cannes Dance Festival – Côte d'Azur France : Dancing in great shape! 22 November - 7 December 2025

The Cannes Dance Festival – Côte d'Azur, which used to take place every two years, begins a new chapter in its history with a new annual rhythm, which is excellent news for all dance enthusiasts! This is more than a mere change of rhythm, as this new dynamic asserts a strong commitment towards the public, the artists and professionals in the field. The festival, which resonates with local players and international partners, aspires to celebrate dance throughout the year.

The 2025 edition thinks big with no less than **50 events**, including **5 international creations**, **5 French premieres** and **2 premieres in the South**. With **24 international companies**, the festival brings together the great stages of Cannes and the region, offering a diverse programme, accessible to all. Over two weeks, the public will experience diverse, innovative performances that reflect the variety of contemporary choreographic forms.

“By making the Cannes Dance Festival – Côte d'Azur an annual event, we are making a powerful choice: we are putting culture and dance at the heart of our society project. Dance, because it is so demanding from a physical and artistic point of view, because it requires considerable discipline, because of the powerful emotion and universality it conveys, is a wonderful lever of open-mindedness, education and cohesion, inviting all generations to meet, dream and share essential values in a world in search of identity.”

David Lisnard, Mayor of Cannes

“By producing the Cannes Dance Festival – Côte d'Azur every year, the Palais des Festivals asserts its central role in the cultural life of our region, and beyond. We are proud to be supporting this ambitious project, making it accessible to all, as part of a local and international dynamic.”

Jean-Michel Arnaud, President of the Palais des Festivals, elected as a delegate for culture in the city of Cannes

“This new edition celebrates a dynamic choreographic creation and I would like to warmly thank the city of Cannes and the Palais des Festivals, as well as all our public, institutional and private partners, as this great celebration of dance would not be possible without their outstanding commitment. Their support for art and creation gives formidable hope in a political and geopolitical context where freedom, tolerance and democracy are too often called into question.”

Didier Deschamps, artistic director

1) Celebrating dance in all its diversity

A range of delightful offerings, with big names of the world of dancing, renowned dance companies, young ballets and great discoveries, introducing a living panorama of creation and repertoire around three narrative threads:

- **Honouring ballet and the great choreographic forms**

This form of dance and its popularity with audiences takes centre stage at the Festival, with the National Ballet of Spain opening the Festival with Marcos Morau's eagerly awaited show in honour of the celebrated Colombian photographer Ruvén Afanador, as well as creations by

the Paris Opera Junior Ballet, the German ensemble TanzMainz, the Opéra Grand Avignon Ballet, the CCN - Ballet de Lorraine and the Nederlands Dans Theater - NDT 2.

- **Creations combining dance and live music**

Paulo Ribeiro's Portuguese company has teamed up with composer Luís Tinoco to introduce a creation combining dance and original music performed by the Orchestre national de Cannes. Label-defying Dutch artists Club Guy & Roni, along with the Australasian Dance Collective and the percussion ensemble HIIIT, are introducing a new chapter of their "Human Odyssey". As for Cannes-native Hervé Koubi, he will be introducing *No Matter*, in which he has teamed up with ten Korean dancers and the musicians of group Dear Deer as part of the Cannes-Busan year.

- **Popular and traditional practices as a source of contemporary creation**, as introduced by Portuguese artists Jonas&Lander with their fado show, Robyn Orlin and the "coloured people" of the Garage Dance Ensemble celebrating the dances of South Africa, and the latest creation by Rocío Molina, the world's most talented female flamenco dancer.

2) Dance and cinema in the spotlight with MOV'IN Cannes

International competition **MOV'IN Cannes**, which was launched in 2023 to explore the links between dance and cinema, has already established itself as an unmissable annual event.

In 2025, the event unfolds with an expanded programme and a bigger involvement of younger generations. In particular, art school students * are able to take part in the film selection and in a range of educational projects, promoting artistic dialogue between their different outlooks. In a bid to show the diversity and wealth of dance creation on the screen, MOV'IN Cannes has enlisted prestigious institutions and dance film festivals, creating a space for international professional exchanges **.

3) An unmissable event for professionals

Another significant feature of the Festival is being committed to artists and creation, introducing 5 new original productions to audiences and professionals for the first time:

- Mickaël Le Mer benefits from a creation residency in Cannes to introduce *Enso*, in which the performers seek to grasp the essence of the symbolic circle shape with a staggering, chiselled hip-hop dance to Ravel's famous *Boléro*;
- In his latest creation, *On n'est pas toutes des Cendrillons* (Not all of us are Cinderellas), Eugénie Andrin has fun in changing the use of pointe ballet shoes;
- Lorena Nogal, celebrated in 2024 as Spain's best performer, has been ordered a series of solo performances, *The Protagonist*, performed just a few steps from the audience, in theatre halls;
- *No Matter* by the Hervé Koubi company, created in collaboration with the Busan International Dance Festival
- *Louis Luis* by the companhia Paulo Ribeiro offers a musical and choreographic journey, asserting the saving power of dance, in collaboration with the Orchestre National de Cannes.

The Festival promotes the young generation with *Maldonne*, an international success from choreographer Leïla Ka honouring women, and teams up with Italian contest "Prospettiva Danza Teatro" (Padua) to introduce the new faces of young international choreographic creation.

The Festival is also a special time to crossbreed experiences, nurture reflection between choreographers, dancers, company directors, programmers and festival directors with **round tables** on the following themes:

- **Dancing in great shape**, which tackles artistic and economic challenges associated with the production of choreographic works involving a large number of on-stage performers.
- **A moving image for a moving body**, which examines how audiovisual technologies change the perception and transmission of dance.

4) Specific focus on youth and training

The Cannes Dance Festival - Côte d'Azur has always used mediation to grant access to choreographic culture to all, and specifically to young people. For the new 2025 edition:

- **School performances** are put forward with *Isicathulo*, a creation by Simonne Rizzo with the percussive dance of stepping, *Le Roi et l'Oiseau* by Emilie Lalande, based on the film by Paul Grimault, as well as *Mais au fait, pourquoi ?* by Anton Lachky and Eléonore Valère, who wish to raise awareness about the dangers of totalitarian regimes with the new generation.
- **Touring performances in day-nurseries and schools** with *Le petit B*, a creation by Marion Muzac aimed at toddlers as young as 1 year old, as well as *Enso*, a creation by Mickaël Le Mer, especially adapted as a solo performance for secondary schools and university campuses.
- **A strong connection with training and young professional dancers**
The Festival is collaborating with the Pôle National Supérieur de Danse Rosella Hightower and has invited young dancers from the Cannes Jeune Ballet to perform a series of in situ shows at the Malmaison art centre in Cannes under the direction of Lorena Nogal, in association with the *Poussière d'étoiles* exhibition by Jean-Michel Othoniel.
- **Workshops and master classes to promote dancing**
Whatever their level, Festival attendees can share unique moments with the dancers and choreographers invited.

5) A festival anchored in its territory and open on the world

Since 2019, the Dance Festival has been the first and only cultural event on the territory to take on an unprecedented dimension, bringing together for the first time in Cannes's Palais des Festivals et des Congrès all the cultural stakeholders in the Alpes-Maritimes and Var departments: Anthéa (Antibes), Forum Jacques Prévert (Carros), Scène 55 (Mougins), Théâtre de Grasse, Théâtres en Dracénie (Draguignan), Théâtre La Licorne (Cannes), Théâtre Le Forum - Estérel Côte d'Azur (Fréjus) and Théâtre National de Nice.

These collaborative dynamics have helped build a common project on the scale of the Côte d'Azur, thereby boosting its identity and cultural visibility.

The 2025 edition of the Cannes Dance Festival - Côte d'Azur France is set to be outstanding. Switching to an annual rhythm is going to boost a dynamic where dance is more than ever at the heart of cultural life, between tradition and modernity, with a local, national and international anchoring.

*They are students from the following courses: BTS Audiovisuel Cannes Carnot, ESRA Côte d'Azur, PNSD Rosella Hightower, Villa Arson, Licence Arts du spectacle – EUR CREATES. This year, they will be joined by students from CNMSD Paris and CNSMD Paris.

** Centre National de la Danse, Paris · Cinedans Festival, Amsterdam · Cinédanse, Montréal · Dança em Foco, Rio de Janeiro · Inshadow Festival, Lisbonne · Light Moves Festival, Limerick Irlande · Physical Cinema Festival, Reykjavik · POOL Movement Art Film Festival, Berlin · San Francisco Dance Film Festival · Suzanne Dellal Center, Tel Aviv

Palais des Festivals et des Congrès Press Contacts

Blandine Dugenetay: Tel +33 (0)4 92 99 84 45 – dugenetay@palaisdesfestivals.com

Margaux Lecluse: Tel +33 (0)4 92 99 31 67 – lecluse@palaisdesfestivals.com