

# Press release

April 15, 2026



## **Participants from 17 nations nominated for choreography 40, the International Choreography Competition Hanover**

Nearly 400 applications from 50 countries were submitted for the 40th edition of choreography – International Competition for Choreography Hanover. The preliminary jury, which includes the competition’s artistic director Gregor Zöllig (Artistic Director of Dance Theatre & Chief Choreographer at Staatstheater Braunschweig), as well as choreographers Maura Morales and Johannes Wieland, has nominated the following participants:

Ravid Abarbanel, Portugal  
Zoe Ashe-Browne, Ireland  
Jack Bannerman, Australia  
Lou Cissal, Amélie Delaunay, Elisa Picq, Marine Postel, France  
Lesego Abigail Dihemo, South Africa  
Danae & Dionysios, Greece / Philippines  
Daniel Dragomir, Romania  
Nikoline Due & Abel Rojo, Denmark / Cuba  
Hannah Ekholm & Faye Stoesser, Sweden / United Kingdom  
Jeanne Garcia, France  
Leo Gnatzy, Germany  
Joan Ferré Gómez, Spain  
Karim Khouader, France  
Selene Martello & Dario Wilmington, Italy / Germany  
Alessio Monforte, Italy  
Giovanni Napoli, Italy  
Pablo Navarro Muñoz & Yordi Yasiel Pérez Cardoso, Spain / Cuba  
Boris Orihuela, Spain  
Adi Schwarz, Czech Republic  
Jiani Wang, China

Gregor Zöllig comments:

“The choreographic and also the dance level of the applications was once again very high this year. We received more than 60 submissions from China, 47 from Italy, and 28 from the USA. Six of the entries came from dance makers based in Germany. In many of the works, the current zeitgeist was reflected through paradoxical, parallel, and complex scenarios expressed in movement. It was striking how frequently language was used. Many of the choreographies

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reveal a young, unbridled artistic energy and a strong desire to express oneself and to find a language for that expression.”

In this 40th round of applications, it was notable that nearly half of all submitted choreographies (42 percent) were created by women. Eleven percent were developed collectively, and 47 percent of all submissions came from male choreographers. Most worked with two dancers, creating duets (56 percent), while only a few applied with group pieces (19 percent).

The nominated emerging choreographers will present their works on June 11 and 12, 2026, at Theater am Aegi. Following these presentations, the jury will select the finalists for June 13, 2026.

As early as 1987, the Ballet Society Hanover (Ballett Gesellschaft Hannover e.V.) first invited a number of selected young choreographers to Hanover to present their works to a jury. This year, choreography celebrates its 40th anniversary. Over the past decades, it has developed not only into the longest-running choreography competition, but also into one of the most internationally renowned.

All events begin at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available directly at the theater, at all Eventim sales outlets, or via their online portal [www.eventim.de](http://www.eventim.de).

#### **Note to editors:**

Further information about the competition can be found at [choreography-hannover.de](http://choreography-hannover.de).

Press images are available for download at <https://www.ballettgesellschaft.de/presse/>

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#### **Attachment:**

Overview of prizes and jury members

#### **Choreography40 is presented with the kind support of:**

