



## Life is LIVE: The 13<sup>th</sup> Edition of *Antistatic* International Festival Kicks-Off

Under the motto “Life is LIVE”, the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of [Antistatic International Festival for Contemporary Dance and Performance](http://antistaticfestival.org) will happen in Sofia in October and November. Its program includes many different events and the tickets for all performances are already in sale online at [EPAYGO.bg](http://EPAYGO.bg) at preferential price.

*“With the inherent power given to every number “13”, the 13th edition of Antistatic politely demands life to safely get back on track, so that we can all return to where we want to be: artists on stage, and audiences together with us in the performance space. That is why we invite you to shut down your screens, at least for a little while, and to meet up LIVE outside the world wide web\*. To ensure a smooth and fulfilling adaptation process, 2020’s edition of Antistatic will happen as a series of different events throughout October and November.”* - share the organizers of the festival, the artists Iva Sveshtarova, Willy Prager and Stephan A. Shtereff.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> of October, the festival will kick-off with the [International Choreographic Convention Movement Research](#) (part of the program *Choreographic Convention of the European Project Life Long Burning - Towards a Sustainable Eco System for Contemporary Dance in Europe*). During this convention, through discussions, presentations and performances, established artists and theoreticians will deliberate practices and discourses in movement research from a broader perspective. The event will take place at Goethe-Institute in Sofia and will be streamed live at *Antistatic* Festival’s Facebook page (@antistatic.international.festival).

In the evenings of the International Choreographic Convention, the **International Artistic Program** of the festival will also begin with two performance at DNK - Space for Contemporary Dance and Performance starting at 7 PM. On 10<sup>th</sup> of October, the dancer and choreographer Jurij Konjar (Slovenia) will present his performance [“Goldberg Variations”](#), inspired by Walter Verdin’s video work, ‘Goldberg Variations’, based on the 1986 Steve Paxton’s performance “The Goldberg Variations by J.S. Bach, played by Glen Gould, improvised by Steve Paxton”. Konjar begun working on the piece in 2007 by watching the video and performing it every day for a year. In the process, he started giving himself the freedom to fill in the gaps that appeared and to answer the questions that emerged with his own imagination and findings. At the end, it became an ongoing improvisation practice that provides a basis for a

rich unstoppable dialogue.

On 11<sup>th</sup> of October, the artistic team Aleksandar Georgiev, Zhana Pencheva and Darío Barreto Damas aka STEAM ROOM will present their choreographic work [“dragON aka PONY”](#), which has been nominated for the 2020 National ICARUS Award for Contemporary Dance and Performance. Within a frame of contemporary Pop, the work revives geometrical choreography through the prism of classicism and the usage of folklore as a ritualistic form. That way “dragON aka PONY” offers a little bit of Isadora Duncan and a lot of MTV or VH1.

The International Artistic Program of *Antistatic* Festival continues in November with the performances of artists from Germany, Austria, USA and Japan. From the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of November, the second [“Bulgarian Dance Platform”](#) will occur, showing no more, no less, than exactly 13 performances, all created in recent years. The platform is intended for all audiences who are curious about, or already in love with, the Bulgarian contemporary scene, as well as specially invited festival selectors, managers of artistic spaces, directors of funding bodies and various other international guests. Vol. 2 of the annual [“Dance Magazine”](#) will also have a ‘premiere’ at the festival. Its main theme is “Dance and Other Arts”, but on its pages one can find a variety of entries, from untranslated essays of Merce Cunningham to details about K-pop.

“So, grab your most beautiful face mask and be with us, because while COVID-19 taught us many lessons, the most important is that *Life is LIVE.*” – invite the organizers and underline that the festival will happen, following all necessary anti-epidemic measures.

For the latest news about the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the festival, check [antistaticfestival.org](http://antistaticfestival.org) and follow *Antistatic* International Festival for Contemporary Dance and Performance on Instagram (@antistaticfest), Facebook (@antistatic.international.festival) and YouTube.

*Antistatic* International Festival for Contemporary Dance and Performance 2020 is organized by: [Brain Store Project](#) Foundation, [Inform Bureau](#) Association, [Nomad Dance Academy Bulgaria](#), with the financial support of the [Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria](#); [Sofia Municipality’s Calendar of Cultural Events 2020](#); [Goethe-Institut Bulgarien](#); [Austrian Embassy in Sofia](#); [DANCE ON TOUR Austria](#) - a project by [Tanzquartier Wien](#) in cooperation with the [Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs](#); in partnership with [National Palace for Culture](#), [DNK - Space for contemporary dance and performance](#), [Azaryan Theater](#), [Derida Stage](#) and [Black Flamingo Bar](#).

Choreographic Convention V: *MOVEMENT RESEARCH*, Sofia 2020 and *Without Distance* Educational Platform are part of the project [„Life Long Burning \(LLB\) - Towards a sustainable Eco-System for Contemporary Dance in Europe”](#), co-funded by the [Creative Europe Program of the European Union](#), [“Culture” Programme of Sofia Municipality](#) and [Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria](#), in partnership with the [Goethe-Institut Bulgarien](#).

*Bulgarian Dance Platform* is financially supported by [“Culture” Programme of Sofia Municipality](#) and [Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria](#).

Media partners of the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the festival are: [The Bulgarian News Agency](#); [bTV Radio](#); [Dnevnik.bg](#); [The Bulgarian National Television](#); Online portal for culture, arts and society [Kultura.bg](#); Digital art magazine [Jasmin.bg](#); Independent Printed Magazine for Culture [Vij!](#); Online media [Uspelite.bg](#); Digital magazine for art, culture and leisure time [Kafene.bg](#); Digital space for contemporary nomads [Seen.bg](#); [Atrakcia.bg](#); Arts and culture platform of [Dir.bg](#) - [Impressio.bg](#); [Online portal for culture](#) [Вънпеку.com](#); Online platform for urban culture [Licatanagrada.com](#); Online performing art platform [Lovetheater.bg](#); [Dancing opportunities](#) web platform, [Madame Bulgaria](#) online magazine, [Sofia in your pocket](#) city guide;

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