

For the beauty of experiment

In a flagship venue like the Théâtre de la Ville, with one 1,000-seater auditorium and a second 400-seater space, experimentation is an essential but sensitive issue.

Our artistic policy, focused on new work and each author's distinctive 'voice' – in drama and choreography alike – inevitably involves an element of aesthetic and ethical risk.

Constantly searching for new works and authors – refusing to present productions with that 'déjà-vu' feeling – is the only way to resist all forms of cultural normalization.

We aim to promote experiments with new forms and formats, encouraging the growing number of artists seeking to alter the barriers between art forms by inventing new modes and forms of artistic encounter.

In so doing, we stake a claim to the unusual, the unknown, the unexpected, and we try to put our aims into practice, every day.

This approach – in part – is what lies behind Danse Élargie. The basic idea is to champion a truly open, disinterested competition – by definition, a competition of enormous interest – in the field of art, however we choose to understand it, without frightening off anyone interested to apply their deeply-held convictions, bold vision and talent to the discipline of dance.

To this end, the 'three performers, ten minutes' rule is a simple axiom, open to a wide range of structural variations.

In a society, rules also open the way to freedom.

Evaluation – a byword for oppression of every kind in today's world – is defined here as a process of mutual recognition between artists: those onstage and those, from a wide range of disciplines, who make up the jury.

The jury's decision is final, then, but open to debate between artists. A republic of equals. Debate is devoutly to be wished, but debate on the thing itself.

In the centre of Paris, a choreographer and a stage director are joining forces to present a project they hope will resonate with the preoccupations of today's visual and conceptual artists, dancers and actors: creative minds ready to enter into the spirit of the thing, like a game. A brilliant, enjoyable game bringing the theatre's great stage – we hope – to life. For the beauty of Experiment.

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