



LA VILLE
DE STAD

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BRUSSELS *DANCE* FESTIVAL



PRESS FILE

**DANCE PERFORMANCES,
CONCERTS AND FREE WORKSHOPS**

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Editorial

This summer, the capital will move to the rhythm of the Brussels Dance Festival, the event that turns public space into an open-air dancefloor.

And when Brussels gets into the groove, it goes all in! From August 14 to 24, all styles will take over the city, from our streets to our most iconic venues.

Whether you're into bachata or ballet, voguing or contemporary dance, you're bound to find something that makes you want to move in this fun, diverse and inspiring programme. Designed for all ages and all levels, it will get both first-timers and natural-born movers on their feet.

And while the line-up is rich with performances, dance battles, DJ sets, dance walks and immersive installations the festival remains open to everyone, with most activities free of charge. That's a strong statement: dance isn't a luxury. It's a universal language, a shared emotion and yes, a celebration! Plus, dancing is good for your mental health. So why hold back?

What a joy to see our city come alive with talent, shine with creativity, and bring people together through inclusivity. What a pride to help make Brussels one of Europe's dance capitals, where emerging artists and top talent meet in total freedom.

So this August, step onto the stage, wander between highlights, or simply go with the flow. Because here, we don't just watch the city dance, we dance with it.

See you soon on the urban dancefloor!

Delphine Houba

Alderwoman of Major Events and Tourism of the City of Brussels



BRUSSELS DANCE FESTIVAL

A free dance festival in the heart of Brussels: an artistic interlude showcasing excellence and emergence

From 14 to 24 August, Brussels Dance Festival will fill Brussels's public space to celebrate dance in all its forms: urban, contemporary, classical, popular and experimental. Our free open-air event is coming to iconic locations like Place de Brouckère, Place de la Bourse and Grand-Place, as well as various partner venues. Driven by a strong ambition — making Brussels Europe's dance capital by 2030 — the festival brings experienced artists and emerging talents together in an extensive, inclusive and accessible programme.

Appealing to a wide and diverse audience — Brussels residents, families, dance enthusiasts, tourists and passersby, the event aims to create an intergenerational and participatory space where absolutely **everyone can feel invited to discover, dance and feel the energy.**

"Brussels is a city that moves! With this festival, it proves it once again. And that's the Brussels spirit: opening up the city, making it vibrate, turning public space into a place of culture and freedom. And a city that dances is a city that lives. So this summer, no spectators — enjoy the streets of Brussels!"

Philippe Close, Mayor of the City of Brussels

There is a special focus on young people, diversity and inclusion. The festival prioritizes engaged projects with the participation of Fedasil (Belgium's Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers), queer and drag battles plus collaborations with collectives like Créahm working for artistic creation that's inventive and accessible to everyone.

The formats proposed combine shows, workshops, introductory sessions, dance parades, immersive installations and open dancefloors to transform the city into one big collective stage. **Because dance is a universal language, it makes it possible to create connections, celebrate human bodies and overcome differences.**

On the programme

- ◇ Opening: performances, concerts and one spectacular show
- ◇ Closing ceremony broadcast live on La Une (RTBF): a large-scale open-air dance show
- ◇ Dance laboratory: battles, workshops and dancefloors, open to everyone
- ◇ Large main stage combining live music and dance
- ◇ Popups, happenings and outdoor performances
- ◇ Heritage in Motion back at City Hall
- ◇ Late-night museum openings
- ◇ Gigantic dance class on the Grand-Place
- ◇ Dance-related film screenings
- ◇ Dance walks through the city
- ◇ Afterparties on the rooftop of Bourse
- ◇ Immersive sound experience
- ◇ Urban installations and exhibitions

It promises to be an event that aims high and thinks big.





A collaborative, inspired and grounded event

Brussels Dance Festival is the product of collaboration with a multitude of players: schools, companies, artists, collectives and cultural institutions. Our teamwork guarantees a program that's connected to the grassroots but open to big names on the global choreographic scene.

The project is inspired by the biggest international festivals — ImPulsTanz Vienna, Lyon's Dance Biennale, Battery Dance Festival in New York — whilst asserting a strong and singular Brussels identity. It embraces new trends in the sector: open-air performances, hybrid formats, immersive experiences and participatory moments.

Dance is treated here as a universal language, conveying connection, inclusion, emotion and belonging. **With this new edition under a new name, Brussels makes plain its ambition to become an essential choreographic stage, and to have the city dance with, for and thanks to the men and women who are its lifeblood.**

A city in movement, an ambitious project

Brussels dances. It vibes, it moves, it stuns. This summer, it's livelier than ever thanks to Brussels Dance Festival, a celebration of movement in all its forms in the heart of the city.

From classical ballet to famous TikTok moves, including contemporary dance, hip-hop, salsa and house dance, Brussels Dance Festival explores a wide and vibrant choreographic palette. The objective is clear: providing an accessible programme that combines artistic excellence with a spirit of openness.

We aim both to reaffirm our support for creation and increase culture's presence in the public space. The festival has a futuristic vision: an inclusive, creative and constantly evolving city.



BRUSSELS *DANCE* FESTIVAL



Programme

THE MAIN LOCATIONS & HIGHLIGHTS

PLACE DE LA BOURSE

FUSION STAGE

23/08 OPENING

Brussels Dance Festival will kick off on 14 August with a celebratory and colourful opening ceremony on Place de la Bourse.

The Junior Ballet Project from **Opinion Public**, a company known for its sensitive and engaged creations, will present a unique performance "Soul Garden". Its choreography is a sweet blend of poetry and physical power.

Musical performances will also punctuate the ceremony:

- ◇ A young artist from Brussels, **Lovelace** embodies the new wave of alternative pop. Her world is a true sonic blend. Mixing self-mockery, romance, and melancholy, she crafts a unique formula to navigate the surrounding chaos.
- ◇ **CRC**, a Belgian rapper unlike any other, will take us into his world at the crossroads of rap, chanson française and R&B, all with afro influences.

- ◇ **Krisy**, a leading figure in Belgian rap, famous for his melodic, introspective style, will perform some of his iconic tracks and share the stage with dancers.
- ◇ **2Mad** is a dance studio with locations in Charleroi and Sombrefe since 2009. The school provides a wide range of lessons with something to suit everyone.

To gracefully and wondrously close the opening of the **Brussels Dance Festival**, the sky above Place de la Bourse will host an exceptional performance at 10.00 pm: **The Heliosphere**.

- ◇ Conceived as a **dance suspended between sky and earth**, this unique creation blends acrobatics, **movement**, and **music** into a gravity-defying choreography. An aerial dancer, attached to a large helium-filled balloon, twirls, glides, and explores the space, carried by an enchanting soundtrack.

In short, it is a **danced tribute to vertigo, lightness, and connection**.

From 10.00 pm, the public is also invited to continue the celebration from above on the Rooftop of the Bourse. The rest of the evening will be hosted by the collective **Lejeune Club**.

23/08 CLOSING NIGHT IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH RTBF

La Une is also making the capital vibrate to the rhythm of dance! On the closing night of the Brussels Dance Festival, we invite you to join us live for an exceptional prime-time show on Saturday, August 23, dedicated to movement, diversity, and passion to celebrate dance in all its forms.

For the duration of this festival and this special evening, Brussels becomes the European capital of dance. And who better to host this unique event than Sara De Paduwa, presenter of The Dancer, joined by one of the show's coaches, Agustín Galiana, two-time winner of the competition alongside his talents.

On the programme for this evening on La Une: get ready for mesmerizing performances, breathtaking energy... and surprises from The Dancer's coaches and their most promising talents!

Dance transcends cultures, ages, and social categories. It is accessible to all, beyond language and cultural barriers.

FUSION STAGE

From emerging artists to experienced performers, the **Fusion stage** creates synergies between music and dance. Led by schools, DJs and renowned collectives, it reflects the full range of styles.

- ◇ *Discovery moments*: every day, the audience can enjoy new experiences, such as introductory sessions, demonstrations and mini-performances featuring varied styles like dancehall, salsa, contemporary dance or classical dance. A fantastic opportunity to get to know different styles in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.
- ◇ *Open-air DJ sets*: Place de la Bourse is transformed into an open-air dancefloor filled with the sound of eclectic sets (house, electro,

afrobeat, R&B, soul, disco and dancehall), all brought to us by Bo Meng, Mab'ish, 22heures30 or RaQI and Belden.

- ◇ *Music & dance shows*: the Fusion stage takes a new form thanks to interlinking performances shaped by our partner operators, who are inviting artists from diverse backgrounds to share the space. Their creations reflect the variety of contemporary aesthetics, merging live music and dance.

The Brussels-based agency **Five Oh** hits hard over three nights with a vibrant, high-energy programme bringing together the **Marseille collective Maraboutage**, **Miss Angel** and **Mavee**.

The creative agency **Borders: The Pinkk Touch** gives free rein to rap, afro and Caribbean influences in song and dance.

An icon of Brussels's queer night scene, the collective **Crown Me Bitch!** takes to the stage with a highly charged lip-sync battle celebrating drag culture. A flamboyant and joyously unconventional evening.

Time stands still with **Les Estivales**: in a more intimate atmosphere, this event showcases dancers spotted on open stages alongside a pair of world-famous leads. A rare crossover of young, emerging talents and major ballet figures.



IMMERSIVE SOUND EXPERIENCE "À QUELQUE PAS DU MONDE" FROM TAMANOIR IMMERSIVE STUDIO (PAID ADMISSION)

For forty days, a mysterious 100 sq. m space nestled in the Bourse Agora will host a one-of-a-kind immersive sound experience for the first time in Belgium.

"A Few Steps from the World", a Tamanoir Immersive Studio creation launched in Paris in 2024, takes the public on a rare and intimate journey through the senses. Thanks to a sophisticated spatial soundtrack, visitors are literally plunged into the daily routine, body and mind of a lead dancer, from the rehearsal to the stage, from backstage nerves to the thrill of performing.

A timeless pause between art, technology and emotion, to experience alone or share, to reconnect to movement... a real haven of tranquillity amidst the buzz of the city centre.

In total, there will be 400 performances of this immersive experience.

- ◇ Dates : 14/08 - 28/09
- ◇ Length: 35 minutes
- ◇ Accessibility: open to everyone with no restrictions
- ◇ Languages available: French, Dutch and English
- ◇ One price: €8

AFTERPARTIES ON THE BOURSE ROOFTOP (PAID ADMISSION)

From Thursday to Saturday, the rooftop of Bourse will be the hotspot of Brussels Dance Festival's nightlife. With music carefully selected by DJs from the Brussels and international scene, these afterparties offer an ideal way to keep the fun times going in a more intimate but always lively atmosphere.

With a mix of electro sets, grooves and commercial music, each night promises a unique atmosphere — all with uninterrupted panoramic views over the city rooftops.

VOLATILES : SIX AIR DANCERS AT BOURSE AND DE BROUCKÈRE

Volatiles is an installation made up of six air dancers, each six meters tall, spread across the two sites of the Brussels Dance Festival (Bourse & De Brouckère). Each of these figures stands on a two-meter-high illuminated and graphic platform, turning these airborne characters into striking visual landmarks.

Volatiles is the result of a collaboration between two Brussels-based artists. On one hand, designer and colorist **Cécile Barraud de Lagerie** conceived a series of hand-painted patterns, later printed all over the puppets. On the other hand, digital artist **Romain Tardy** designed the technical system and spatial arrangement.

The visual richness of the patterns — all unique and hand-drawn — reflects the aesthetic and cultural diversity celebrated by the festival. Through their airy, fluid, and unpredictable choreography, these towering dancing figures resonate with the vibrant energy of the contemporary dance scene.

Finally, with their monumental scale, vivid colors, and continuous movement, the **Volatiles** form a joyful, playful, and accessible installation — embodying the spirit of an event designed to bring people together.



PLACE DE BROUCKÈRE

THE LABO

The Labo will be a dance arena designed as a space for interaction and experimentation. Over ten days, Place de Brouckère will host workshops, battles, open dancefloors and more. Come here to learn, experiment, swop, test your limits or just vibe together. Whether you're an experienced dancer, enthusiastic amateur or simple onlooker, there's something for everyone.

WORKSHOPS

Open to everyone, these one-hour sessions will make it possible to (re)discover a wide variety of styles. A series of introductory sessions is your chance to explore social dances, either solo or in pairs: bachata and its Latin rhythms, rock and its retro energy, or swing and its infectious joy.

The programme will also feature house dance, with its roots in clubbing culture, and voguing, an expressive and engaged dance that emerged from queer ballrooms and combines poise, power and pride.



OPEN DANCEFLOOR

Following the workshops, the dancefloor stays open. Encouraged by an MC, led by a DJ and inspired by guest dancers, the participants fill the floor in a spirit of artistic freedom. Improvisation, connection or simply letting loose, there are no rules for the open dancefloors: dance however you like in our own style. The collectives 4YouDance, Freestyle Lab, For All Queens or Créham will add to a welcoming atmosphere filled with kindness and inclusion.

BATTLES

As an engaged competition, the battles pit the best national and international dancers in their categories. Lifted by the energy of the crowd, participants push themselves to impress the judges and spectators.

Not to be missed: **The All About Love Battle**, initiated by Justine Theizen and the Get Down collective is a powerful celebration of dances and identities. Designed as a space for interaction and freedom, it showcases queer performers and celebrates the diversity of gender expression through movement. Kanessa Atilenak, a dancer and choreographer for the artist Ckay, will host a vibrant **Afro Battle** led by powerful beats. Another highlight: the hybrid format of **Detours Cyphers**, in collaboration with Fedasil, will give a platform to young dancers from the MENA programme (unaccompanied minors), highlighting their talents, stories and energy through dance.

URBAN EXHIBITION "ARCHIVES IN THE CITY"

From 04/08 to 15/09/2025

In partnership with Contredanse, this exhibition recounts key moments in dance history through figures, movements and gestures. It is visible in the public space for a month and a half.

Experiences

THE BELGIGABARRE: GIANT CLASSICAL DANCE CLASS

17/08, from 3pm to 5pm.

Free, reservation recommended

Back for the third time, the giant classical dance lesson initiated by Laurent Drousie & Europa Danse Company is making its debut on Brussels's Grand-Place for a brand-new event transforming the city's best-known location into a huge open-air studio. Between architectural wonders and graceful movements, the magic will take effect. A fantastic opportunity to put on your dance shoes and enjoy an unusual shared experience.



BRUSSELS CITY HALL: HERITAGE IN MOTION (PAID ADMISSION)

From 20/08 until 31/08

A co-creation between Brussels Major Events and the company Back Pocket, **Heritage in Motion** provides a unique acrobatic and dance show in the heart of City Hall, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Guided by four colourful characters — alderwoman, councillor, diplomat — visitors are led into an immersive performative tour. Both performers and guides, the artists guide the public whilst performing acrobatics and choreography.

The show showcases the entire building through a dreamlike experience, highlighting several iconic interiors: the Council Chamber, Office of the Mayor, Alexander the Great Room, Wedding Room and Gothic Room. The circus-like performances reveal the architectural beauty of these historic locations by transforming them into interactive stages.



BRUSSELS IN PINK: A MONUMENTAL EXHIBITION IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICTS

From 03/07 until 30/09

The City of Brussels has invited Philippe Katerine to transform its shopping districts into an open-air art gallery, from July 3rd to September 30th. Just over a dozen monumental sculptures of Monsieur Rose, the emblematic character of the Mignonisme movement, brighten the streets of the Pentagon area, from the Grand-Place to Rue Haute.

In partnership with the agency rentingART, the artistic route, accessible 24/7, puts contemporary art at the service of local commerce, as part of the Enjoy the City initiative. With the slogan “Shop local, discover art & enjoy the city,” the city invites the public to stroll, smile... and shop differently.

The map of the route will be published on the Instagram account: [@enjoy.the.city.bxl](https://www.instagram.com/enjoy.the.city.bxl)



SPEND YOUR SUMMER AT BOZAR (FREE AND PAID ACTIVITIES)

From June to September at the Centre for Fine Arts (Bozar), Rue Ravenstein 23

This summer, Bozar is becoming one of Brussels' must-see cultural venues. With free monumental installations, major exhibitions, concerts, cinema, guided tours and festive evenings, the programme combines free events and paid events. The Horta Hall is hosting Michael Beutler's giant artwork, while the rooftop 'La Forêt dans le Ciel' (The Forest in the Sky) offers DJ sets, stand-up comedy and family entertainment, all free of charge.

Info: [bozar.be](https://www.bozar.be)

Press photos: tinyurl.com/summer-bozar

LATE-NIGHT OPENINGS OF THE MONT DES ARTS (PAID ADMISSION)

Thursday 21 August, 5.00 to 9.00 pm

The public is invited to explore the permanent and temporary collections of three iconic locations (Bozar, KBR Museum, Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium), all enhanced by dance performances in partnership with Brussels Dance Festival.

The evening continues with a celebration on the heights of the Mont des Arts. To extend the experience, the rooftops of Bozar and KBR will be accessible.

PALACE CINEMA (PAID ADMISSION)

Friday 22 August at 21:30:

Gaspar Noé's **Climax**

Sunday 24 August at 16:15:

Damien Chazelle's **La La Land**

The Palace cinema is hosting two exceptional screenings of films where dance is the language, outlet and storyteller. Two worlds, two styles, two ways to experience dance on the big screen.

DANCING WALKS “SI T'Y DANSES” (FREE, RESERVATION ADVISED)

Saturday 23 August –
two one-hour tours

In collaboration with Contredanse, this choreographic tour guides you through Brussels via a dance trail. Participants are invited to take a sensitive, participatory and choreographed look at the city through its districts.



Sustainability, inclusivity, accessibility and cleanliness

Brussels Dance Festival 2025 is committed to being a responsible, inclusive and accessible event, consistent with the values upheld by the City of Brussels.

INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY

- ◇ Balanced programming with a particular focus on gender parity.
- ◇ Spaces and events dedicated to the LGBTQIA+ communities, like the All About Love and Crown Me Bitch! battles.
- ◇ Collaboration with Créahm to include artists with disabilities.
- ◇ A care team present during major activities to prevent and manage any inappropriate behaviour.

SUSTAINABILITY

- ◇ Scenography partially designed with recycled and reusable materials.
- ◇ Emphasis on the use of public transport and active mobility in communications.
- ◇ Digital materials: programmes accessible online, QR codes...

ACCESSIBILITY

- ◇ Installation of a raised reduced-mobility area for better visibility.
- ◇ Clear, multilingual signage tailored to all audiences.
- ◇ Partnership with Interparking and encouragement to use offroad parking.

MANAGING CLEANLINESS IN THE PUBLIC SPACE

- ◇ Increased cleaning in partnership with local services.
- ◇ Public information campaigns to encourage respect for the environment and clean spaces.

Graphic Identity

A FREE, EXPRESSIVE AND MULTIFACED VISUAL IDENTITY

Brussels Dance Festival's visual identity adopts symbolic rather than figurative language to avoid limiting the styles or disciplines to conventional depictions. The position of the dancer, inspired by contemporary dance, captures a body in movement, expressive and liberated. It conveys the freedom, vitality and diversity that run through the festival programme.

The collage combines photography, organic textures and drawing, with a flower instead of a head to evoke metamorphosis, sensibility and fantasy. The ensemble creates a hybrid figure, human, poetic and universal.

The image comes in three colour variations — dominant pink, purple and aquamarine — to punctuate the communication whilst maintaining a strong, consistent identity. These vibrant hues create a summery, urban and upbeat feel, directly linked to the festival's positioning in the Brussels public space.

Silhouettes drawn in white lines create a graphic choreography in the background. They suggest other bodies, movements and styles — references to the wide range of dances represented.

Finally, the visual contrast between the soft outlines, lightness of the body and raw texture of the spray creates a rich tension that perfectly reflects the festival's DNA: a dialogue between choreographic elegance and urban aesthetic.

The *baseline* **"FREE DANCE PERFORMANCES, CONCERTS & WORKSHOPS WORKSHOPS IN THE HEART OF BRUSSELS"** makes the event's accessibility clear: a popular, free and inclusive celebration in the city centre.



The evolution of Summer Wonders

AN UMBRELLA TERM FOR BRUSSELS SUMMERTIME EVENTS

The *Summer Wonders* concept is evolving and being structured under the umbrella of the summertime activities organized by the nonprofit Brussels Major Events for the City of Brussels. It streamlines the communication and brings key summer activities together in the Brussels public space under the same identity.

The dance event launched under the *Summer Wonders* name in 2024 is back this year with a new concept: Brussels Dance Festival, making its artistic focus and specific programming clearer.

The name *Summer Wonders* now brings together a range of events, including the Brussels Dance Festival and Quai d'Été, under a single digital ecosystem:

- > a single website — www.plaisirsdete.be — to centralize the useful information, locations, times and news;
- > unified social media — @plaisirsdete on Facebook and Instagram — for easy access to all summertime activities in the city.

This approach boosts the legibility, visual coherence and reputation of events whilst retaining each one's unique identity.

Partners

A JOINTLY DEVELOPED EVENT

Brussels Dance Festival has been made possible by the involvement of numerous Brussels partners, service providers and operators all contributing to make the event reality.

OPERATORS

- ◇ Opinion Public
- ◇ Brussels City Ballet
- ◇ K-Showtime
- ◇ 2Mad
- ◇ Elya Lufwa
- ◇ Thamaanii
- ◇ Un Pas de Folk
- ◇ Impulsion Dance
- ◇ Dancehouse.brussels
- ◇ Hendrickx Ntela
- ◇ Les Estivales de la Danse
- ◇ The Embassy Room
- ◇ Bboy Micael / Street OG
- ◇ 4YouDance
- ◇ Freestyle Lab
- ◇ Kanessa Aguilar Rodriguez
- ◇ The Clubbing Night Project
- ◇ Easy Swing
- ◇ Detours Cyphers
- ◇ Rock4Life
- ◇ For All Queens
- ◇ Justine Theizen
- ◇ Get Down
- ◇ Créham
- ◇ Perpetuum Mobile Festival
- ◇ Percu Sounds
- ◇ Europa Danse Company
- ◇ Back Pocket
- ◇ The Dream Engine
- ◇ Compagnie Off

MUSIC

- ◇ **By Fifty Session**
 - Lovelace
 - CRC
 - Maraboutage
 - Mavee x Miss Angel
 - Isaac x Madd9
- ◇ **By Superkarma**
 - Bo Meng
 - RaQL
- ◇ Krisy & Lejeune Club
- ◇ Crown Me Bitch!
- ◇ IV Connexion
- ◇ BORDERS: The Pinkk Touch
- ◇ Check Club
- ◇ Mab'ish
- ◇ Les Volumineuses
- ◇ Trendy Belgium
- ◇ 22heures30
- ◇ Sean Macson
- ◇ Chez Ginette
- ◇ Ezekiel
- ◇ Belben
- ◇ Tess



USEFUL INFORMATION

DATES & TIMES

14 to 24 August

Sunday – Wednesday: 3 PM > 8 PM

Thursday – Saturday: 3 PM > 1 AM

LOCATIONS: Place de la Bourse, Place de Brouckère,
Grand-Place

Free access to most of the programme

WEBSITE

www.plaisirsdete.be

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.facebook.com/plaisirsdete.zomerpret

www.instagram.com/plaisirsdete/

www.tiktok.com/@brusselsmajorevents

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