### **International Theatre Institute ITI**

World Organization for the Performing Arts



## **International Dance Day 2019**

### **Event Report**

28 - 29 April 2019 Seoul, South Korea



Under the patronage of **UNESCO** 



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

### Introduction



Poster of the event

This year's International Dance Day main worldwide celebration took place in Seoul, South Korea. Organized by the South Korean Centre of ITI, the General Secretariat of ITI, and the World Dance Alliance Korea, it marked the 38th time the event had been celebrated since its inception in 1982.

International Dance Day is the major global dance event of the International Theatre Institute (ITI). It is celebrated by ITI Centres, dance organizations, dance educational instituions and dance aficionados all around the world.

The event seeks to celebrate the beauty of dance arts in all its different guises and raise awareness of the importance of dance, offer educational or social activities, and inspire the audiences all over the world.

With this in mind the International Dance Day event in Seoul must be considered a remarkable success. South Korea itself is a country with a rich tradition in the dance arts, representing a country who is separated and with people in the North and South who live under the threat of a war. It is a region that needs the power of dance and its healing power.

The message author for 2019, Karima Mansour of Egypt, choreographer, dancer and dance educator, contributed to this with her wonderful message of understanding and passion for the arts. The event organizers likewise helped promote the spirit of the event, putting together a two-day programme of events which were tailor-made to achieve the sort of cross-cultural exchange based on openness and inclusivity that the event was designed for. With Conferences taking place in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the involvement of participants from both North and South Korea, and sublime performances of both traditional, modern, and popular dance forms the event was a sublime display of the power of dance.

It is my hope that this International Dance Day event in South Korea can galvanize and inspire dance enthusiasts not only in South and North Korea, but countries across the world. It was a joyous occasion, and an ideal platform from which to show everybody the wonder of dance.

Tobias Biancone Director General of ITI

## Congratulatory Address from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Welcome Address by the President of the World Dance Alliance Korea



문화체육관광부 Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

I sincerely congratulate you on hosting the 2019 International Dance Day celebration. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Kim Jung-soo, President of the Korean Dance Federation, the Honorary Chairman of the Korean Dance Federation, and Chairman Choi Chim Lim of the International Theatre Institute, Korea.

The UNESCO World Dance Alliance in association with ITI has designated April 29th, the birthday of contemporary ballet reformer Jean Geores Noverre, as a "International Dance Day", to encourage all the world's dancers and to spread the value of dance. Especially, this year, we will hold a "International Dance Day" event in Korea after previous events in China 2017, and Cuba 2018, showing the international importance of attaining harmony through dance.

I would also like to express my deepest respect and gratitude to all the dancers who have agree to perform and have made our lives more enriched through dance arts. I hope that this event will enable domestic and foreign dancers to communicate and advance our dance industry.

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism also supports cultural artists to create their own creative arts. Based on the Culture of People - Culture Vision 2030, we will create Korea with a culture, cooperation and diversity. I'll do my best to achieve this.

Once again, I would like to congratulate you on hosting the "International Dance Day" ceremony and thank you all for participating in the event.

I wish you every success.

Park Yang Woo Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism





I would like to firstly welcome and thank each one of you for joining us here in celebration of the International Dance Day. My name is Geung Soo Kim, President of World Dance Alliance – Korea.

Spring is just around the corner, and as we all know, spring calls for new beginnings and new life. There is a saying in Korean, "moments in spring are worth a ton of gold". And today - April 29th - was named "International Dance Day" to celebrate the birthdate of Jean Georges Noverre who is also known as the Father of Modern Ballet.

Our International Dance Day event showcases the unique characteristics of each participating country with vibrant new themes every year. In 2019, our objective is to deliver the message of peace and hope through "The Dance of Unified Peace in the Life of Humans and Nature". With the participation of dancers from all around the world, this will be an expression of hope for a future filled with peace and unity.

We, the WDAK, promise to reciprocate your love and interest with our continued effort to point the world in the direction of peace. And with the International Dance Day event today, we will do our best to demonstrate peace and unity through dance.

Thank you.

Kim Geung Soo President, World Dance Alliance Korea

### **International Dance Day**



Alicia Alonso, Cuba International Dance Day Message Author and the first World Dance Ambassador of ITI

International Dance Day is a global celebration of dance, created by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) in 1982 and is celebrated every year on 29 April, the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre, the creator of modern ballet.

The day strives to encourage participation and education in dance through events, conferences, award ceremonies and festivals held on and around this date all over the world. UNESCO, the founder of ITI and the main partner for the performing arts for UNESCO formally recognize ITI to be the founder of International Dance Day.

Every year, since its creation in 1982, an outstanding dance personality is selected to write a message for International Dance Day. Since 2008 the General Secretariat of ITI create a flagship event either at UNESCO in Paris or in a selected host city, with dance performances, educational workshops, humanitarian projects and speeches made by ambassadors, dignitaries, dance personalities and the selected message author for that year.

The day is a celebration day for those who can see the value and importance of the art form dance, and acts as a wake-up-call for governments, politicians and institutions which have not yet recognized its value to the people.

### **International Dance Day 2019 Message**



Karima Mansour, Egypt Dancer, Choreographer & Educator

At the beginning there was movement... and since the dawn of time, dance has been a strong means of expression and celebration. Found on the murals of Egyptian Pharaohs and inspiring dance makers to date. Dance was used to evoke the many gods and goddesses of dance with all what they represent in meaning and concepts like balance from which justice is connected, musicality, tone, individual and cosmic consciousness and more.

I read once that: "Dance in the times of the Pharaohs was thought to elevate the spirit of the dancer and of the audience of spectators or participants. Music and dance called upon the highest impulses of the human condition while also consoling people on the disappointments and losses in a life."

Movement is a language spoken by us all. Movement is a universal language that belongs to everybody If only we open our senses and listen. Listening is what is required, listening without interference, listening without judgment, listening in silence and allowing the movement to pass through the body in the moment, because everything inside us and around us is in motion, constant motion. This is when the body doesn't lie because it is listening to its truth and manifesting it.

By listening to our heartbeat, we can then dance the dance of life, which requires movement, agility and adaptability, a constant shifting choreography.

In this day and age where connection & connectivity have taken on new meanings and where we are at our lowest point in our ability to connect... Dance remains to be the most sought after action to help us re-establish that lost connection. Dance brings us back to our roots, in the cultural sense but also in the most immediate sensory, personal, individual, down to the core and heart way, whilst still enabling us to be social animals. For it is when we connect with ourselves when we listen to our inner rhythm, that we are really able to establish a connection with others and communicate.

Dance is where culture is shared and borders fall into the space of inclusion and unity, through the unspoken language of universality.

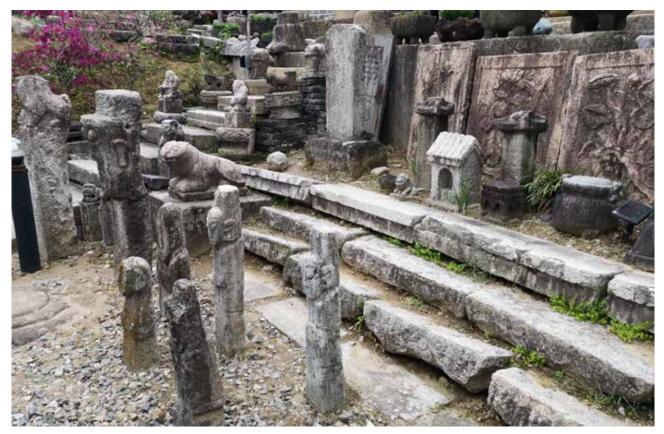
The body is an instrument of expression, a vessel for our voice, our thoughts, our feelings, our history, our being and existence, our yearning to express and connect that manifests through movement.

Dance is a space that allows oneself to connect with their truth, for that, a quiet space is required. Dance allows us to connect and feel whole and it is only in that feeling that we find peace and with peace comes silence and it is through silence that we can hear, listen, speak and through stillness that we learn to dance our truths and this is when dance becomes pertinent.

Movement and dance is where we can move from the vertical to the horizontal, from up to down and vice versa. Movement and dance is where chaos can be created and re-organized, or not. Where we are able to create our own realities and fleeting, ephemeral moments one after the other. Moments that can touch us and remain in our memories, to inspire and change us and others for life. That is the power of true expression and thus the power of dance

Dance is a healer. Dance is where humanity can meet. I invite people to go beyond borders, beyond identity crisis, beyond nationalism and beyond frames. May we free ourselves of those limitations and find the movement and momentum in that universal language. I invite everybody to dance to their heartbeat, to their inner truth because it is from these internal movements, that lead to internal revolutions, where real change happens.

### **International Dance Day 2019 Schedule**



Museum of face, Seoul, South Korea

#### General Topic: Peace & Unity, Dance for Social Change

#### Sunday, 28 April

- 11:00 Dance Brings People Together Line Dance in Gwanghwamun Square
- 13:00 Reception on the second floor of the Opera House
- 14:00 Korean National Ballet *Sleeping Beauty*
- 18:00 Performance and Supper at Museum of face

#### Monday, 29 April

- 10:00 DMZ Dora Observatory Peace & Unity, Dance for Social Change Forums and Flash Mob Dance
- 17:30 Outdoor Performance at Shilla Hotel
- 18:30 Main Celebration and Dinner at Shilla Hotel

## Sunday, 28 April, at the Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul Line Dance: Dance Brings People Together





From left to right: Luis Llerena, Chen Zhongwen, Karima Mansour, Alberto García, Liu Qingyi



Celebrating the International Dance Day Line Dance Hanmadang Festival, hosted by the Line Dance Association of Korea, supported by Seoul Metropolitan City Government. Gwanghwamun Plaza, Seoul, South Korea

### Sunday, 28 April at the Opera House, Seoul Reception

A Reception was organized on the 2nd floor of the Seoul Opera House, before the afternoon performance of Sleeping Beauty.

Several key government officials, Korean theatre artists and members of the Korean National Ballet, including the Artistic Director, were introduced to the members of ITI.





Kim Geung Soo, President of World Dance Alliance Korea Karima Mansour, Message Author of International Dance Day 2019



Chen Zhongwen, Deputy DG of ITI, and Jun Hong Jo, Honorary President, World Dance Alliance Korea



Tatjana Azman, Executive Council Member of ITI, and Kang Suejin, Artistic Director of the Korea National Ballet

# Sunday, 28 April at the Opera House, Seoul Korean National *Ballet Sleeping Beauty*



Backstage after the performance

The audience, including the members or ITI, watched the performance of *Sleeping Beauty* performed by the Korean National Ballet in the Opera House. After the performance, ITI guests went backstage to congratulate the performers.



## <sup>10</sup> Sunday, 28 April, at the Museum of Face





Museum of Face

Traditional Korean performances were arranged by the Honorary President Kim Jeong-ok in his Museum of Face.

A home-made traditional Korean dinner was prepared for the guests.



Kim Jeong-ok, Honorary President of ITI

### Sunday, 28 April at the Museum of Face Korean Traditional Performance















### <sup>12</sup> Monday, 29 April, at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) **Conference on Peace & Unity, Dance for Social Change**



Conference speakers from left to right: Baek Young Sook, North Korea; Liu Qingyi, China; Tatjana Azman, Slovenia; Chi Bogyeol, South Korea; Wang Yunyu, Chinese Taipei; Karima Mansour, Egypt; Alberto García, Spain

The Conference "Peace & Unity, Dance for Social Change" was organized in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on the morning of 29 April.

Speakers from North and South Korea joined international speakers from China, Egypt, Slovenia and Spain for discussions on the importance of dance. An additional delegation group from North Korea also joined in the audience.

Each speaker gave their opinion about the topic, and spoke with passion on the importance of the dance arts to opening dialogues.

After the discussion community dances were performed outside by Bogyeol Dance Life from South Korea and the Focus Dance Company from Chinese Taipei.

#### Forum Speakers:

Karima Mansour, Egypt, Message Autor of International Dance Day 2019

Alberto Garcia, Spain, President of International Dance Committee IDC, Executive Council Member ITI

Tatjana Azman, Slovenia, Executive Council Member ITI

**Liu Qingyi**, China, Head of Dance Research Centre, Shanghai Theatre Academy

**Wang Yunyu**, Chinese Taipei, Global Board Member of World Dance Allilance

Baek Young Sook, North Korea, Director

**Chi Bogyeol**, South Korea, Artistic Director, Bogyeol Dance Life





Middle: Baek Young Sook, North Korea

### Monday, 29 April, at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) Community Dance



Outdoor community dance by Bogyeol Dance Life Company



Conference speakers, performers and the North Korean delegation

### <sup>14</sup> Monday, 29 April, at the Shilla Hotel, Seoul **Performances**

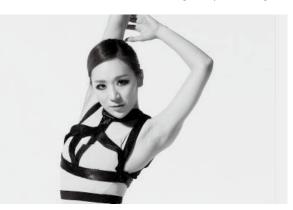
An outdoor performance was held in the Shilla Hotel in Seoul before the main celebration in the late afternoon. Four performances were presented, beginning with a traditional Korean dance performed by the National Gugak Centre, which is the National Centre for Korean Traditional Performing Arts. This was followed by two Korean contemporary performances, culminating with a dance showing from the Focus Dance Company of Chinese Taipei.



Performance A Pair by National Gugak Centre



Performance Guernica Again by Lee Dong Ha



Performance Duality by Luda Lee and Kim Yun Ah



Performance Great Freedom by Focus Dance Company from Chinese Taipei

### Monday, 29 April, at the Shilla Hotel, Seoul





18:30, Monday, 29 April 2019, Shilla Hotel, Seoul, South Korea

### Programme

Moderator : Gemma Shin







Dance Committee



of	Opening	Kang Suejin, Korea National Ballet Artistic Director
	Welcome Addresses	Tobias Biancone, Director General ITI Worldwide Kim Geung Soo, President WDA Korea Kim Jeonbae, Deputy Minister for Culture and Arts Policy
	Congratulatory Speech	<b>Kim Jeong Bae</b> , Deputy Minister of Culture and Arts Policy, Korea Republic
	Introduction to Karima Mansour	Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham, President ITI Worldwide
	Message Presentation	Karima Mansour, International Dance Day Message Author 2019
	Awards	Kang Kyung Mo, Vice President WDA Korea
	Korean Award Ceremony	Yook Wansoon & Kim Mae Ja Special Prizes awarded by Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham, President ITI Worldwide Alberto García, President International Dance Committee IDC
	Toast	Kim Moon Sook, National Academy of Arts Member Korea Tobias Biancone, Director General ITI Worldwide
	Banquet	
	Special Music Performance	Guitarist <b>Lee Byung Woo</b> , PyeongChang Winter Olympics Opening & Closing Ceremonies Artistic Director

**Closing & Group Photo** 

### <sup>16</sup> Monday, 29 April, at the Shilla Hotel, Seoul Main Celebration

On 29 April, the International Dance Day 2019 main celebration was held at the Shilla Hotel in Seoul, South Korea. Around a hundred local Korean guests and VIPs attended.

The event was opened by Kang Suejin, the Korean National Ballet's Artistic Director. Following this there were welcome speeches from Tobias Biancone, Director General of ITI, Kim Geung Soo, president of World Dance Alliance Korea, and a congratulatory speech from Kim Jeong Bae, Deputy Minister of Culture and Arts Policy from Korea Republic.

An introduction to the message author of International Dance Day 2019, was made by Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham, President of ITI. Finally, Karima Mansour read her message in English.

Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham, President of ITI, and Alberto García, President International Dance Committee IDC, delivered special prizes to the two winners of a specially created Korean dance award.

Once these festivities passed a banquet commenced with a toast from Kim Moon Sook, National Academy of Arts Member Korea, and Tobias Biancone. During the banquet, a guitar solo was performed by Lee Byung Woo, Artistic Director of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics 2018.



Karima Mansour, Message Autor of International Dance Day 2019



Special Prize awarded to Kim Mae Ja by Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham, President of ITI



Special Prize awarded to Yook Wansoon by Alberto García, President International Dance Committee IDC

## Monday, 29 April, at the Shilla Hotel, Seoul Main Celebration





From left to right: Kang Suejin, Artistic Director Korea National Ballet Tobias Biancone, Director General ITI Karima Mansour, Message Author Mohamed Saif Al-Afkham, President ITI Kim Geung Soo, President World Dance Alliance Korea

### **International Dancy Day Promotion**

Invitation cards, brochures, advertisements, panels and programmes for the International Dance Day 2019 celebration in Seoul, South Korea, were designed and printed.



International Dance Day 2019 Brochure (English and Korean)



International Dance Day 2019 Invitation Card



International Dance Day 2019 Advertisement



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International Dance Day 2019 Panels

### **International Dance Day Press & Media**

The International Dance Day 2019 celebration received a strong response in South Korea. During the Conference "Peace & Unity, Dance for Social Change" in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), ITI presented its overview video to the audience, which included participants from North Korea, granting international visibility.

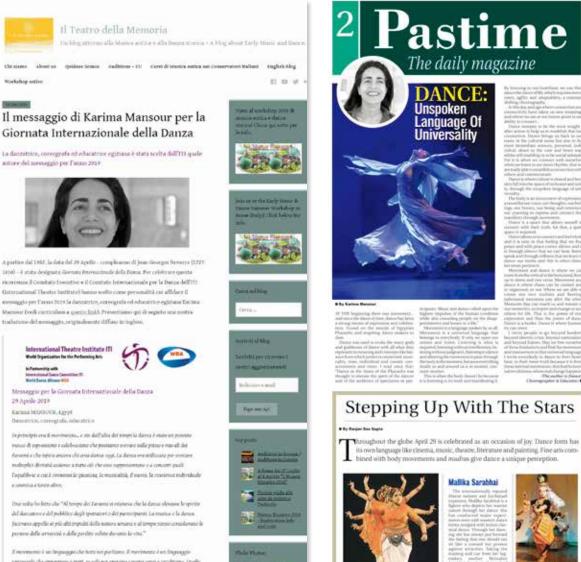


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이날 현사는 CACLE 다구, 서부분 일는 관련도 통합하여서 21일 영화와 통합니 문과 사회적인이면 주제로 세계부분 같은 것이다. 바람에서 사회에 관련된 것이다. 특별한 수 있는데 또 아니는 특별한 것이다. 이 것이 같은 것이다.

### **International Dance Day Press & Media**



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**Preeti Patel** 

Workshop antivo

29 Aprile 2019

THE OWNER.

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### **Event Organizers**

#### **International Theatre Institute Team**

**Chen Zhongwen** Deputy Director General

**Chen Simin** ITI Project Officer

**Tom Johnson** ITI Project Officer

Tang Yiming ITI Establishment Officer

#### World Dance Alliance Korea Team

Kim Geung Soo Jun Hong Jo Kang Kyung Mo Lee Mihee Jang He Jin Kang Hey Jung Won Hey In





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