Press release 4 April 2019

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**Czech Dance Platform celebrated its 25th anniversary in style!**

**Prague – In keeping with tradition, the 25th annual Czech Dance Platform culminated in the presentation of awards. Czech Dance Platform awards were presented to Tereza Ondrová for extraordinary performance in *SAME SAME* and young creator and performer Viktor Černický for the production of *PLI*, for which he also received the renewed Audience Award. The organizers this year hosted some 120 professionals from all around the world over the course of four days. The varied program of the platform offered not only great performances, but also a brand-new discussion format. More at** [**www.tanecniplatforma.cz**](http://www.tanecniplatforma.cz)

The international jury decided to change the nature of the awards. "The Dancer of the Year and Dance Production of the Year awards this year were renamed the Czech Dance Platform Awards and have become more about reflection on the field and less about competition," explained the manager of the platform **Zuzana Hájková**. "The international jury could therefore reward the individual (performer, choreographer, director), but also the work in its complexity. The number of awards was not limited in advance. The jury had to justify each of its decisions."

**Tereza Ondrová** was awarded for her extraordinary performance in perfectly portraying a difficult role in the production of *SAME SAME* under the guidance of Karine Ponties. At the same time, the international jury recognized the complexity of the work and the balance of the two main characters in the form of a special mention. The jury praised Tereza for her "embodied knowledge, transformation on stage, high quality of movement and generosity towards the audience and the work". With this award she won a week-long stay from Czech Centres in a selected European country.

The main award of the Czech Dance Platform was presented to **Viktor Černický** for his original approach to choreography and extraordinary stage performance in the production of *PLI*. "Young artist and performer Viktor Černický created an excellent movement performance using everyday objects, a metaphor for humankind's desire to reach the heavens," the jury said.

"These two nominations had the unequivocal support of all members of the international jury, so congratulations to **Tereza Ondrová**, who is an extraordinary talent shining on our scene from the first years of the platform, as well as **Viktor Černický**, who is a relative newcomer in the physical theatre world and achieved a rare consensus among both the expert and lay audience, because in addition to the main prize, he also won the Audience Award voted on after each performance," said **Yvona Kreuzmannová**, founder of the platform and director of the organizer Tanec Praha.

The international jury also gave "special mention" to four works this year: *LeŤ* by **Markéta Stránská** was recognized for its extraordinary energyand for redefining beauty and excellence in contemporary dance, and *Don't Stop* by **Tereza Hradilková,** which thanks to intensive movement research achieved an extraordinary presence on the scene and also created a powerfully intimate and fascinating atmosphere. Also receiving special mention from the jury was *Medúza* by the **tYhle** ensemble and choreographer **Marie Gourdain**. In this case the jury rewarded the excellent teamwork and innovative creative process, thanks to which it succeeded in putting together a difficult concept. Thanks goes to the courage to take risks, as well as the artistic integrity and creative approach to scenography. In *SAME SAME* by French choreographer based in Belgium **Karine Ponties** in close cooperation with **Petra Tejnorová** and **Tereza Ondrová** thejury highlighted the humour and complexity of the approach as well as the strong individuality of both performers.

"The new awards have given us more space to see the artist, the jury dealt with the quality of all the components of each piece, focusing on what it appreciates about it, and took full advantage of that opportunity," **Kreuzmannová** explains happily. "This year's festival had an incredibly welcoming atmosphere; the international guests greatly appreciated the program and the organization of the festival. I dare say that we put on the best program in the history of the festival, thanks in large part to the Czech artists."

This year for the eleventh time, the **Institute of Light Design** awarded the Light Design Award, which **Jiří Šmirk** received for his work on the production of *CONSTELLATIONS II: Time for Sharing* by the **Spitfire Company**. The jury decided not to award a Manager of the Year Award. As it sees the profession and the role of the dance manager as being underdeveloped and neglected in the field of domestic contemporary dance art, it has decided to approach this category in a completely different way. In doing so, it wishes to support interest in the management of dance art. It is therefore announcing an open call for students, recent graduates and others engaged in cultural management to submit a dance project that is already in progress or that will be implemented by March 2020. A CZK 10,000 prize will be given to the selected project manager

Czech artists received several invitations abroad already during the final evening; these particular contributions of the festival and the reviews of foreign critics will be known in the coming weeks. From the personal statements of top international experts who participated in the event for the first time, it is clear that the platform was a pleasant surprise for them and a means of discovering the distinctive dance culture in this part of Europe. Those returning to the event regularly evaluated the high quality and diversity of this year's offer and appreciated the great organizational team.

Organized by: Tanec Praha z.ú.

With the support of: Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, City of Prague, Art District 7, IDU / PerformCzech, Czech Centre

Partners: Be SpectACTtive! – supported by the Creative Europe program, Italian Cultural Institute, Studio ALTA, Light Design Institute, SE.S.TA Centre for Choreographic Development, MLOKi

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**Overview of CTP Awards 2019**

**Czech Dance Platform Awards 2019**

**Tereza Ondrová** as the most distinctive performer of the Czech Dance Platform

**Viktor Černický** for original choreographic approach and extraordinary stage performance in *PLI*

**Special mention**

**Markéta Stránská** *LeŤ*

**Tereza Hradilková** *Don't Stop*

**tYhle** *Medúza*

**Karine Ponties** *SAME SAME*

**Audience Award**

**Viktor Černický** *PLI*

**Light Design Award**

**Jiří Šmirk – Spitfire Company** *CONSTELLATIONS II Time for Sharing*