



PRESS RELEASE

Hamburg, November 17, 2025

Hamburg Ballet wins two awards:

German Theater Prize DER FAUST 2025 for William Forsythe's *Blake Works V (The Barre Project)* with the Hamburg Ballet, and Eliot Worrell receives the first-ever Dorothea Langhammer Scholarship from the TANZ Foundation

William Forsythe wins this year's German Theater Prize DER FAUST in the category "Choreography" for *Blake Works V (The Barre Project)* with the Hamburg Ballet. The award ceremony took place on the evening of November 15 at the Theaterhaus Stuttgart. With this award, the jury honors William Forsythe's outstanding choreographic achievement and the Hamburg Ballet's extraordinary dance performance.

Quote from Nicolas Hartmann, Managing Director of Ballet Operations, and Lloyd Riggins, Artistic Director of the Hamburg Ballet:

"The award to William Forsythe for *Blake Works V (The Barre Project)* with the Hamburg Ballet is a great honor and joy for us. William Forsythe is one of the most influential artists of our time, and working with him and his team was an inspiring experience for our company. The award also recognizes the dedication and virtuosity of our dancers, who bring this choreography to life."

In its statement, the jury highlighted the work's "choreographic reflection of great clarity and depth": "(...) The piece is a brilliant play with the forms of classical dance that neither negates tradition nor romanticises it nostalgically, but keeps it alive through transformation. Here, four decades of choreographic mastery combine to form an essence of movement and thought. Danced with great brilliance, formal rigour and at the same time touching freedom, this work marks a moment of

extraordinary artistic consistency. (...)“

The jury's detailed statement can be found on the [FAUST Prize website](#).

At the award ceremony in Stuttgart, Nicolas Hartmann accepted the prize on behalf of William Forsythe and expressed his gratitude in particular to Jody Gates and Noah Gelber for rehearsing the piece in Hamburg, as well as to Tiler Peck, with whom Forsythe developed *The Barre Project* during endless Zoom rehearsals.

William Forsythe was already awarded the FAUST Theater Prize in 2020 for his life's work. With *Blake Works V (The Barre Project)*, which premiered at La Scala in Milan in 2023 and combined choreographic elements from the entire cycle, he completed his internationally acclaimed cycle of works, which he had begun at the Paris Opera in 2016. The version awarded the FAUST Prize celebrated its German premiere in Hamburg on December 8, 2024, under the artistic direction of Demis Volpi as part of the ballet evening *SLOW BURN*. The award-winning ballet evening, which includes *Blake Works V (The Barre Project)* and the world premiere of *Slow Burn* by Canadian choreographer Aszure Barton, is scheduled to be performed several times this season (May 25, 26, 31, 2026 / June 2, 4, 28, 2026).

Since 2006, the German theater prize DER FAUST has been awarded annually in twelve categories to honor outstanding artistic achievements in German theaters. The recording of the award ceremony on Saturday, November 15, can be viewed online on the [3sat website](#).

Further information and an overview of this year's winners can be found at: www.derfaust-theaterpreis.de. A [photo gallery](#) of the award ceremony and the winners is also available.

Eliot Worrell receives the first-ever Dorothea Langhammer Scholarship from the TANZ Foundation

During yesterday's charity ballet workshop (November 16) in aid of the TANZ Foundation, the newly established Dorothea Langhammer Scholarship from the TANZ Foundation was awarded for the first time at the Hamburg State Opera. The scholarship went to Eliot Worrell, a former dancer with the Hamburg Ballet, who ended his active dancing career in the summer of 2024 and spent a total of 12 years with the Hamburg Ballet, performing in numerous choreographies by John Neumeier on stage in Germany and abroad. In addition to his passion for dance, he has long been fascinated by the complexity and intricacy of stage productions, especially when they are performed on international tours. After retiring from the stage, he interned with long-time ballet stage manager Ulrich Ruckdeschel and completed a bachelor's degree. With the start of the 2025/26 season, he has become ballet stage manager at the Hamburg Ballet, thus profitably combining his previous experience and love of the arts with his knowledge of stage productions.

With the Dorothea Langhammer Scholarship, the TANZ Foundation honors exemplary transitions by dancers who have successfully mastered the step into a new phase of their professional lives. The award was presented by Sabrina Sadowska, chairwoman and founder of the TANZ Foundation.

The TANZ Foundation – Transition Center Germany supports professional dancers from the beginning of their training to the end of their active careers and beyond. It

supports, advises, and promotes artists both conceptually and materially in all phases of the so-called “transition” process—the transition from a stage career to a new profession. The foundation's goal is to strengthen the prospects and attractiveness of a career in dance in the long term and to make a decisive contribution to the diversity and performance of artistic dance in Germany. In the 15 years since its establishment, the foundation has supported nearly 2,000 dancers, including many psychotherapists, physiotherapists, doctors, and lawyers. John Neumeier is the chairman of the board of trustees.

Dorothea Langhammer, who passed away in 2025, was a loyal visitor to the Hamburg Ballet for over two decades and was closely associated with the TANZ Foundation.

The ballet workshop also offered a first glimpse of the upcoming premiere of the new ballet evening ROMANTIC EVOLUTION/S on December 7. Frank Andersen and Eva Kloborg led rehearsals for August Bournonville's romantic classic *La Sylphide*, while principal dancer and choreographer Aleix Martínez presented excerpts from his new creation *Äther*.

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