



PRESS RELEASE

7th May 2014

The performing arts celebrated in 2014

Since their creation, the **World Theatre Day** and the **International Dance Day** represent for the artistic community of the performing arts the occasion to support to artistic creation, above all political, cultural and ethnic barriers.

World Theatre Day, 27th March

"Wherever there is human society, the irrepressible Spirit of Performance manifests. Born of community, it wears the masks and the costumes of our varied traditions. It harnesses our languages and rhythms and gestures, and clears a space in our midst."

Brett Bailey

This year, the **World Theatre Day Message**, written by the **South-African playwright Brett Bailey**, was **translated into more than 40 languages** by the centers and cooperating members of ITI.

The video of his message, with photos of his work, has been viewed on YouTube about 9000 times.

Moreover, a video project gathering **23 videos of different countries** featuring the voices of eminent theatre personalities reading the Message in their own language has fully contributed to the circulation of the Message.

On the 29th March, the World Theatre Day celebration with the Message author Brett Bailey was held in the framework of the **Al-Bugga International Theatre Festival at the National Theatre of Sudan, in Khartoum**. It's the first time that the celebration of the World Theatre Day with the International Message author was held in another place than UNESCO, in Paris.

Other activities organized by the centers and the cooperating members of ITI have marked this day with round tables, performances and the reading of the World Theatre Day Message, amongst other activities.

The photos and videos, the translations of the Message and the worldwide map of events for the World Theatre Day 2014 are available online on www.international-dance-day.org.



Brett Bailey reading the World Theatre Day Message 2014 at the National Theatr of Sudan
© Al-Bugga International Theatre Festival

International Dance Day, 29th April

"Closer to me than anything else, it gives me strength each day through the energy and generosity as only dance can. Its poetry comforts me."

Mourad Merzouki

The **2014 International Dance Day Message** written by the French choreographer and director of CCN de Créteil et du Val-de-Marne / Compagnie Käfig **Mourad Merzouki** was **translated into 15 languages**.

The Message has circulated around the world especially thanks to the video featuring the voice of Mourad Merzouki on an excerpt of his play *Boxe Boxe*. It has been **viewed on YouTube almost 30 000 times**.

The 2014 edition of the International Dance Day celebration was held **at the UNESCO headquarters on the 29th April 2014** and had a great success, gathering more than 1000 people. The Companies Käfig, Massala and XXe Tribu presented excerpts of their plays, turning the evening into a memorable event.



Mourad Merzouki reading the International Dance Day 2014 Message
© Olivier Hoffschir



Excerpt of *Yo Gee Ti* by the Compagnie Käfig
© Olivier Hoffschir



Excerpt of *Transe* by the Compagnie Massala
© Olivier Hoffschir



Excerpt of *Akasha* by the Compagnie XXe Tribu
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Link to the photos of the celebration: www.international-dance-day.org/photos.html

This event was made possible with the support of the Permanent Delegation of the French Republic to UNESCO and to the CCN de Créteil et du Val-de-Marne / Compagnie Käfig.

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