

Once again, everything is pretty awful.

It is easy to lose hope in the face of spiteful debates, the allegedly or actually raging cultural war and the division between us and them. Crises, conflicts and wars, climate change and the extinction of species, polarised societies and the hatred expressed on social media can make us despair about humanity lose all faith in humanity. Especially in the face of these horrors, a great longing is revealed. We all long for a good life. And the second part of this longing is: in a peaceful society!

Together, collectively, united - ensemble is the theme of this year's festival. Questions about this most incontestable form of human togetherness, about the relationship between nature and humanity, demand to be answered. In doing so, the festival is taking up considerations that are as socio-politically explosive as they are pressing. But what is the pact that dance enters with this being together?

This year, Tanz in Bern is presenting a kaleidoscope of productions danced exclusively by ensembles. Against the world-weariness, choreographers are able to tell us a story about how this could work: a successful togetherness!

The festival explores the complexity of the topic and also addresses the unpleasant aspects of togetherness: What about the dynamic between solo and group, between being alone and being amongst people? The programme presents choreographers who address this tension. When the solo dancer detaches herself from the ensemble and takes us into her physical interpretation, her access to the world, it is astonishing and yet only possible against the background of the

group. At the same time, we are often gripped by a sense of unease when masses move in unison, when the individual is submerged or actively excluded. Dance picks up on this unease and thus also shows the violent side of community. The despair of humanity is booming. Let's dance against it together. Let's be amazed at what artists can do on stage; dans le groupe, en groupe, ensemble! It goes without saying that not only can you watch dance at Dampfzentrale, but also dance yourself.

Anneli and the entire Tanz in Bern team Fabienne, Alessandra, Bianca, Aline, Paula, Sophie, Salomé, Anna, Cyril, Desirée, Jana, Thierry, Elia, Barbara, Kevin, Virginia, Janosch, Dario, Karin, Roger, Dominika, Michèle, Alizé, Tina, Anna wish you a hopeful three weeks at the festival.