PRESS RELEASE

Bolzano, July 17, 2024

**Bolzano Danza Festival:**

**Olivier Dubois and Anouk Aspisi appointed Artistic Directors**

**BOLZANO, ITALY** The Haydn Foundation, organizer of the International Dance Festival **Bolzano Danza**, proudly announces the appointment of **Olivier Dubois** and **Anouk Aspisi** as the new Artistic Directors for the 2025-2027 editions. They will succeed Emanuele Masi, who has held the position for over ten years, leading the Festival to its fortieth-anniversary milestone celebrated in the 2024 edition.

**Paul Gasser**, Chairman of the Board at the Haydn Foundation, stated: “With the appointment of Olivier Dubois and Anouk Aspisi, a new cycle begins for the Bolzano Danza Festival as well as for our Foundation, whose outlook is becoming increasingly European and global. After an international call attracting over 50 prestigious applications from across Europe, the Board identified the joint proposal by the duo Olivier Dubois and Anouk Aspisi as the most outreaching artistic project. A long-time acquaintance of Bolzano Danza, choreographer Olivier Dubois has established a strong connection to our city and the Festival’s audience over the years; his works have been ground-breaking, offering an original perspective on the status of contemporary dance. His works offer an original perspective on contemporary dance. Anouk Aspisi, with her extensive experience in cultural management and fundraising, brings crucial skills for the event’s international growth.”

**Olivier Dubois and Anouk Aspisi** expressed: “Today we become *passeurs*, tasked with steering the legacy of a well-established and thriving entity towards the future. We imagine a Festival that conveys its past and history while focusing on creation and artists, visionary witnesses to the world’s changes. As an artistic and social laboratory, the Festival should create a ‘suspended time,’ a moment to celebrate life by being together. We envision a joyful and inclusive program, a Festival strongly rooted in the city, focuseon building new relationships with its community. Bolzano Danza will be a place of encounter, dialogue, and celebration of creativity and innovation.”

**About Olivier Dubois (Colmar, 1972):** Olivier Dubois began his choreographic journey in 2006 after a distinguished career as a dancer, being named "one of the best dancers in the world” by Dance Magazine in 2011. His first work, *Pour tout l'or du monde*, won the Prix Jardin d'Europe in Vienna. He has created numerous acclaimed works, including *Faune(s), Spectre, L'homme de l'Atlantique,* and the trilogy *Étude critique pour un trompe-l'œil*. His piece *Tragédie* premiered at the Festival d’Avignon in 2012 and received the Danza&Danza Award. He was appointed Director of the Ballet du Nord in 2014 and has received multiple honors, including the Fedora - Van Cleef & Arpels Dance Prize and the title Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres. Dubois has been a recurring guest at Bolzano Danza since 2013, presenting several groundbreaking works.

**Anouk Aspisi (Montpellier, 1968):** After graduating with a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Montpellier, she obtained a master's degree in Communication and Media from Sciences Com' in Nantes. A cultural manager with extensive experience in France and Italy, Aspisi worked as an advisor for artistic creation (live performance, festivals, music and visual arts) in the Cabinet of French Minister of Culture Rima Abdul Malak (2022-2024); she was General Secretary of the Maison de la Danse in Lyon (2018-2022), Head of Communication at the Academia Santa Cecilia in Rome (2017-2018), General Secretary at the Fondazione Nuovi Mecenati (2013-2018), Cultural Attaché at the Institut français d'Italie (2012-2017) for which she conceived the multidisciplinary events' season *La Francia in Scena*. She worked at the François Pinault Foundation in Venice (2008-2010) and oversaw the international relations of the Romaeuropa Festival (2000-2004). Having worked in patronage and fundraising, she is interested in the economic dimension of cultural productions, and in the various artistic projects she has curated, she has paid special attention to public engagement and audience development.

**The new Artistic Directors of the Bolzano Danza Festival will be available for interviews starting Wednesday, July 24,** following the world premiere of Olivier Dubois' *For Gods Only/ Sacre #3*, on stage July 23 at the Teatro Comunale, Bolzano.

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