

To celebrate International Dance Day, 29 April, students of the Consell's Escola de Música i Dansa took to social media to share a video. Dancers provide the video's voice-over, a reading of this year's manifesto. The text, in which the ongoing pandemic looms distinctly, was co-written by leading Stuttgart Ballet dancer Friedemann Vogel. It is reproduced below:

*"Everything starts with movement; it is an instinct we all share. Dance, for its part, is movement refined in an effort to communicate something. As much as impeccable technique is important and impressive, the essence is what the dancer expresses within this movement.*

*As dancers, we are in constant movement, aspiring to create moments that are unforgettable. This is what every dancer, of every genre, strives to achieve. So when we are suddenly deprived of performance, with theatres closed and festivals cancelled, our worlds come to a standstill. There is no physical contact. No performances. No audience. Never in recent history has the dance community been collectively challenged to stay motivated, to find its raison d'être.*

*Yet it is precisely now when something precious has been taken away from us that we truly appreciate how vital what we do is and how much dance means to society at large. Often, the physical prowess of dancers is praised, when, in reality, we are even more sustained by our mental strength. I believe that this unique combination of physical and psychological agility will help us to better ourselves, to reinvent ourselves to continue to dance and inspire".*

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**Communications Department**  
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