

SLOVENSKA POSLANICA OB MEDNARODNEM DNEVU PLESA 2026

Slovenski center ITI, Društvo za sodobni ples Slovenije, Društvo baletnih umetnikov Slovenije in Javni sklad Republike Slovenije za kulturne dejavnosti smo k pisanju poslanice ob mednarodnem dnevu plesa 2026 povabili koreografinjo in Prešernovo nagrajenko, Matejo Bučar.



Mateja Bučar. Foto: Jože Suhadolnik

Ples – upravljanje – milina

Ples ni zgolj abstrakcija življenja; je življenje samo. Je prefinjen mehanizem narave in civilizacije, združen v eno – zakladnica orodij, ki omogočajo, zdravijo in izumljajo. Na ta mednarodni dan plesa prepoznavamo ples ne le kot obliko umetnosti in kulture, temveč kot filozofijo telesa in ključno strategijo preživetja.

V svojem jedru je ples temeljna raziskava ravnovesja. Sprašuje, kako se lahko dve telesi, dve stanji ali množstvo kultur – morda vse države in celo religije – gibljejo skupaj brez trčenja ali destrukcije. Zadržuje se v krhkem prostoru med stabilnostjo in padcem, med skrajnostmi teže in artikulacije, v nepredvidljivosti obratov.

Plesati pomeni prav to: obvladati sposobnost, da smo hkrati mi sami in »drugi«.

Spomnimo se duhovitosti Molièra, ki je zapisal, da tragične zablode zgodovine izvirajo zgolj iz pomanjkanja plesne veščine. Če bi bili naši voditelji zavezani k študiju discipline valčka, tanga ali katerega koli drugega plesa, ki ohranja kulturo, bi se morda naučili voditi z milino in dostojanstvom, namesto z golo silo. In kot je nakazal Konfucij, meča ne bi smeli zaupati tistim, ki ne znajo plesati.

Danes, na mednarodni dan plesa, postavljamo drzno zahtevo: naj voditelji, ekonomisti, bankirji, znanstveniki, tehnologi in mnogi drugi preučujejo znanja plesa v vseh njegovih oblikah in pojavnostih ter tako opremljeni krmarijo svet. Ponovno se moramo naučiti spretnosti »valčkov, tangov ali kola« – njihove miline, dostojanstva, spoštljivosti in smisla – za obnavljanje skrhanih vezi človeštva.

Vsaka kultura, država ali skupnost sveta že nosi svoje ritme, pesmi in plese preživetja: eleganco tanga; duhovno globino samana, kathaka ali zikra; natančnost pasa de deuxa; svobodo sodobnega plesa; ekstatično silo šamanskega plesa; utrip breakdancea – in še veliko več. Izziv našega časa ni le, kako se giblje ena kultura, temveč kako nenehno izumljati valček med kulturami, državami in religijami – ter najti ritme in korake, ki spoštujejo posamezno, medtem ko usklajujejo celoto. Odgovor – še vedno večinoma neopažen – prebiva v plešočih telesih in umih po vsem svetu.

Na mednarodni dan plesa in tudi sicer velja zato razmisliti o priložnostih, ki nam jih ponuja ples – kot umetnost, kot kultura, kot način mišljenja in gibanja. Obravnavajmo vsak gib, vsako smer in vsako odločitev v življenju, kot da je na pragu, da postane ples.

– Mateja Bučar

dr. Mateja Bučar je leta 1979 zaključila študij klasične in sodobne baletne tehnike na Pôle National Supérieur de Danse Rosella Hightower v Cannesu (Francija). Leta 1980 se je zaposlila v SNG Opera in balet Ljubljana. Leta 1986 se je pridružila tudi Plesnemu teatru Ljubljana, ki ga je dve leti prej ustanovila Ksenija Hribar. Leta 1999 je ustanovila DUM – Društvo umetnikov, kjer še danes umetniško sodeluje z Vadimom Fiškinom. Njena dela od leta 1992 dalje gostujejo tako v Ljubljani in po Sloveniji kot tudi v tujini, med drugim na Dunaju, v Salzburgu, Berlinu, Moskvi, Milanu, Firencah, Varšavi, Budimpešti, Zagrebu, na Reki, v Stockholmu in Rotterdamu, pri čemer jih umešča v raznolike prostorske kontekste – od gledaliških odrov in galerij do zunanjih urbanih okolij. Leta 2005 je prejela Župančičevo nagrado Mestne občine Ljubljana. Leta 2014 je prejela Ann Sayers Fund Award na Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in City University London, kjer je leta 2015 doktorirala z disertacijo "Aesthetic negativity and choreographic practice". Istega leta ji je Društvo za sodobni ples Slovenije podelilo nagrado Ksenije Hribar za življenjsko delo. Leta 2026 je prejela Prešernovo nagrado.

Slovenski center ITI, je del mednarodne mreže International Theatre Institute ITI, World Organization for Performing Arts, ki jo je leta 1948 v Pragi ustanovil UNESCO z namenom spodbujanja mednarodnega sodelovanja. Deluje pod okriljem Kulturnega zavoda ODER v Ljubljani in povezuje slovenske ustvarjalke z globalnim prostorom gledališča in plesa. Slovenski center ITI razvija in podpira umetniške, izobraževalne in raziskovalne projekte, spodbuja mobilnost umetnic ter omogoča mednarodno izmenjavo znanj in praks v sodobnem kontekstu. S svojim delovanjem prispeva k vidnosti slovenske uprizoritvene umetnosti v mednarodnem prostoru ter krepi dialog med različnimi kulturami in umetniškimi pristopi.

Društvo za sodobni ples Slovenije je osrednja stanovska organizacija, ki povezuje ustvarjalke_, izvajalke_ in druge strokovne sodelavke_ na področju sodobnih plesnih umetnosti v Sloveniji. Deluje kot platforma za zagovorništvo, razvoj in promocijo plesa ter si prizadeva za izboljšanje delovnih pogojev, večjo prepoznavnost in sistemsko podporo temu umetniškemu področju. S svojimi programi, nagradami, mednarodnim sodelovanjem in povezovanjem krepi strokovno skupnost ter prispeva k razvoju vitalnega in družbeno relevantnega umetniškega izraza.

Društvo baletnih umetnikov Slovenije širi promocijo slovenske baletne umetnosti doma in v mednarodnem prostoru, skrbi za njeno ohranjanje ter njen nadaljnji razvoj, deluje v smeri izboljšav njenega statusa in statusa baletnih umetnikov, združuje baletne institucije, podpira, vključuje ter zagovarja baletnega umetnika in nudi podporo baletnim organizacijam in posameznikom s področja baleta in plesa. Osrednji programi Društva baletnih umetnikov Slovenije so osredotočeni na področja predstavljanja, promocije, napredka, zagovorništva, raziskav in ohranjanja slovenske baletne umetnosti.

Javni sklad Republike Slovenije za kulturne dejavnosti je ustanovljen z namenom spodbujanja razvoja na področju ljubiteljskih kulturnih dejavnosti in spodbujanja ustvarjalnosti na kulturnem področju. Na področju plesnih dejavnosti sklad deluje kot ključna nacionalna platforma za razvoj, podporo in promocijo plesne ustvarjalnosti na področju ljubiteljske kulture. S sistematičnim izobraževanjem, organizacijo preglednih srečanj in tekmovanj ter strokovno podporo mentoricam_ in ustvarjalkam_ po vsej Sloveniji sklad omogoča dostopnost plesne umetnosti v različnih okoljih, . spodbuja kakovostno rast plesnih praks, od prvih korakov do naprednih oblik ustvarjanja, ter pomembno prispeva k prepoznavnosti in razvoju plesne kulture v Sloveniji.

O mednarodnem dnevu plesa:

Leta 1982 je na pobudo slovenskega plesalca, koreografa, zgodovinarja opere in baleta, rednega profesorja na Akademiji za glasbo, zdravnika in publicista dr. Henrika Neubauerja (1929 - 2024), Plesni odbor Mednarodnega gledališkega inštituta (International Theatre Institute) razglasil mednarodni dan plesa, ki ga vsako leto obeležujemo 29. aprila, na rojstni dan Jeana-Georges-a Noverra (1727–1810), utemeljitelja modernega baleta. Dr. Henrik Neubauer, ki je tudi avtor prve mednarodne plesne poslanice, je bil več desetletij aktiven član Mednarodnega gledališkega inštituta ITI Worldwide, sprva kot predsednik Slovenskega centra po osamosvojitvi, pozneje kot njegov stalni sodelavec, organizacija pa ga je leta 2017 razglasila za častnega člana. Mednarodni dan plesa je bil zasnovan v duhu praznovanju plesa, poudarjanja univerzalnosti te umetniške oblike, preseganju političnih, kulturnih in etničnih meja ter povezovanju ljudi skozi skupni jezik – ples. Poleg mednarodnih in nacionalnih poslanic se od takrat vsako leto po celem svetu na ta dan odvijajo raznolike dejavnosti, povorke, festivale in akcije v javnem prostoru.

Pobuda za javno obeleževanje dneva plesa ima v slovenskem prostoru več kot petnajstletno zgodovino. Leta 2009 je Društvo baletnih umetnikov Slovenije v sodelovanju s tedaj na novo ustanovljenim Slovenskim centrom ITI pričelo z objavljanim plesnih poslanic. Istega leta je bila pod iniciativo Gorana Bogdanovskega in Fičo Baleta v sodelovanju z regionalno mrežo Nomad Dance Academy vzpostavljena akcija Go out & Dance. Ta je istočasno potekala v Ljubljani, Zagrebu, Beogradu, Skopju, Sarajevu in Sofii. Leta 2010 je Fičo Balet akcijo nadaljeval v sodelovanju z Gledališčem Ana Monro okviru programa Prešerna Ana: Go Out and Dance, ki je potekala v Ljubljani. Naslednje leto se je istoimenski enodnevni festival razširil iz Ljubljane v Maribor in Novo Gorico, pri čemer je kot koproducent sodelovala tudi novo nastala Nomad Dance Academy Slovenija, partnerji pa so bili še MN Dance Company in Živa dvorišča. Leta 2012 je obeleževanje mednarodnega dneva plesa potekalo v Ljubljani, Mariboru, Novi Gorici in Šempetru pri Gorici pod naslovom Prešerna Ana v produkciji Gledališča Ana Monro, pridružil se je še partner Terpsihora – Plesni center Šempeter-Vrtojba. Po večletnem premoru je leta 2019 Javni sklad RS za kulturne dejavnosti ponovno vzpostavil pobudo za pripravo poslanice ob mednarodnem dnevu plesa na področju sodobnega plesa, od leta 2020 dalje pa obeleževanje dneva plesa v javnem prostoru poteka v sodelovanju med Društvom za sodobni ples Slovenije in JSKD. Leta 2026 so k skupni nacionalni poslanici na vabilo Slovenskega centra ITI pristopili DSPS, JSKD in DBUS.

SLOVENIAN MESSAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY 2026

The Slovenian ITI Centre, the Contemporary Dance Association of Slovenia, the Slovenian Ballet Artists Association, and the Public Fund for Cultural Activities Republic of Slovenia have this year invited choreographer Mateja Bučar, recipient of the Prešeren Award for Life Achievements, to write the message for International Dance Day 2026.



Mateja Bučar. Photo: Jože Suhadolnik

Dance–Governance–Grace

Dance is not a mere abstraction of life; it is life itself. It is the sophisticated mechanism of nature and civilization combined—a treasure chest of tools to enable, heal, and invent. On this World Dance Day, we recognize dance not just as a form of art and culture, but as a profound philosophy of the body and a vital strategy for survival.

At its core, dance is a fundamental inquiry into balance. It asks how two bodies, two states of being, or a multiplicity of cultures—perhaps all nations and even religions—can move

together without colliding or destroying one another. It lingers in the fragile space between stability and fall, between the extremes of weight and articulation, in the unpredictability of turns.

To dance, namely, is to master the capacity to be oneself and "the other" simultaneously.

We recall the wit of Molière, who suggested that the tragic blunders of history arise merely from a lack of skill in dancing. If our leaders were obliged to study the discipline of the waltz, the tango, or any other culture-preserving dance, perhaps they would learn to lead with grace and dignity rather than pure force. And, as Confucius implied, the sword should not be granted to those who do not know how to dance.

Today, on World Dance Day, we make a bold demand: let leaders, strategists, economists, bankers, scientists, technologists, and many others study the knowledge of dance in all its forms and manifestations, and thus equipped, steer the world. We must once again learn the skills of “waltzes, tangos, or kolo”—their grace, dignity, attentiveness, and meaning—to restore the frayed bonds of humanity.

Every culture, state, or community in the world carries its own rhythms, songs, and dances of survival: the elegance of tango; the spiritual depth of Saman, Kathak, or Zikr; the precision of the pas de deux; the freedom of contemporary dance; the ecstatic force of shamanic dance; the pulse of breakdance—and much more. The challenge of our time is not just how one culture moves, but how to continually “waltz” with many cultures, states, and religions—and find rhythms and steps that respect the particular while harmonizing the whole. The answer—still largely unnoticed—resides within dancing bodies and minds across the world.

On World Dance Day, and beyond, we are called to reflect on the possibilities dance offers us—as art, as culture, and as a way of thinking and moving. Let us therefore treat every movement, direction, and decision in life as if it were on the verge of becoming a dance.

– Mateja Bučar

dr. Mateja Bučar completed her studies in classical and contemporary ballet technique in 1979 at the Pôle National Supérieur de Danse Rosella Hightower in Cannes (France). In 1980, she joined the Slovenian National Theatre Opera and Ballet Ljubljana. In 1986, she also became a member of the Ljubljana Dance Theatre, founded two years earlier by Ksenija Hribar. In 1999, she founded DUM – Association of Artists, where she continues to collaborate artistically with Vadim Fiškin. Since 1992, her works have been presented both in Ljubljana and across Slovenia, as well as internationally, including in Vienna, Salzburg, Berlin, Moscow, Milan, Florence, Warsaw, Budapest, Zagreb, Rijeka, Stockholm, and Rotterdam. Her projects are conceived for diverse spatial contexts, ranging from theatre stages and gallery spaces to outdoor urban environments. In 2005, she received the Župančič Award of the City of Ljubljana. In 2014, she obtained the Ann Sayers Fund Award at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in collaboration with City University of London, where she completed her PhD in 2015 with the dissertation *Aesthetic Negativity and Choreographic Practice*. In the same year, she received the Ksenija Hribar Lifetime Achievement Award from the Slovenian

Contemporary Dance Association. In 2026, she was awarded the Prešeren Prize, Slovenia's highest national award for the arts.

The Slovenian Centre ITI is part of an international network in the field of performing arts, the International Theatre Institute ITI, World Organization for Performing Arts, founded in Prague in 1948 by UNESCO. In Slovenia, it operates under the auspices of the ODER Cultural Institute in Ljubljana and connects Slovenian artists with the global theatre and dance landscape. The Slovenian ITI Centre develops and supports artistic, educational, and research projects, promotes the mobility of artists, and enables international exchange of knowledge and practices in a contemporary context. Through its activities, it contributes to the visibility of Slovenian performing arts internationally and strengthens dialogue between different cultures and artistic approaches.

The Contemporary Dance Association of Slovenia is the central professional association connecting creators, performers, and other professionals in the field of contemporary dance in Slovenia. It operates as a platform for advocacy, development, and promotion of dance, striving to improve working conditions, increase visibility, and strengthen systemic support for this artistic field. Through its programmes, awards, international collaborations, and networking activities, it reinforces the professional community and contributes to the development of a vital and socially relevant artistic expression.

The Association of Ballet Artists of Slovenia promotes Slovenian ballet art both nationally and internationally, ensures its preservation and further development, and works towards improving its status as well as the status of ballet artists. It brings together ballet institutions, supports, includes, and advocates for ballet artists, and provides support to ballet organizations and individuals working in the fields of ballet and dance. Its core programmes focus on presentation, promotion, advancement, advocacy, research, and the preservation of Slovenian ballet art.

Public Fund for Cultural Activities of the Republic of Slovenia was established with the aim of fostering development in the field of amateur cultural activities and encouraging creativity in the cultural sector. In the area of dance activities, the Fund operates as a key national platform for the development, support, and promotion of dance creativity within amateur culture. Through systematic education, the organization of showcase events and competitions, and professional support for mentors and creators throughout Slovenia, the Fund ensures accessibility of dance art in diverse environments, encourages high-quality growth of dance practices – from initial steps to advanced forms of creation — and makes a significant contribution to the recognition and development of dance culture in Slovenia.

About the International Dance Day

In 1982, at the initiative of Slovenian dancer, choreographer, opera and ballet historian, professor at the Academy of Music, medical doctor, and writer Dr Henrik Neubauer (1929–2024), the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) proclaimed International Dance Day. It is celebrated annually on 29 April, the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), the founder of modern ballet. Dr Henrik Neubauer, also the author of the first international dance message, was an active member of ITI Worldwide for several decades—initially as President of the Slovenian Centre after Slovenia's independence, and later as its long-standing collaborator. In 2017, the organization named him an honorary member. International Dance Day was conceived in the spirit of celebrating dance, emphasizing the universality of this art form, transcending political, cultural, and ethnic boundaries, and connecting people through a shared language—dance. Since then, in addition to international and national messages, a wide range of activities, parades, festivals, and public-space events have taken place worldwide each year on this day.

The initiative to publicly mark International Dance Day in Slovenia has a history of more than fifteen years. In 2009, the Slovenian Ballet Artists Association, in collaboration with the newly established Slovenian ITI Centre,

began publishing dance messages. In the same year, the initiative *Go Out & Dance* was launched by Goran Bogdanovski and Fičo Balet in collaboration with the regional network Nomad Dance Academy, taking place simultaneously in Ljubljana, Zagreb, Belgrade, Skopje, Sarajevo, and Sofia. In 2010, Fičo Balet continued the initiative in collaboration with Gledališče Ana Monro within the programme *Prešerna Ana: Go Out and Dance* in Ljubljana. The following year, the one-day festival expanded from Ljubljana to Maribor and Nova Gorica, with the newly established Nomad Dance Academy Slovenia as co-producer, alongside partners MN Dance Company and Živa dvorišča. In 2012, International Dance Day was marked in Ljubljana, Maribor, Nova Gorica, and Šempeter pri Gorici under the title *Prešerna Ana*, produced by Gledališče Ana Monro, joined by partner Terpsihora – Dance Centre Šempeter–Vrtojba. Following several years of interruption, in 2019 the Public Fund for Cultural Activities of the Republic of Slovenia reinstated the initiative to prepare the message for International Dance Day in the field of contemporary dance. Since 2020, the public marking of International Dance Day has been carried out in collaboration between the Slovenian Contemporary Dance Association and JSKD. In 2026, at the invitation of the Slovenian ITI Centre the Slovenian Contemporary Dance Association, JSKD, and the Slovenian Ballet Artists Association jointly contributed to the national dance message.