

STUTTGART

Solo Choreo

11 MARCH 2026

* 30 *
COMPETITION



Internationales

SOLO
TANZ
THEATER

Festival | Stuttgart

12 - 15 March 2026
International Competition

Support Young Talent in Contemporary Dance!

For 30 years, the Internationales Solo-Tanz-Theater Festival Stuttgart has provided a unique platform for emerging artists from around the world. Due to significant financial constraints, we need your support to continue encouraging and supporting young dancers and choreographers in their artistic development. Your donation helps secure the promotion of new talent and maintain an international network that has been built up over 30 years. Help us preserve the diversity and future of contemporary dance. Every contribution makes a difference – thank you for your support!

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Dear Festival Guests,



Marcelo Santos
Artistic Director

Elly Walch
Festival Director

It is a very special year for us – we are celebrating our 30th anniversary! What once began as a bold idea has now become an integral part of the international dance scene. Many of the artists who shape the dance world today once stood here, on our stage.

Over the past 30 years, we have continuously worked on showcasing the broad spectrum of contemporary dance from around the world and have deliberately opened our perspective to art from various regions all over the world where artists continue to develop the boundaries of contemporary dance. The diversity of the dance world and its current dynamics are reflected in the competition entries as well as in the international jury. In this way, the festival continually receives new impulses and, even after 30 years, remains as innovative as in its very first year! In order to reflect this international focus, we have, for the first time, fully committed to English in our booklet this year.

The opening event Stuttgart Solo Choreo, realised in cooperation with Produktionszentrum Tanz + Performance e. V., builds a bridge between the international dance scene and the local dance community here in Stuttgart and the region. This collaboration high-

lights how important local roots and networks are to us, alongside our international impact.

Unfortunately, our anniversary falls in a year marked by major financial challenges. The cuts in the 2026/2027 double budget of the City of Stuttgart have a drastic impact on our festival, and we were forced to cancel the accompanying programme, among other painful constraints. In order to be able to continue hosting this unique festival and to offer a platform to young talents in the future, we need your support. Please share our appeal for donations and help us with your support – we are grateful for every contribution! This festival has created a special place to promote young talent which needs to be protected and preserved.

Of course, a festival lives not only from the art on stage, but also from the people who bring it to life. To you, our audience, we would like to express a warm and heartfelt thank you for your loyalty and support. We are happy and proud of what we have achieved together over the past three decades and look forward to celebrating this anniversary with you!

STUTTGART

Solo Choreo

11 MARCH 2026

* 07 *



Photo: Jo Grabovskij

WEDNESDAY 11/03, 20:00

Who hurt you?

Choreography & Performance: Jonas Florian

Something makes her walk

Choreography: Sawako Nunotani

Performance: Daura Hernández García

The day I journaled about that Cataclysmic event

Choreography & Performance: Stella Covi

Walking away from an explosion in slow motion

Choreography: Zina Vaessen, Selina Koch

Performance: Selina Koch

UPLOAD

Choreography: Ioannis Edgar Avetikyan

Performance: Gilda De Vecchis

back2before

Choreography & Performance: Martina Gunkel

Music & Artistic Idea: Janic Carmona alias Baldman C.

Curators: Marcelo Santos, Laura Sommerfeld, Elly Walch,
Petra Mostbacher-Dix, Birgit Brinkmann

In cooperation with
Produktionszentrum Tanz + Performance e. V.

PZ PRODUKTIONSZENTRUM
TANZ + PERFORMANCE e.V.

Choreography & Performance: Jonas Florian
Music: "Do you?" – TroyBoi, "Give it" – Betta Lemme, "No More Hiding" – Subsets, "Night Club" – Tenda

Who hurt you?



The piece explores the process of forgiveness – toward others, but above all toward oneself. It reflects the inner conflict between grief, anger, shame, and the longing to release feelings of guilt. The solo traces the emotional journey of an individual who learns to accept their own mistakes and let them go. Forgiveness is not a single act, but a process – a dance with oneself. Only by forgiving oneself can true freedom be found. A gesture of love, hope, and courage.

Jonas Florian

- Trained at the Minkov Dance Academy
- Focusing on diversity through contemporary, ballet, commercial, heels, etc.
- Dancer at Helene Fischer Show with the musical "Die Pöpstin", Festspielhaus Neuschwanstein, "Die Fledermaus", Theater an der Rott, "The Fairy Queen", JOiN / Staatsoper Stuttgart
- Choreographer and dancer in fashion shows for UhlSPORT and Kempa

Choreography: Sawako Nunotani
Performance: Daura Hernández García
Music: "Yo Yo-Ma" (originally composed J.S. Bach – Cello Suite No. 2 C-Dur, Sarabande) – Takashi Tajima

Something makes her walk



We know how to walk. Is that really true? She questions the process of walking. She asks herself: Am I walking the way I want to, or am I walking toward an environment I already know? This short piece focuses on the process through which our inner will and decisions lead to actions.

Sawako Nunotani

- Choreographer and dancer trained in Japan
- Moves between elements of dance, music, visual arts and various formats (e. g. "Night of Experiment", "Today's dance", a dance series for one spectator, "Prayer", a dance theater with visual arts)
- Presents her works in Europe and Asia
- 2022 founded the artist collective "Kollektiv dots" with artists from various disciplines

Daura Hernández García

- Canarian choreographer, dancer and actress, who has been living in Stuttgart since 2013
- Collaborates with various companies and develops her own pieces in which body and voice merge
- Worked as a performer with Jorge Crecis, Juliette Villemin, MEINHARDT & KRAUSS, Tanzspeicher Würzburg and the Staatstheater Stuttgart, among others
- Recent works include "PUTA" (2023) and "People holding things" (2024)
- Recipient of the Tanja Liedtke Choreographic Award 2023

WED
11/03, 20:00



Photo: Stella Covi

Sneakers, cap, urban outfit. Zero. Voice and body share equal presence on stage, merging rhythm, sound, and movement into a single expressive field. This solo explores a return to raw, unfiltered physicality, with the voice as its most revealing and vulnerable extension. It follows Zero, a character at a decisive turning point, moving through fragmented memories and futuristic visions in a suspended, imagined space. Curious, bold, and unafraid of imperfection, Zero balances vulnerability and play. An invitation to inhabit a liminal space where each gesture becomes an act of remembering.

Stella Covi

- FLINTA* movement artist and choreographer based in Stuttgart
- Trained at ESDC and ZHdK (BA Contemporary Dance)
- 2018-2022 member of Theater Pforzheim's dance company
- Since then freelancing, engaging in interdisciplinary collaborations with international artists and choreographers such as Alexander Gottfarb, Katherina Senzenberger, Susanna Curitis among others
- Supported by Kulturamt Stuttgart, she created "Le Disobbedienti" (2024) and is developing "Mycelic Motions" (premiering 2026)
- MA in Arts & Culture Management



Photo: Yen Lee

This solo explores how sudden ruptures resonate within the body. In pared-down, powerful images, dancer Selina Koch reveals both instinctive and belated responses, searching for ways to transform fear. Can the fragile threshold be reached where fear no longer results in paralysis but becomes a force of metamorphosis? The stage turns into a laboratory for creatively confronting destructiveness.

Zina Vaessen

- Freelance choreographer and dancer, researcher, teacher, host, guest
- Based in Freiburg and Basel
- Studied at TIP-bewegungs-art e. V., Staatliche Musikhochschule Trossingen, Université de Genève
- 2013-2018 member of Tanzkompanie OFFSPACE Kassel
- Since 2015 developing own choreographic works
- Since 2020 teaches Movement Research and Composition at TIP-bewegungs-art e. V.

Selina Koch

- Freelance dancer and choreographer based in Stuttgart
- Studied at the University of Music and Dance, Cologne and at KHIO (Oslo National Academy of the Arts)
- Worked with Smadar Goshen, Johannes Blattner, Katja Büchtemann, Hege Haagenrud, Sawako Nunotani, Milan Pešl, Julia Brendle, a. o.
- Guest dancer with Theater der Jungen Welt Leipzig, Junges Ensemble Stuttgart, Bruchwerk Theater and Apollo Theater Siegen
- Created several (short) works and received multiple awards for the duet "Remanenz" in collaboration with Mira Pikat

WED
11/03, 20:00



Photo: Diana Lecchi

“UPLOAD” is a dance solo exploring the many dimensions of waiting. From everyday pauses at a bus stop, for a message, or a job application reply, it stretches to deeper waits such as: for the world to change, for peace, for crises to end, for the earth to heal, or for a mother to finally say “I love you.” A large scarf, inspired by “The Little Prince”, weaves through the dance as a symbol of hope and the invisible threads connecting our desires to the future.

Ioannis Edgar Avetikyan

- Choreographer and contemporary dance artist working as a freelancer across Europe
- His works include “EmptiNess” – Alkmini Theatre (Athens), “The Miracle of Energy” for the company Re-Battery Recycling, “Let’s Duet” – Wee Dance Company Germany and K.I.S.S. Festival Athens, and some more
- Practice based on contemporary dance and theatrical element, characterized by physical intensity, dramaturgical structure, and a strong interest in multidisciplinary collaboration

Gilda De Vecchis

- Contemporary dancer who has worked with companies and choreographers such as the Wee Dance Company, Tanzcompagnie G.H. Theater and Jonathan Reimann
- Graduated from Accademia Susanna Beltrami (DanceHaus, Milan) and deepened her knowledge through workshops and intensive training in contemporary techniques, including Gaga and SKID
- Background in rhythmic gymnastics, pole dancing, and aerial silks, contributing to a strong sense of body awareness and great versatility in movement

Choreography: Ioannis Edgar Avetikyan
 Performance: Gilda De Vecchis
 Music: “Spectacle Of Ritual” – Kali Malone



Photo: Jonas Hardt / Suzan Stouhart

WED
 11/03, 20:00

I want to feel. Surrender.
 Being carried away.
 The beat, our flesh,
 my beating heart.
 Connected.

Martina Gunkel

- Freelance dancer, performer and choreographer based in Stuttgart
- Bachelor of Performing Arts (Modern Dance Theater) at Fontys, Netherlands
- Part of the artistic team of SAALFREI, a platform for improvisation art in Stuttgart
- Works with Blomst!, Johannes Blattner, Yahi Nestor Gahe, vloeistof, Silent Ladies, Daura Hernández García, Efecto R

Janic Carmona alias Baldman C.

- House DJ and producer in Stuttgart
- 2013 started with Techno Beats
- Since 2019 playing and producing House music
- Style: creamy pane vibes, breakhouse rhythms, raw minimal beats
- Resident at Schimmer Record Collective

Choreography & Performance: Martina Gunkel
 Music & Artistic Idea: Janic Carmona alias Baldman C.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

THURSDAY 12/03, 20:00

ritournelle n. 1 "chaOsmos"

Choreography & Performance: Thomas Barbarisi (France)

Just an ordinary woman

Choreography: Natasa Frantzi (Greece)
Performance: Valentina Di Lullo (Italy)

Primal Echoes

Choreography: Valerio Iurato (Italy)
Performance: Samuel van der Veer (The Netherlands)

Sommeil Ambulant

Choreography & Performance:
Guy Roland Kah (Republic Côte d'Ivoire)

A Heavy Parting

Choreography & Performance: Yingyu Lyu (China)

Mother Gone

Choreography: Ashley Davis (USA)
Performance: Tom Blanc (France)

FRIDAY 13/03, 20:00

locker_room

Choreography: Giovanni Careccia (Italy)
Performance: Alessandro Bonacina (Italy)

Why Theater

Choreography & Performance: Lisha Chen (China)

Go Figure

Choreography & Performance: Paul Davidson
(Great Britain)

I Could Also Be a Black Swan

Choreography & Performance: Klil Ela Rotshtain (Israel)

Mickey

Choreography: Adi Schwarz (Czech Republic/Israel)
Performance: Michele Simi (Italy)

INTERFERENCE

Choreography: Alessandra Scalabrino (Italy)
Performance: Rachele Masciocchi (Italy)

SATURDAY 14/03, 20:00

Perda Perdida

Choreography: Nina Plantefève-Castryck (Belgium)
Performance: Beatriz Baptista (Portugal)

Any (ID)ea?

Choreography & Performance: Liam Meier (Switzerland)

Metamorph

Choreography & Performance:
Sophie Tukker (The Netherlands)

The Source

Choreography: Javier Ubell (USA)
Performance: Anja Dermer (Germany)

I believe it because it's absurd

Choreography & Performance: Ondine Malfoy (France)

Room for sadness

Choreography & Performance: Wojciech Furman (Poland)

SUNDAY 15/03, 17:00

Grand Finale with the finalists selected by an international jury on Saturday evening & Award Ceremony

Livestream: vhs-stuttgart.de
www.solo-tanz-theater.de

Save the Date! Gala of the Award Winners

The award winners of this year's festival will return to Stuttgart in November to kick off their tour throughout southern Germany.

Tickets available from September 2026 via the Stuttgart Ballet
Fri 13/11/26, 8 p.m. / Sat 14/11/26, 8 p.m.

Kammertheater der
Staatstheater Stuttgart

THE
STUTTGART
BALLET

In cooperation with
the Stuttgart Ballet

PREMIERE

Through Deleuze and Guattari's concept of the ritournelle, Thomas Barbarisi explores this fundamental loop as a refuge from chaos. By repeating a humming tune – his own ritournelle – he seeks to make peace with the forgotten child within him. This performance invites the audience to an intense and sensitive experience, where everyone can hear their own ritournelle resonate.

Thomas Barbarisi (France)

- 2024 Founded his company La Main Frêle
- Worked as an assistant choreographer on numerous projects
- Joined La Fabrique de la Danse choreographer's incubator to launch his first creation
- Dancer for Le Ballet de Danse Physique Contemporaine
- Filmmaker, won several international awards for his first two short films



PREMIERE

Independent. Dynamic. Wife. Worker. Mother. Lover. Being. The modern woman chases impossible expectations, striving for perfection in every role while ignoring her own limits. A dialogue unfolds between her inner voice and the body that obeys, pushed far beyond what is sometimes humanly tolerable, caught between duty and desire in this multitasking reality.

Natasa Frantzi (Greece)

- First Prize winner for Choreography at Les Lendemains qui dansent
- Nominated at Tanz Preise, RIDCC, Machol Shalem, No Ballet Competition, La Grande Scène
- Worked with UnterwegsTheater, Compagnie Hybrid, Greig Bourgoyne, La Verita Dance Company
- Performed repertoire by Ultima Vez, Alston, and Lawrens with Hellenic Dance Company
- Collaborated with Oldenburg Staatstheater, Dance Loft, Grenzlandtheater Aachen, Ballet du Nord

Valentina Di Lullo (Italy)

- Graduate of ACTS École de danse contemporaine de Paris
- 2022-2024 Performed for Alex Kros in Switzerland and Belgium
- 2018-2021 Performed with Imperfect Dancers, choreographers Walter Matteini & Ina Broeckx (Italy)
- 2021 Performed for Claude Brumachon & Benjamin Lamarche (France)
- 2020 Intern with Ivgi & Greben (The Netherlands)



THU
12/03, 20:00

Primal Echoes



PREMIERE

In a world where artificial intelligence races ahead, our human forms lag behind, bound by primordial constraints. This dance piece captures the growing tension of our obsolescence in the shadow of superintelligence, a timely reflection on the urgent challenges of our era.

Valerio Iurato (Italy)

- Currently completing a Master's degree in Movement Research at Anton Bruckner Private University
- Professional Training in classical and contemporary at I.D.A. International Dance Academy (Ravenna, Italy) and Real Conservatorio Profesional de Danza (Madrid, Spain)
- 2012-2025 Imperfect Dancers Company
- 2015-2021 TanzLinz – Landestheater Linz
- International performing career
- Since 2021 Freelancing choreographer: Landestheater Linz, Anton Bruckner Private University, Brucknerhaus, OÖ Stiftkonzerte, etc.
- Teacher of Contemporary Dance and Argentine Tango

Samuel van der Veer (The Netherlands)

- 2020-2024 Nederlands Dans Theater II, The Hague, NL
- 2024-present Freelance projects
- 2025 Restaging "Cluster" by Edward Clug for Maribor State Opera Ballet, Performer in the creation of Simulacro with Kor'Sia, Composer for SENE SCENSE by Camiel Corneille, Korzo Theater, Restaging Cacti by Alexander Ekman for Cincinnati Ballet, Composer for "Once... Never... and again..." by Jermaine Spivey, NDT2
- 2026 Composer for an original creation by Lilit Hakobyan, Ballett Theater Basel
- Judge / Faculty Member – Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP)
- Recurring Guest Teacher at dance educations and summer programs

Choreography: Valerio Iurato
Performance: Samuel van der Veer
Music: Primal Echoes (original composition) by Kaperotxipi

Sommeil Ambulant



THU
12/03, 20:00

"The phenomenon of cybercrime has taken on a new dimension with the use of technology to harass and intimidate individuals in a sadistic manner, which can have psychological consequences. I highlight the eternal inner trauma of these young people following repeated and prolonged experiences of serious physical violence. I embody both the perpetrator and the victim, whose roles merge. But let me be clear: your actions always catch up with you at night, at the latest, hence the stress reaction I am experiencing."

Guy Roland Kah (Republic Côte d'Ivoire)

- Choreographic Assistant to Austrian choreographer Helge Letonja in Germany as part of the Goethe Institute's "Jeune créateur"
- Part of the "Journée Pina" event under the direction of Cléménine Delouy and Jorge Puerta, two members of Pina Bausch company
- Choreographic coaching with Ivorian-French choreographer Abdoulaye Konate
- World premiere of "L'Enfant et les Oiseaux" (The Child and the Birds) at the Festival de la Danse de Paris
- World premiere of "Sommeil ambulant" at the International Dance Biennale, Abidjan
- Collaboration with the Young Artist Company in Germany on the Liquid Gold project
- Collaboration with the Of Curious Nature Company and steptext dance project in Germany
- Assistant choreographer in Germany to choreographer Helge Letonja on the piece "NOMADA"

Choreography & Performance: Guy Roland Kah
Music: Original sound

A Heavy Parting



Photo: Maciej Moskwa

This solo was inspired by a sick friend. Death is always silent yet overwhelming. For a moment, the soul feels weightless, leaving only the body behind. The movements are light and smooth like a feather, contrasting the heaviness of parting. It invites the audience to reflect on the world of life, death, and separation.

Yingyu Lyu (China)

- Chinese choreographer & contemporary dance artist
- Dual Master's degrees – CNSMDP (France) & NENU (China)
- Internationally presented works in Europe & Asia
- Choreographer & performer at 2026 Rouen Opera House – Un Requiem allemand Brahms (France)
- 2025 SOLOCOREOGRAFICO Best Performance & Audience Award
- 2025 Rome International Dance Competition 3rd Prize
- ChoreoComp 2025 Royal Koninklijk Conservatorium Hague (The Netherlands)
- Danced at 2025 Fabbrica Europa Festival (Italy), 36th Florence Dance Performing Arts Festival (Italy), 14th Gdańsk Dance Festival (Poland)
- Performer at 2024 Paris Olympic Games Opening Ceremony, France
- Featured at Centre Pompidou (France), Cannes Dance Festival (France) and Tunis Opera Dance Festival (Tunisia)
- 2020 Korea International Cultural Exchange Top & Gold Award

Choreography: Ashley Davis
Performance: Tom Blanc
Music: "Altiplano" by Matt Emen, "Ana Le Habiby" by Fairuz, "Kiko" by Dead Can Dance

Mother Gone



Photo: Mattia Trimattera

PREMIERE

"Mother Gone" explores the fantasies and contradictions of womanhood. The dancer journeys through confusion and detachment from their child to embrace the freedom and joy of womanhood. As this fantasy fades, they are confronted with the consuming weight of being a woman. It's a haunting lullaby suspended between love and loss, where womanhood dissolves and reforms.

Ashley Davis (USA)

- Currently in the third year of the Bachelor of Dance program at Codarts, Rotterdam, NL
- 2024 Graduate of the Chicago Academy for the Arts, Chicago, USA
- 2019-2024 Dancer with Visceral Studio Company of Visceral Dance Chicago, USA
- 2025 Youngest and only female to choreograph for Noverre: Young Choreographers for her original work "Ad Vitam Aeternam" performed by the Stuttgart Ballet
- 2025 Overall winner and the youngest and only American female finalist in the worldwide choreography competition: YAGP Marcella Hymowitz Creative Fellowship Award

Tom Blanc (France)

- Currently in the second year of the Bachelor of Dance program at Codarts, Rotterdam, NL
- 2023-2024 Member of the Sabbat Collective in Brignoles
- 2022-2024 Dancer with the Young Ballet Entr'scène in Hyères
- 2021-2023 Trained at the Grand Avignon Regional Dance Conservatory, France

THU
12/03, 20:00



Photo: Pamela Rovaris

“locker_room” probes an athlete’s mind and body in the ultimate place of beginnings and endings: the locker room. Solitude, fragility, and the sting of defeat emerge on stage. What stays in the body? One must train without pause, stay sharp, ready to face and rediscover oneself. Must performance always peak or may one fail?

Giovanni Careccia (Italy)

- 2018 Graduated from Centro ArteMente in Milan
- Performed in works by various choreographers
- 2018 Dancer with Lost Movement Company; since 2024 Associate Artist of the Company
- 2020 Created “After All”, an award-winning work widely presented across Italy between 2021 and 2025
- 2020-2024, his creations were supported by Equilibrio Dinamico and Sanpapiè
- Since 2023 Tutor for authorial creation at Centro ArteMente
- 2025 Created “locker_room”, co-produced by FLIC – Festival Lanciano in Contemporanea and supported by Fondazione Cariplo, Centro ArteMente, and Movimento Danza

Alessandro Bonacina (Italy)

- Since 2022 Student at Centro ArteMente in Milan
- 2024 Participated in new productions by internationally recognized choreographers, presented in Italy and Germany
- 2025 Dancer at Lost Movement Company, collaborated with other Italian dance companies
- 2025 Performed in “locker_room” for Lost Movement Company

Choreography: Giovanni Careccia
Performance: Alessandro Bonacina
Music: “Locker Room” by Filippo Ripamonti



Photo: Ky-Anh Tran

The theater is a field where the inner world encounters the outer world. “Why Theater” is an improvisation based work, and its first part appears as a dance film: The story of a Chinese dancer living in Europe, in the film the camera symbolizes the other, when she confronts the camera, this gaze becomes a form of resistance against destiny and social expectations. When you witness this persistence, this constant searching within an apparently empty life, can we then admit the existence of free will?

Lisha Chen (China)

- Dancer and choreographer, based in Berlin
- Trained in Chinese classical dance, hip-hop, ballet and contemporary dance
- Bachelor’s degree in Choreography (China)
- Work presented at Dance on Screen Graz (10th edition), Hosek Contemporary Berlin, Kulturhaus Karlshorst, Maraméo, Mörgens Theater (Aachen)
- 2024-2025: Member of Urban Dance Ensemble Ruhr; worked with Julio César Iglesias & Hans van den Broeck, Rauf “Rubberlegs” Yasit, Muhammed Kaltuk

Choreography & Performance: Lisha Chen
Music: “Them” by Nils Frahm

FRI
13/03, 20:00



PREMIERE

This dance explores the way that lack of self-belief can hold you back. You have to "feel the fear and do it anyway".

Paul Davidson (Great Britain)

- Contemporary and street dancer and choreographer
- Graduated at London Contemporary Dance School with both a Bachelor (BA) and Master (MA) in Dance Performance
- National Youth Dance Company (NYDC) Alumnus
- Performing extensively with Corali Dance Company and with Thick&Tight
- Toured nationally with NYDC (Damien Jalet, Sharon Eyal, Botis Seva) and was commissioned to choreograph/direct the inclusive dance film, *Escape the Nowhere*, which involved Tin Arts, Wheelfever, Corali and NYDC
- Appeared in Tim Yip's film "Love Infinity" and Thick&Tight's recently released "Adieu"
- Makes his own dance videos at Paul Davidson Dance, his YouTube Channel
- 2024 Founded Resonance Dance, a production/dance company dedicated to providing expressive platforms for emergent performers/choreographers



PREMIERE

The conversations you have with yourself inside your head make a house for the different characters within. Creating a meeting point between the physical being and all the beings in it. The building of a body – a living building, in which they live – all of them. Welcome to myself. In an exposed and vulnerable solo, the performer wishes to co-exist with her different personalities and in between them. To make peace with the ugly and imperfect, with the outer and inner self. Through text and movement she navigates questions about femininity, sexuality and the world she lives in.

Klil Ela Rotshtain (Israel)

- Dancer and performer, currently based in Germany
- 2022-2026 Full time company member in Tanz_Kassel
- 2021-2022 Intern in Tanz_Kassel
- 2021 Graduated from Maslool dance program in Tel Aviv
- Early dance education: Ga'aton dance school, K.C.D.C excellence program and Haifa Center of Excellence in Dance
- Recipient of a Full year training scholarship from Szloma-Albam foundation Berlin, the A.I.C.F scholarship and the "young talent" award from the Fördergesellschaft Staatstheater Kassel

FRI
13/03, 20:00

Mickey



Photo: Pablo Lorente

“‘Mickey’ builds on my ongoing fascination with music, pushing the technique of ‘Mickey Mousing’ to its extreme as choreography and sound become almost indistinguishable. The piece stages a constant battle in which the music tries to restrict and dictate the dancer, while the performer pushes back to break through its control. I composed original music that mirrors every shift in the body, creating a tight dialogue between precision, playfulness and resistance.”

Adi Schwarz (Czech Republic/Israel)

- Choreographer and dancer, exploring the intersections of music, movement and theatricality
- Joined the Batsheva Ensemble at 18, performing for three years in works by Ohad Naharin and other leading choreographers
- Since 2023 independent artist, presenting creations across Europe and internationally
- His works have been shown in festivals, theaters, and residencies, and commissioned by companies and institutions worldwide

Michele Simi (Italy)

- Performer, artistically shaped in Rotterdam, trained at Codarts
- Collaborated with contemporary creators including Rutkay Özpınar and Zino Schat
- Recent projects include work with Nulsis Zobop and Stray Birds Dance Platform
- In 2025, he appears in Adi Schwarz’s new works “Boys in the Sand” and “Mickey”

Choreography: Adi Schwarz
Performance: Michele Simi
Music: The Ballad of Mack the Knife – Münchner Rundfunkorchester, Original Music: Adi Schwarz

INTERFERENCE



Photo: Cristiano Castaldi

In a time when the noise of appearances prevails and social media imposes fleeting ideals, the essence of art and beauty seems to fade. Contemporary humans are disoriented in a world that has forgotten depth, silence, and the truth of feelings. Amid the interference, something aligns for a moment, bringing light and harmony to the chaos. A suspended, fragile instant that invites us to remember what the world tries to forget.

Alessandra Scalabrino (Italy)

- Since 2017 Freelance choreographer for schools, dance companies and renowned international dance festivals
- Founder of the DT Junior Ballet, presents her works throughout Italian theatres
- Ballet dancer at “Là dove muore il tempo” di Aurelio Gatti; Soloist for the show “Complement’Arts”
- Ballet dancer at Compagnia Zappalà Danza di Roberto Zappalà
- Choreographic Composition wins third place at the PID International Dance Award “Città di Rieti”, selected for the 24th Certamen Internacional de Coreografía Burgos-New York
- Guest choreographer for numerous contest and state and municipal theater ensembles, including the Stara Zagora National Theater

Rachele Masciocchi (Italy)

- Performed with internationally renowned choreographers, including Mauro Astolfi, Beatrice Bodini, Adriano Bolognino, during the three-year program at DAF Dance Arts Faculty
- Choreographer training course with Michele Abbondanza
- Training at Scuola di danza Tersicore, Ostia, Balletto di Roma and Dance Arts Faculty

PREMIERE

Choreography: Alessandra Scalabrino
Performance: Rachele Masciocchi
Music: Davidson Jaconello Igp 2.3 Beethoven

FRI
13/03, 20:00

Perda Perdida



Photo: Jose Caldeira

PREMIERE

A poetic journey unfolds through the quiet depths of grief – a grief too intimate to voice. Between memory and absence, in a world where such pain is silenced, Perda Perdida gives space to the invisible. A reflection on living alongside loss, finding movement in stillness and strength in shared womanhood.

Nina Plantefève-Castricky (Belgium)

- Studied at the Royal Balletschool of Antwerp
- Winner Sytycd Belgium 2011
- Dancer in companies such as Tanzcompagnie Gießen, Landes Bühnen Sachsen, Conny Janssen Danst and Korzo theater
- Prize winner “All in one”, Internationales Solo-Tanz-Theater Festival Stuttgart 2019
- Freelance dancer / choreographer in Belgium in theaters as KVS, Hetpaleis, Corso
- Choreographer “It’s between you and me” in co-production with Irene K.
- Develops projects with young children and young adults, performing in Belgium theaters and museums

Beatriz Baptista (Portugal)

- Freelance dancer with a BA in Modern Theater Dance by Academy for Theater and Dance, Amsterdam
- Alumni of FAICC – Advanced Formation in Interpretation and Choreographic Creation in Porto, Portugal
- Performer for Sabine Molenaar-Sandman Dance Company, Eduardo Breda, Ensemble Atores, Nina Plantefève and WArD/waRD-Ann Van den Broek (intern 2022)

Choreography: Nina Plantefève-Castricky
Performance: Beatriz Baptista
Music: Abel Baeck & Filipe Abreu

Any (ID)ea?



Photo: David Prandini

“Any (ID)ea?” is about identity and how we navigate it; exploring the overwhelming names and labels that society gives us to define ourselves which drives us away from subtlety and the complexity of our beings, and, finally, taking distance from them and getting closer to the essence of who we are.

Liam Meier (Switzerland)

- Studied at Rosella Hightower Dance School and Hamburg Ballet School
- 2025 Bachelor at the Palucca University, Dresden
- 2025 Choreographer of “Any (ID)ea?”, their graduation piece, which toured in Germany and Italy
- Mover looking for new ways to approach movement, researching within their own personal experiences and focusing on the process, on growth rather than achievements

Choreography & Performance: Liam Meier
Music: Track 1 – “Ya Rayah” by Rachid Taha /
Track 2 – “Summer solstice” by Susan Drone

SAT
14/03, 20:00

Metamorph



Photo: Carmine Vighiati

PREMIERE

Like life itself, we move through many phases: we learn, we grow, we shed, and we evolve. Each experience leaves a trace, shaping the next version of who we become. By the end, a single form emerges, carrying within it all the selves that came before. It is not about becoming something new, but about becoming everything you have ever been, all at once. The metamorphosis never truly ends; it loops, folds, and continues within the body.

Sophie Tukker (The Netherlands)

- Graduated from Fontys Academy of the Arts and studied at Codarts, Rotterdam
- 2025-present: Dancer at Danstheater Lien – “Zoë”
- 2025-present: Dancer in the opera “Semele” – Dutch National Opera & Ballet
- 2023-present: Dancer at ISH Dance Collective, “Dorian”, “Amsterdam 750”
- 2022-present: Co-founder of “Mind in Movement”, “Calling Myself” (winners, Netherlands Choreographic Competition 2022), “Beyond 26” (MittelYoung, winners Voci dell’Anima, Essenziale Festival Germany, Heel Amsterdam Danst, Essenziale V Florence, C10 Fest, Move Off festival), “Everything That Led To This” (Lugar Futuro 2026)
- 2021-2022: Dancer at Conny Janssen Danst, “HOME”, “So Here We Are Now” (Conny Janssen) and “Now You Can Swallow Her” (Astrid Boons)

Choreography & Performance: Sophie Tukker
Music: Michael Wall – Maquina de Humo – David Toop – Sea Slug

The Source



Photo: Mel Rangel

PREMIERE

In this solo, we see a performer establishing a connection with a single light source. The light serves as a source of creativity and energy; its influence shapes the performer’s experiences and decisions. In the end, the question arises: Is he able to accept himself as an individual, or must he surrender to his dependence on the light?

Javier Ubell (USA)

- Studied at the School of American Ballet in New York City
- Professional engagements with Oregon Ballet Theatre (2007), Gärtnerplatztheater Munich (2013–2019) and Staatsballett Hannover (since 2019)
- 2021 Choreographed “Zum Licht”, selected for the 35th International Choreography Competition Hannover
- Choreographed “A.Dying” invited to the International Choreography Competition Detmold and the SoloCoreografico Festival Frankfurt
- Co-founder of the SP.A.CE Case Collective

Anja Dermer (Germany)

- Freelance dancer based in Hannover, Germany
- 2018-2021 Achieved her dance diploma from Dansart TANZNETWORKS Bielefeld
- Featured in works from Dan Tchekpo Agbetou, Marc Clout, Hsuan Cheng Floth and Dirk Kazmierczak

Choreography: Javier Ubell / Performance: Anja Dermer
Music: “Chrysalis” by Javier Ubell, “Clair de Lune” by Claude Debussy

SAT
14/03, 20:00

I believe it because it's absurd

PREMIERE

Choreography & Performance: Ondine Malfoy
Music: Max Richter, Ben Russell, Yuki Namata, Caleb Burhans,
Clarice Jensen, Brian Snow, Grace Davidson, Anne Liz



In this solo, a character travels through memories, sensations and wonders about her place in current migration policies. Have you listened to the waves? If yes, they probably told you this happens next to the border. "I believe it because it's absurd" explore different dimensions of absurdity: absurdity of movements, of words, of actions and maybe, of humanity.

Ondine Malfoy (France)

- BA in psychology
- Studied in Ways training program (Bruxelles)
- Graduated from Performact (Portugal)
- Since 2024, Freelance dancer in Bruxelles and abroad (cie MM, cie Just'kiff, cie La note bleue, ...) and creator ("I believe it because it's absurd", "I undressed the rabbit turns out there is my secret garden underneath")

Room for sadness

Choreography & Performance: Wojciech Furman
Music: "It Comes in Waves" by Hania Rani



Contemporary culture devalues and pathologizes sadness. It's not appropriate to be sad, not for too long, not openly, excessively, not publicly. "Room for sadness" tells the journey of a person who experiences and fears loss, is disoriented, unsure of which direction to go. The performance ends with reclaiming space for dark emotions and states – sadness, fear, shame, despair. Finally, the performance is simply an invitation to compassion, to stand with someone not when they are strong, but when they are crumbling – and in their desire to survive.

Wojciech Furman (Poland)

- Developed personal practice pillars FLOORISH and PHYSICAL STORYTELLING, shared through workshops
- Collaborated with Triplets Amsterdam, Maxine Doyle, TanzPunkt Hannover, Wrocław Mime Theater, Rozbark Theater, Paulina Wycichowska, Holobiont Collective, and Art Fraction Foundation
- Scholarship recipient of the EU, Polish Ministry of Culture, Polish Institute of Music & Dance, TanzPunkt Hannover and Movimento Danza Napoli
- Performed and taught internationally across Europe and the Middle East, including events such as Tanzmesse, Malta Festival, Cracow Dance Festival, and Festival Cyrkulacje
- Prize at Gdansk Solo Dance Contest 2025 for his piece "Room for sadness"
- Best dance performance of 2024 in Polish Theater magazine for "Just free more times" performance

SAT
14/03, 20:00

Jury

An independent jury, representing a variety of dance genres, will judge the dance proficiency, musical and dramatic composition, the style and the creative potential.



Itzik Galili (Israel)
Choreographer



Fernando Melo (Brazil)
Choreographer and Director



Olga Roriz (Portugal)
Choreographer, Dancer and Director of
Companhia Olga Roriz



Erika Silgoner (Italy)
Founder and Director of Esklan Art's
Factory and Freelance Choreographer



Lucy Van Cleef (USA)
Head of Dramaturgy and Publications,
The Stuttgart Ballet

Awards

Choreography
1st prize € 3,500
2nd prize € 2,500
3rd prize € 1,500

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Ministerium für Wissen-
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Kunst Baden-Württemberg

Performance
1st prize € 3,500
2nd prize € 2,500
3rd prize € 1,500

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Public's First Choice Award € 500 sponsored by Nicole Weyandt
and Michael Deiml

Public's Final Choice Award € 500 sponsored by
Martina and Hans Casel

DAF International Award sponsored by DAF /
Dance Arts Faculty (Italy)

**Residency prize "Bridges
over the waves"** sponsored by
Dance Lab Nicosia (Cyprus)

**TanzLabor ROXY
Residency Prize** sponsored by
TanzLabor ROXY (Germany)

Photo Exhibition

Claude Hofer – EMOTIONAL WAVES

The exhibition in the vhs-photogalerie presents a selection from Claude Hofer's long-standing engagement with contemporary dance and Butoh. In intense black-and-white portraits, the Swiss photographer captures moments of physical devotion, vulnerability, and inner strength, making dance tangible as a visual echo of inner states.



A corresponding photo book, "Emotional Waves. Butoh and Contemporary Dance" by Claude Hofer, was published in 2025 by Kehrer Verlag. On display until May 10, 2026, 3rd and 4th floor, TREFFPUNKT Rotebühlplatz

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Credits

Festival Director Elly Walch
Artistic Director Marcelo Santos
Curators Marcelo Santos, Elly Walch,
Petra Mostbacher-Dix, Birgit Brinkmann
MC Sonia Santiago-Brückner
Cultural Management Birgit Brinkmann
Assistance Jutta Kögel, Fenja Jäger, Anna Joos
Technical Department Hannah Schreiner and team
Livestream moving-angel filmproduction,
Kamera J.C. Blavier, Sofia Garcia, Birgit Baumgärtner
Cover Image Nnamdi Nwagwu
Cover photo Jo Grabowski
Photo page 3 Günter Seeger

Coordination: vhs stuttgart
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