

## 18th International SoloDuoFestival nrw + friends in Cologne – Dance from around the world at Barnes Crossing

From **29 to 31 May 2026**, the **International SoloDuoFestival nrw + friends** will take place for the 18th time. The festival is organised by **Barnes Crossing – Freiraum für TanzPerformanceKunst**, which has been providing an important platform for contemporary dance and performance for two decades.

Once again this year, the festival is underlining its **international significance**: **over 150 applications** were received **from 18 countries**, including France, the Netherlands, Brazil, Taiwan, Poland, Italy, Finland, Israel, South Korea, the Czech Republic, Greece, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, the USA, Portugal, England, Sweden and Germany.

### Performance schedule

#### Friday 29 May 2026, 8.00 pm

Artist	Title	Solo/Duo	Venue
Vignesh Kumar Gnanasekaran	i	Solo	Hamburg
Chen Xindi & Zhang Aoran	Paper and Recycle	duo	Essen
Nadine Kribbe	IN VOIDS	solo	Cologne
Shauna Fischer, Merel Bastiaans	Project G2 Post-Traumatic Femtasy	Duo	Essen
<b>INTERVAL</b>			
Aleksandra Krutikova	human	solo	Essen
Cilai Herrmann	This is no accident	solo	Cologne
Giacomo Liam Durante and Sofie Sochorcová	Dustkind	Duo	Rotterdam (NL)
Leonie Greta Hardt	Sorry, one more thing	solo	Freiburg im Breisgau

## Saturday 30 May 2026

Artist	Title	Solo/Duo	Venue
Veera Laurila	A meat suit, snapping and twisted, please	solo	Budapest (Hungary)
Hugo Prunet, Elena Trägler	inBetween	duo	Lüneburg
Klil Ela Rotshtain	I could also be a black swan	Solo	Kassel
Einav Berkovich	The skin remembers	solo	Berlin
Julia Litwin & Julia Bentkowska	Trofea	duo	Poznan (Poland)
<b>PAUSE</b>			
Bo-Jia Huang	Immortal 萬神廟	solo	Linz (Austria)
Francesco Paolino, Tom Blanc	MUGA	duo	Rotterdam (NL)
Laura Arend	GAL	solo	Bois Colombes (France)
Karel KOUELANY	BOLOKO	solo	Vitry-sur-Seine (France)

The **jury** for the awards is currently being finalised. Dutch artist **Vivianne Rodrigues del Britto** has already been confirmed.

In addition to the competition entries, the festival offers a diverse supporting programme that focuses on artistic exchange. Discussion panels between participants and the jury provide opportunities for reflection and networking. The programme is complemented by two workshops: on Saturday, **Yvonne Hardt** will lead a discussion on current issues in dance policy, and on Sunday, **Nina Patrizia Hänel** will lead a practical workshop in the field of dance.

### Awards and grants

The SoloDuoFestival nrw + friends will award the following prizes in 2026:

- *awarded Solo*: €400 and a residency grant at Quartier am Hafen
- *awarded Duo*: €800 and a residency grant at the Quartier am Hafen
- *awarded Newcomer Solo*: €400
- *awarded Newcomer Duo*: €800
- *awarded dancer*: €400

In addition, a further residency place will be awarded to a production selected by the jury. All prizes are sponsored by the KunstSalon Foundation Cologne in cooperation with Quartier am Hafen.

### **Accessibility as a core commitment**

Thanks to renewed funding from the City of Cologne, comprehensive accessibility formats can also be offered in 2026. These include, amongst other things, audio descriptions (upon registration), a pick-up service from the nearest train station, and special services for deaf people. The venue is fully accessible – the festival thus sees itself as an inclusive cultural offering for everyone.

An audio flyer will be available on the website shortly.

### **Anniversary: 20 years of Barnes Crossing**

In 2026, Barnes Crossing will celebrate its 20th anniversary. The festival is part of this anniversary programme and will mark the occasion with special highlights. Visitors can look forward to additional programme items and surprises, particularly during the awards ceremony.

Detailed information on the selected solo and duo productions is attached.

### **Practical information:**

#### **Competition performances:**

- Fri, 29 May 2026, 8.00 pm
- Sat, 30 May 2026, 8.00 pm

#### **Award ceremony**

- Sun, 31 May 2026, 3.00 pm

### **Tickets**

Tickets: €19.00 / concessions €12.00 / €6.00 with Tanzcard (ZZT students) per festival day (limited availability), all prices subject to a booking fee. Awards ceremony: free admission

Tickets available via rausgegangen.de (the link to the ticketing page will be available shortly at <https://barnescrossing.de/soloduo/>)

**or at the box office** (we recommend booking in advance, providing your name, address and telephone number, as only a limited number of tickets are available for general sale. Tel.: 02236-963588, [barnescrossing@web.de](mailto:barnescrossing@web.de))

### **Team:**

Artistic Director:	Ilona Pászthy, Gerda König
Festival Assistant:	Even Wainscoat, Joschka Heed
Selection jury:	Diana Treder, Ilona Pászthy
Graphic design:	miegL

Jury: Vivianne Rodrigues del Britto (NL), tba., tba.,  
Technical support: Garlef Keßler  
Sound engineering  
assistant: Simeon Kuhn  
PR and publicity: Mechtild Tellmann  
Workshop leaders: Yvonne Hardt, Nina Patrizia Hänel  
Photo/video  
documentation: Alessandro de Matteis

### **Organiser**

Barnes Crossing | A space for dance and performance art at the Wachsfabrik Art  
Centre, Industriestraße 170  
50999 Cologne-Rodenkirchen  
[www.barnescrossing.de](http://www.barnescrossing.de)

**Cooperation partner** Quartier am Hafen, Cologne

**Funding:** The festival is funded by the City of Cologne's Department of Culture and the Kunstsalon Foundation Cologne.

**Further information will follow shortly on the website at:** <https://barnescrossing.de/soloduo/> **Press contact:**  
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**Participants in the International SoloDuoFestival nrw + friends  
BarnesCrossing, Cologne, 29–31 May 2026**

**In order of performance Friday,  
29 May 2026**

<b>Title, Venue, Solo/Duo</b>	<b>Choreographer / Dancer</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Biography</b>
i (Hamburg, Germany) SOLO	Choreographer / Dancer: Vignesh Kumar Gnanasekaran	<i>i</i> is a reflective solo piece about being human and personal identity. Vignesh Kumar Gnanasekaran explores how one's own past and biological makeup simultaneously shape uniqueness and universality. The solo engages with human emotions and experiences to deepen self-understanding – and in doing so, perhaps also to broaden our understanding of others. The work marks the beginning of an ongoing, personal journey on stage.	<b>Vignesh Kumar Gnanasekaran</b> – contemporary dancer and choreographer from India, currently based in Hamburg and training at the Contemporary Dance School Hamburg. Performances in India, Germany and China, including in musical theatre, contemporary works and international tours. Also works in film, music videos and commercial projects (including Byredo, Netflix India). Training: Navdhara India Dance Theatre (contemporary dance and ballet), The Danceworx, Delhi (multi-style). Several years' experience as a dance teacher, currently in a professional ballet training programme. Focus: technique, storytelling and artistic research in contemporary dance.
Paper and Recycle (Essen, Germany) DUO	Choreographer / Dancer: Zhang Aoran, Chen Xindi	Inspired by childhood memories, cartoons and games such as hide-and-seek, a duet unfolds between order and chaos: whilst one performer leaves traces behind, the other attempts to erase them. Their encounter becomes an ongoing process of negotiation involving pursuit, evasion and reaction. An imaginary shadow joins them as a third, never quite tangible presence. From simple, almost playful actions emerges a cycle of care, exhaustion and perseverance. The work explores how relationships between care, resistance, dependence and withdrawal shift – and how childhood movement patterns shape our actions well into adulthood. A quiet, yet unsettling play without resolution.	<b>Zhang Aoran</b> is a dancer and emerging choreographer. Having completed her BA at the Beijing Dance Academy (Chinese Folk Dance, top of her year), she is currently studying for an MA in Dance Composition at the Folkwang University of the Arts. Her work combines traditional Chinese dance techniques with contemporary practice. <b>Chen Xindi (Cindy)</b> is a dancer, choreographer and performer in the fields of contemporary dance and improvisation. With an MA from the Beijing Dance Academy and a strong focus on contact improvisation, she works at the intersection of performance, research and teaching; her work has been shown internationally.

<p>IN VOIDS (Cologne, Germany) SOLO</p>	<p>Choreographer / Dancer: Nadine Kribbe</p>	<p><i>IN VOIDS</i> explores the boundaries between self and others in spaces without beginning or end. Nadine Kribbe regards the body as part of a world full of certainties, yet at the same time anchored in the ‘voids’ – the most beautiful places of nothingness. The work invites the audience to experience a sense of autonomy and separate existence within relationship and space.</p>	<p><b>Nadine Kribbe</b> – dancer, choreographer and seeker: a child of the working class, currently studying at the ZZT Cologne. Movement work between the sayable and the unsayable; current cycle explores images of construction sites and the bodies that might inhabit them. Collaborations with Boris Charmatz / terrain / Tanztheater, Patricia Mai, Narendra Patil, Panzetti &amp; Ticconi, thar-bedragons.</p>
<p>Project G2 Post Traumatic Femtasy (Essen, Germany) DUO</p>	<p>Choreographer / Dancer: Tabea Jung / Shauna Fischer, Merel Bastiaans</p>	<p>Project G2 or Post Traumatic Femtasy is an intimate duet exploring female desire within the tension between shame, patriarchal influences and societal narratives. Navigating sensuality, vulnerability and resistance, the piece explores how lust and fantasy can be reimagined beyond control and the male gaze. Designed for a 360° setting, the work brings performers and audience into close proximity – and reveals desire as a physically experiential space for negotiation.</p>	<p>Tabea Jung is a choreographer and dancer from Essen (BA in Dance, Folkwang University of the Arts). In her work, she combines personal, political and feminist themes with an energetic, often ironic visual language. Her work has been presented at venues including Tanzhaus NRW, the Schrittmacher Festival and as part of Berlin Fashion Week. Merel Bastiaans is a Dutch dancer (BA Folkwang). She has worked with international choreographers such as Sasha Waltz and Stephanie Lake and is increasingly developing her own work. Shauna Fischer is a dancer from Essen and is studying dance at the Folkwang University of the Arts. She has performed at the Ruhrfestspiele, at Tanzhaus NRW and as part of Berlin Fashion Week, amongst other venues.</p>
<p><b>INTERMISSION</b></p>			
<p>Re: human (Essen, Germany) SOLO</p>	<p>Choreographer / Dancer: Aleksandra Krutikova</p>	<p>In <i>Re: human</i>, Aleksandra Krutikova presents a short, highly intense solo. Precise, rapid movements create the image of a non-human being: a ‘girl-machine’ pushed to the limit. In constant motion, she struggles and works without pause, unable to breathe or stand still, thus generating a raw, focused energy that immediately grips the audience.</p>	<p><b>Aleksandra Krutikova</b> – dancer and choreographer with over 20 years’ stage experience in performance, choreography and teaching. Key areas of focus: artistic research, integration of music, film and visual media. Experience includes: street dance battles (hip-hop, waacking, vogue, popping, locking, house) in Russia; dancer with the Fominykh Dance Company; contemporary workshops; BA from Folkwang University of the Arts (2019–2023) featuring solo and duo works, dance films and the Newnow Festival; freelance work on interdisciplinary projects, including at the Dortmunder U, and collaborations with deufert&amp;plischke and Richard Siegal. MA in Choreography, Germany. Collaborations with Jason Jacobs, Lutz Förster, Katja Taranu and Matthias Markstein.</p>

<p>this is not an accident (Cologne, Germany) SOLO</p>	<p>Choreographer / Dancer: Cilai Herrmann</p>	<p>In <i>this is not an accident</i>, Cilai Herrmann connects the metaphor of a river with her own body: once untamed and multifaceted, now channelled and disciplined – like the Rhine, on whose banks Cilai grew up. The solo is a choreography of resistance that explores the lost, queer traces of the river. Through singing, loops, storytelling and elements of drag, the work raises questions about reclaiming fluidity and diversity in an environment that has forced movement into binary norms.</p>	<p><b>Cilai Herrmann</b> (they/them) – dancer, choreographer and facilitator, working in theatre, galleries and outdoor spaces. Studied Dance Performance at the Stockholm University of the Arts (SKH) and the Berlin University of the Arts (UDK). Works include: <i>Der Wohlstand ist ausgebrochen</i>, <i>Let us be the second body</i>. Collaborations with Amanda Piña, Thiago Granato, Hooman Sharifi, Stephanie Thiersch and Ana Libório. Co-founder of Rhizome Dance Collective and Sympoietic Society; exhibitions and residencies: HIAP, Saari Residency. Leads workshops on contamination, composting processes and multi-species body practices.</p>
<p>Dustkind (Rotterdam, Netherlands) DUSTKIND DUO</p>	<p>Choreographer &amp; Dancer: Giacomo Liam Durante, Sofie Sochorcová</p>	<p><i>Dustkind</i> is a duet that becomes a trio through a carpet. In a calm, mysterious atmosphere, the performers explore the space between them, the boundaries of the carpet, and the open, boundless outside world. The carpet serves as a metaphor for territory and boundaries. The work raises questions about belonging and change: what happens when we leave familiar spaces? <i>Dustkind</i> invites the audience to interpret the choreography as a mirror of their own emotions and ultimately understands space as something created through relationships – not through physical boundaries.</p>	<p>Giacomo Liam Durante – dancer and choreographer, trained at the CFA Ballet Academy (Milan) and The Bridge Pigato Contemporary (Vicenza), currently studying for a Bachelor's degree at Codarts Rotterdam. Performances and teaching at international galas; collaborations with, among others, Stefania Pigato, Sergei Vanaev, Marguerite Donolon and Rambert.</p> <p>Sofie Sochorcová – dancer, trained at the National Dance Conservatory CZ and currently studying at Codarts Rotterdam. Multi-award-winning choreographer (Brno, 'On Point' 2023), performances including the duet '<i>Related</i>' and collaborations with Anne Plamondon and Jiří Pokorný.</p>
<p>Sorry, one more thing (Freiburg i.B. Germany) SOLO</p>	<p>Choreographer / Dancer: Leonie Greta Hardt</p>	<p>In <i>Sorry, one more thing</i>, Leonie Greta Hardt works with structured improvisation centred around four adjectives: unpredictable, clumsy, rough and loud. The solo explores the act of revealing oneself and baring one's soul before an audience. The performer shifts between everyday stories, moments of embarrassment and seemingly private thoughts. Language is a central element and mirrors the physical movement: halting, interrupted and repeatedly cut short, sometimes in German, sometimes in English. The movement does not follow a smooth continuity, but takes shape through abruptly changing themes, qualities and emotions a fluid structure without a fixed narrative.</p>	<p><b>Leonie Greta Hardt</b> – performer, theatre educator and cultural anthropologist from Freiburg im Breisgau. Currently studying dance on a two-year programme at bewegungsart e.V. Focus areas: improvisation, documentary dance, the relationship between movement and theatricality, staging intimacy and exposure on stage. Co-creations include <i>Großmütterzählen</i> (2023) and <i>Blickdichte Vorgänge</i> (2022).</p>

Saturday, 30 May 2026

Title, Location, Solo/Duo	Choreographer / Dancer	Content	Biography
A meat suit, snapping and twisted, please (Budapest, Hungary) SOLO	Choreographer / Dancer: Veera Laurila	In <i>A Meat Suit, Snapping and Twisted, Please</i> , Veera Laurila transforms the body's pain and weaknesses into means of expression. These supposed limitations become assets that enable the exploration of sound, form and movement in new ways. Within a repetitive structure, sharp, controlled gestures alternate with moments of uncontrollability, opening the body to directions that are otherwise often suppressed. The solo explores physical extremes and the poetic power of vulnerability by taking the audience on a journey to the limits of physical and emotional experience.	<b>Veera Laurila</b> – dancer and choreographer, BA and MA in Contemporary Dance from the Budapest Circus Arts and Contemporary Dance College (2023). Performances include <i>This is how we walk</i> (New Generation Festival, Prague 2025), <i>Medúza</i> (Zsuzsa Rósavölgyi, Trafó Budapest 2025), <i>Si'tuf &amp; Here &amp; Now – Season 2</i> (Share Festival, Bratislava 2024). Participant in the International Dance Week, Budapest (2024).
inBetween (Lüneburg, Germany) DUO	Choreographer / Dancer: Hugo Prunet, Elena Trägler	inBetween is a poetic duet about transitions, states of limbo and the blurring of boundaries. Between beginning and end, memory and presence, a fluid space of movement unfolds, carried by breath, rhythm and silent connection. In an atmospherically dense stage setting, the piece invites the audience into a meditative state – a 'Blue Mind' in which body, time and perception shift gently. A quiet reflection on what we hold on to and what we let go of.	Hugo Prunet (b. 1997, France) is a dancer and choreographer with a background in classical and contemporary dance. Engagements have taken him to the Delattre Dance Company, the Harztheater and the Theater Lüneburg, among others; his work is also influenced by visual art and photography. Elena Trägler (b. 2001, Germany) is a dancer and choreographer who trained in Nuremberg and at the Royal Swedish Ballet School, amongst other places. She has worked as a freelancer and at the Theater Lüneburg, combining her artistic practice with social engagement and a degree in political science.
I could also be a black swan (Kassel, Germany) SOLO	Choreographer / Dancer: Klil Ela Rotshtain	In <i>I could also be a black swan</i> , Klil Ela Rotshtain explores the inner dialogues of the self and the different personalities that dwell within us. The solo builds a bridge between physical presence and the diverse inner characters that seek to coexist. It is about making peace with imperfection, revealing what is hidden, and breaking free from the expectation that one must apologise. A poetic exploration of identity, inner life and self-acceptance.	<b>Klil Ela Rotshtain</b> – dancer and performer from northern Israel, currently based in Germany. Trained at the dance school of Kibbutz Gaa'ton, participated in the KCDC Excellence Programme and the Haifa Centre of Excellence in Dance. Continued her training in the 'Maslool' programme, Tel Aviv, under Offir Dagan and Niv Marinberg. Internship and permanent position at Tanz_Kassel, Germany. Scholarships and awards include the Szloma-Albam Foundation Berlin (2022), A.I.C.F Scholarship USA-Israel Culture Foundation (2020/2021), "Young Talent" Award from the Staatstheater Kassel (2025).

<p>The skin remembers (Berlin, Germany) SOLO</p>	<p>Choreographer / Dancer: Einav Berkovich</p>	<p>In <i>*The Skin Remembers*</i>, Einav Berkovich explores the role of inherited heritage and identity, rooted in muscle memory and the subconscious. The solo piece asks how we can define ourselves when we are already filled with pre-existing information. The work reflects the inner conflict between organising, letting go of and transforming memories and bodily knowledge. Through the image of the body as a storehouse – ‘the skin remembers’ – a journey unfolds from anonymity, through the shedding of old patterns, towards self-discovery. The solo invites the audience to reflect on the carrying and reinterpretation of the past across generations.</p>	<p><b>Einav Berkovich</b> – dancer and choreographer, Israel/Germany. Creation and performance of <i>The Skin Remembers</i> (2025–present), awarded ‘Best Creation’ and the ‘Audience Award’ at the Solocoreografico International Solo Dance Festival (Turin &amp; Frankfurt, 2025). Previous works: <i>In Fieri</i> (2023–2024), an improvisational duet in collaboration with TANZ_KASSEL; <i>Yossi</i> (2020–2023), <i>Mata Mala</i> Festival Tel Aviv, <i>Tel Aviv Jaffa White Night Festival</i>. Engagements as a dancer and co-creator in productions such as <i>Notturmo</i> (2025–2026, Veronika Riz), <i>Shame</i> (2024–2025, Cooperativa Maura Morales), <i>Winterwende</i> and <i>The Nutcracker</i> (TANZ_KASSEL). Training: <i>The Maslool</i> School of Contemporary Dance, Tel Aviv-Jaffa.</p>
<p>Trofea (Poznan, Poland) DUO</p>	<p>Choreographer / Dancer: Julia Bentkowska, Julia Litwin</p>	<p>In <i>Trofea</i>, <b>Julia Litwin &amp; Julia Bentkowska</b> present a duet exploring power, observation and the attribution of value in nature and society. Inspired by questions such as “What is a trophy?” and “What may be taken, what remains?”, the dancers explore the dynamics of hunters, prey and societal reflections of such orders. <i>Trofea</i> combines conceptual research with physical expressiveness and invites the audience to a sensitive, contemplative experience.</p>	<p><b>Julia Litwin &amp; Julia Bentkowska</b> are dancers and choreographers from Poland with extensive training in contemporary dance (including the Academy of Physical Culture in Poznań and the ImPerfect Dancers Company in Pisa). Both have worked with numerous Polish and international choreographers and presented their work on various stages and at festivals. As an artistic duo, they combine stage experience with conceptual research into the social, emotional and philosophical dimensions of dance. Their joint piece <i>Trofea</i> (2025) has been invited to prestigious festivals in Poland and will tour internationally in 2026, including the SoloDuo Dance Festival in New York.</p>
		<p><b>PAUSE</b></p>	
<p>Immortal 萬神廟 (Linz, Austria) SOLO</p>	<p>Choreographer / Dancer: Bo-Jia Huang</p>	<p>In <i>Immortal</i> 萬神廟, Bo-Jia Huang transports the audience into a tranquil, ethereal world inspired by Chinese philosophy, aesthetics and myths. The work draws on the legend of Penglai Island – a mythical mountain inhabited by immortals and surrounded by silvery-white nature. The solo explores metaphysical concepts, rituals and the connection between humanity and nature, with silence,</p>	<p><b>Bo-Jia Huang</b> – dancer and choreographer from Taiwan, currently studying for an MA in Movement Research at the Anton Bruckner Private University, Linz. Experience includes work with STRUDDANCEWA and the Hofesh Shechter Company (internship in 2020). His own works include <i>PU</i> (Want To Dance Festival, 2019), <i>Outbound</i> (Seoul International Improvisation Dance Festival, 2023), <i>Orogeny</i> (Kyoto UrBANGUILD, Raumschiff Linz, 2025). Solo performances <i>include</i>, amongst others,</p>

		movement and poetic imagery to create a meditative experience.	<i>Inscrutable Man</i> (2016), <i>Fight or Flight</i> (2018), <i>Between Shadow and Light</i> (2018), <i>Uprising THE bAD</i> (2020) and <i>Body Detour</i> 2022.
MUGA (Rotterdam, Netherlands) DUO	Choreographer / Dancer: Francesco Paolino and Tom Blanc	<b>Muga</b> is a duet about emptiness, identity and transformation, inspired by the Japanese concept of the 'non-self'. In a world characterised by acceleration and conformity, two bodies initially move like automatons – until a disruption breaks through the system. From this rupture emerge doubt, emotion and individuality. <i>Muga</i> traces the path from alienation towards an authentic presence and understands emptiness as an opportunity for connection, awareness and a new way of being together.	<b>Francesco Paolino</b> is a dancer and emerging choreographer trained in Italy and the Netherlands, currently based in Rotterdam. He has worked with, among others, the Codarts Dance Company and choreographers such as Wayne McGregor and Johan Inger. His own works have been performed internationally and have won several awards, most recently at the Premio Roma Danza. <b>Tom Blanc</b> is a dancer and performer based between France and the Netherlands. He studies at Codarts and works at the intersection of performance, creation and project development. His practice combines technical precision with theatricality and a clear stage presence.
GAL (Bois Colombes, France) SOLO	Choreographer / Dancer: Laura Arend (Choreographer) / Mathilde Plateau (Dancer)	<i>GAL</i> is a cinematic solo and a celebration of female strength. The piece portrays every woman as a superheroine – one who has earned her cape. It magnifies the everyday struggles, dreams and triumphs that often go unnoticed, transforming them into powerful, heroic gestures. <i>GAL</i> captures resilience and courage in motion, demonstrating that every woman, regardless of her story, possesses extraordinary inner strength. The cape functions not as a costume, but as a symbol of bravery, grace and unstoppable power.	<b>Mathilde Plateau</b> – dancer (France), trained in classical, jazz and contemporary dance, as well as circus and theatre. Studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris (CNSMDP), graduating with a Master's degree in Dance – Repertoire & Creation (2022). Collaborations with Philippe Decouflé, Boris Charmatz, Laura Arend, Merlin Nyakam and Maison Hermès. Member of the Laboration Art Company (LAC) since 2022. Strong commitment to arts education and audience engagement. <b>Laura Arend</b> – Choreographer (France), studied at the CNSMDL Lyon and Jeune Ballet, trained at the Merce Cunningham Studio, USA (2009). Performed with the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, Israel (2011). Choreographies including <i>YAMA</i> , <i>FIVE</i> , <i>ANNA</i> , <i>YIRO MIDAS</i> , <i>LEON</i> ; Commissioned works for Jeune Ballet Européen, Tel Aviv Museum of Contemporary Art, Kammertballetten. Performances in film ( <i>Notre Dame</i> ) and runway events (Isabel Marant, Paris Fashion Week). Founder of GALA HOPE, a charity dance gala.

<p>BOLOKO (Vitry-sur-Seine, France) SOLO</p>	<p>Choreographer / Dancer: Karel KOUELANY</p>	<p><i>BOLOKO</i> – Lingala for ‘prison’ – is a choreographic work inspired by everyday life in the Congo. The solo brings to life the visible and invisible boundaries of Congolese society: social oppression, political restrictions, divisions of identity and mental prisons. Through the body, we can feel what is often internalised, silenced or normalised. <i>Boloko</i> creates dense spaces of resistance in which individuals confront constraints whilst retaining the possibility of transformation.</p>	<p><b>Karel Kouelany</b> – dancer, choreographer and artistic director of Compagnie PIIRAMIID. A passion for dance and art since childhood, inspired by family tradition. An encounter with Nathalie Bikoro and Aimé Pane at RIAC Brazzaville (2017) expanded his practice to include video and performance art. Training and choreographic work, with Heemann Diephius, Michael Allibert and Patrick A-Cogny. Aim: to bring together talented dancers to artistically express the realities of African societies.</p>
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