

BALLET

SOPHIE VERGÈRES is a Swiss native, born in San Francisco. She received her dance training at the school of the renowned Hamburg Ballet John Neumeier, followed by an engagement with the company which lasted until 2014. She then joined the Hessisches Staatsballett in Wiesbaden and danced there until 2016. Following her desire for new artistic opportunities, Sophie began her freelance career in 2017. In 2018 she founded the Swiss-based dance group Kollektiv 52°07. Since 2019 she has been working on expanding her horizon as a choreographer. Her desire to work in a transdisciplinary manner is growing. She recently collaborated with the Japanese artist Leiko Ikemura in a performative dance installation at the Kunstmuseum Basel, as well as with the Swedish Pop Artist Felin and also with the music producer Valgeir Sigurðsson on the art film “Agony in the Mirror”. She is currently studying for a masters degree in “Expanded Theater” at the University of the Arts in Bern and is a guest dancer at Konzert Theater Bern. www.sophie-vergeres.com

SOL BILBAO studied dance and choreography in Spain. She has danced professionally since 2003 in different companies in Europe, where she has worked with choreographers such as Jiri Kylian, Nacho Duato, Ohad Naharin, Mats Ek, Imbal Pinto, Angelin Preljocaj, Richard Werlock, Alexander Ekman, Stijn Celis, Johan Inger and Sharon Fridman, among others. Since 2007 she has created various dance performances, starting at Introdans in Holland. This first contact with dance creation motivated her to study choreography and Interpretation in Madrid. There Sol discovered her passion for creating, researching and developing her own choreographic language. Sol choreographed for the production "Dancelab", an annual laboratory of dance, soon after arriving at Ballet Basel in 2009. Besides this, she has created her own pieces in the freelance scene of Switzerland and has collaborated with other artists in different interdisciplinary projects. Together with two other choreographers, she co-founded a collective called Loop Tanz in 2016. At the moment she is absolving a Masters Degree at Hochschule der Künste Bern. She also teaches classical ballet, contemporary dance and guided improvisation in Basel. According to Sol's philosophical view, movement can reveal new critical aspects of social and cultural themes. Starting out with conceptual concepts originating from current impulses, she employs a research strategy that crosses many disciplinary boundaries in order to create a holistic approach to her work.

OLIVER DAEHLER was trained as a dancer at the Royal Ballet School in London. He danced with the Royal Ballet London, the Royal Ballet of Flanders in Antwerp and from 1994 to 1999 for the Bern Ballett under the direction of Martin Schlöpfer. In the same theater he worked for three years as a ballet master and choreographer. Oliver has created more than 30 choreographies (comissions including the Mecklenburgisches Staatstheater Schwerin, the Stadttheater Bern and the Lucerne Festival). These include full-length ballets as well as site-specific performances. In 2001 he won a scholarship from the Canton of Bern which enabled him to complete a six-month advanced training course in Modern, Contemporary Dance and Ballett in New York (et al. with David Howard, Zvi Gotheiner, Risa Steinberg, Alan Danielson and Steve Paxton). Oliver is a Certified teacher of RAD and completed the NDS Tanzkultur at the University of Bern in 2007. In 2008 he attended Ohad Naharin's Gaga-Intensive course in Tel Aviv. From 2009 to 2011 Oliver worked as a ballet master and choreographer in residence at the Tanz Luzerner Theater. Since the season 2011/2012 he works as a freelance choreographer, dance teacher and coach. <http://danceproductions.ch>

CLARISSA ROCHA began her dance studies in Brazil at the age of eleven. Seven years later she started to work as a teacher and as a dancer. Throughout her career she has always tried to balance those two professions that she loves, teaching and performing, as she considers them as complementary. In 2005 she moved to Madrid where she carried on with her studies and where she graduated in choreography and interpretation at the Maria de Avila Conservatory. At the same time she was performing with different dance companies of various styles, from aerial dance and outdoor performance to contemporary dance. During the 8 years she lived in Madrid she also worked as ballet, contemporary dance and Pilates teacher. In 2013 Clarissa moved abroad again, this time to London, where she continued with her career as dancer and teacher. There she collaborated in a post graduate dance project at the London Contemporary Dance School and had a permanent role as a teacher at Ballet4life, focusing on ballet for adults and elderly people. In collaboration with Ballet4life's director, she developed a program especially conceived for people with dementia.

JORGE GARCÍA PÉREZ was born in Zaragoza. He studied at the prestigious dance School María de Ávila under the direction of María de Ávila and Lola de Ávila in Spain. He began his professional dance career in Sybaa Ballet, season 2003-2004 and Malandain Ballet Biarritz II for the season 2004-2005. He joined Junior Ballet at the Opera House in Zürich after winning the gold medal at Premio Roma International Dance Competition. The next year he was promoted to demi-soloist and thereafter became a soloist of Zürich Ballet. In 2008 he joined Ballett Basel as a soloist under the direction of Richard Werlock. In 2011 he choreographed “Match[ing] Sounds” and won first prize at the Jugendförderpreis des Sperber Kollegiums in Switzerland. Since then he has been building his own repertory and has won several international prizes as a young choreographer at Cross Connection International Choreographic Competition, Hanover International Choreographic Competition, Bugos - New York International Choreographic Competition and Emergent Choreographers Contest. During those years he has also worked with, and created his own choreographic work for companies such as Staatstheater Mainz, Stephen Delattre Dance Company, San Francisco Ballet, Konzert Theater Bern, Ballet del Sur de Bahía Blanca, Elephant in the Black Box, Béjart Ballet Lausanne, Compañía Nacional de Danza de Madrid and Ballett Theater Basel. Since 2016 he is the Artistic Director at Carta Blanca Dance, a dance company which he founded together with Permi Jhooti in Basel, Switzerland. Due to the pandemic, he and Rubén Cabaleiro founded DanceLive Europe in March 2020. It is a live and online platform offering free online lessons worldwide for professional dancers. It also provides performances and events as the first online platform in the world offering live and online international gala performances.

CONTEMPORARY

MANEL SALAS began his artistic career as a teacher, dancer and choreographer of hip-hop in Barcelona, Spain after having studied physical education. He has worked in various fields including TV commercials, choreographing his own pieces and dancing with dance companies including Metros of Ramon Oller and the Flamenco company Color. He graduated from Codarts, Conservatory of the Rotterdam Dance Academy in Holland, in 2008. Before having graduated, he began to dance professionally and tour internationally with companies including that of Amy Raymond and Cobosmika Dance Company (Olga Coobs/ Peter Mika.) Since then, he continues dancing and teaching in different countries. He also studied mime, theater, improvisation, Butoh and acrobatics. These studies helped him to work at several theaters and in several dance companies worldwide, among others with the Chinese theater company Paper Tiger, Julyen Hamilton, Angels Margarit, David Zambrano, Edith Braun Company, Arno Schuitmaker, Vloeistof, Jasmine Morand and Oliver Dähler. Since 2014 he is based in Spain, Switzerland and Holland. He teaches and presents his own work internationally in China, Russia, Holland, Spain, France and Switzerland. He co-creates pieces with European artists and takes part in international productions. Manuel enjoys sharing his knowledge while pursuing his interests and addressing his concerns, as part of a continual process of transformation.

ROSIE TERRY TOOGOOD graduated from LIPA in 2011, having obtained a BA (Hons) Degree in Dance and Performing Arts. In 2012 Rosie went to Israel to study Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company's approach to contemporary technique and choreography. She created her own piece *Dhanyawad* there as well. Rosie has performed and collaborated with Jérôme Bel, Joss Arnott and Nina Kov. Rosie collaborated as a performer with Lea Tirabasso's *Love Me Tender*, *TOYS* and on tour in her new work *The Ephemeral Life of an Octopus*. Rosie is co-artistic director of *Subjects* Objects and Choreography with Zurich transdisciplinary artist Kathrin Doppler. She forms part of the Collective Bufo Makmal as a co-artistic director since 2015 and has performed *Into Pieces* and *ALL.ES* with them as well as co-creating and performing in *VIEL.ES*, *A zur e* and *Wishbone*. Bufo Makmal's new production *Fluid* is currently in the research stage of production.

MARCEL LEEMANN was born in Zurich in 1969. After an apprenticeship as a carpenter, he studied dance at the Zurich Ballet Atelier of the John Cranko School in Stuttgart and at the Hungarian State Ballet School in Budapest. He danced at the theater and in companies in Rome, Budapest, Dresden, Lucerne and Bern. As an independent choreographer, he works with his own company, Marcel Leemann Physical Dance Theater. Leemann was involved in numerous productions as a choreographer and director, such as at the Theater St. Gallen, Schlachthaus theater Bern, Luzerner Theater, Theater an der Effingerstrasse, Oldenburgisches Staatstheater, the Deutsche Oper Berlin, United Theaters Bozen, Theater Magdeburg, Theater Bern and at the Theater Karlsruhe. He is an integral part of the Junge Bühne Bern, where he has been responsible for youth projects for years. As of the 2023/24 season, Leemann will be dance director at the Tiroler Landestheater. www.marcelleemann.ch

NARENDRA PATIL received training in various dance forms from teachers world wide, and has shown his mettle under the likes of David Zambrano, Susanne Linke, Jozef Linda, Peter Jasko, Laura Aris, Anton Lachky, Nakula Somana and Marin Legat among others. Narendra is the first Indian contemporary dancer who has studied with David Zambrano as part of a 30 day intensive workshop of the *Flying Low and Passing Through* technique in Berlin (2014). He was selected among 489 dancers from around the world. He was selected again for the second edition which took place in Madrid (2016). Having explored numerous movement possibilities and finding inspiration and knowledge at various dance festivals, intensive workshops and creations with renowned teachers, he was inspired to create his own dance vocabulary. Narendra was a principal performer, teacher and assistant choreographer at Terrance Lewis Contemporary Dance Company for 10 years. He is currently working as an independent artist. He has been invited to teach in many professional dance schools, profitrainings and companies in Europe, Russia and India. He performed in an improvisation trio with David Zambrano and Lamprini Gkolia in Athens (2015). Narendra has collaborated with Lamprini, who is Greek, in other projects as well. They performed their duet *Camouflage* in Athens and at Deltebre Dansa Festival in Spain (2015) and gave partnering workshops in Europe and India. Narendra has also collaborated and performed with Axismundi Jaipur and Geneva Project 2016 with Mohamed Toukabri, Rakesh Sukesh, Bolarin Da Costa and art director Pol Sinus. This piece was created during a Pro Helvetia residency in India in 2015. The premiere took place at Théâtre du Galpon in Geneva as part of Artigel Festival in February of 2016. He performed his solo *RESTLESS* at Deltebre Dansa (2016). In 2017 he performed an improvisation duet with Francisco Cordova in St. Petersburg as well as solo improvisations in Moscow, Crimea and Tyumen, Russia.

MARCINA DE ALMEIDA is a dancer, teacher and choreographer - since 2005 she has her own dance school "soulDance" in Basel. She studied dance at Alvin Ailey Dance School, NY and Cinevox Junior Dance Company. In her classes she draws upon her diverse dance experience in Modern, Jazz, Afro, Hip Hop, House, Ragga & Tap dance and mixes a variety of dance elements from different cultures into the common styles - soulDance. With her enthusiasm and open, yet structured way, she knows how to inspire her students and find new vocabulary and abilities.