

CONTEMPORARY

JONAS KOFI K. ONNY was born in Germany. He spent his early years in Ghana, where he made first experiences with African dances and drumming. Back in Germany and after extensive training in various styles of hip hop, acrobatics, jazz dance and classical ballet, he studied contemporary dance at the Folkwang University of the Arts, from where he graduated in 2014. His artistic range reaches from contemporary street shows and dance pieces with various companies to musical and opera productions at theatres in Germany, Benelux and Switzerland. Jonas is also a member of the Ferus Animi // Terra Nova Collective, a group of cross disciplinary craftspersons researching in the fields of human physiology and performance, through both an artistic and scientific lens.

The Body Riddim Practice is an energetic mixture of movements and rhythms derived from African dances combined with contemporary floorwork, acrobatic elements and games which seek to challenge one's sense of rhythm, coordination and mobility. Playing with different dynamics, finding joy in exploring patterns of movement and rhythm, raising awareness of the body and space -within and around - in an environment where participants can learn useful things from themselves and others that can be applied in their lives and practices, is the aim of this class.

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.

The main focus of the class is a constant adaptation towards -and awareness of one's own body and mind in the present moment and surrounding space. Manel brings knowledge from various backgrounds and techniques into an inspiring setting of sharing and learning. Following a warm up of muscles and joints, as well as of the senses, dynamic group exercises such as reflex games and exercises involving trust will connect participants in a unified state of alertness. Pleasure will grow in dance sequences involving spirals, changing dynamics and movement into and out of the floor, while traveling physically and spatially in many different directions.

LAB

JOSHUA MONTEN studied literature and cultural anthropology before discovering dance at the relatively late age of 20. As a dancer, he performed with Bern Ballet, Stadttheater Heidelberg and öff öff aerial productions. In 2012, he founded his own dance company, for which he creates stage, open-air, and video dance productions —with more than 1200 performances in 40 countries. His work as a choreographer is shaped by encounters with diverse art forms and audiences. He is a lecturer in dance at the Hochschule der Künste Bern. www.joshuamonten.com

Transforming the wild and messy flow of impulsive movements into set choreographic forms; mixing physically intense dancing together with spoken text and other theatrical elements; hovering on the sweet spot between seriousness and playfulness — these approaches are central to the work of the Joshua Monten Dance Company. Participants will learn excerpts from company repertory, and experiment working with some of the company's compositional methods.

BALLET

LAETITIA KOHLER is a contemporary dancer, choreographer and dance teacher from Delémont, Switzerland. She began her dance education at the Basel Dance Academy with Galina Gladkova-Hoffmann. After graduating from the Zürcher Hochschule der Künste with a BA in contemporary dance, she started dancing with various choreographers and companies including Isabelle Beernaert's company in Belgium, T42 Dance Project, Sagi Gross dance company based in Amsterdam and Mainfranken Theater Würzburg with Anna Vita in Germany. She is currently doing research for her own projects, dancing and teaching in private schools and universities.

Laetitia's vision of ballet has been influenced though the years by her practice of contemporary dance. On the one hand, it is about precision, tradition, and lines while on the other hand, it is about releasing, momentum and taking space. After all, it is about expression and being yourself.

BALLET

FERNANDO CARRIÓN was born in Madrid and is now based in Basel. He began his professional career in Victor Ullate's Dance Company in Madrid, and moved to France to join Lyon Opera Ballet in 2003. In Lyon he was able to explore different styles such as dance-theatre, post-modern, conceptual, etc, and work with choreographers like Sasha Waltz, Ohad Naharin, Trisha Brown, Ralph Lemon, Merce Cunningham, Maguy Marin, Jerome Bel, William Forsythe, Rachid Ouramdane, Jiri Kylian and Mats Ek among others. He also obtained the official teaching diploma in France and Spain. In 2010 he joined Compañía Nacional de Danza, as a guest principal soloist. In 2012 he started freelancing as a dancer, choreographer, assistant choreographer and teacher. He has taught for diverse companies such as Lyon Opera Ballet, Angelin Preljocaj, Wayne McGregor's company, Deutsche Oper Ballet, and has led workshops in France and Spain. He was a guest dancer for a Jiri Kylian program at the Norwegian National Ballet and participated in different projects. He choreographed the animated dance film "Sonata", which was broadcast by Arte. He received awards for "22h21m", a piece performed in countries including France, Spain, Switzerland, Germany and Norway. He was rehearsal director for Ballet Basel under the direction of Richard Werlock and Adolphe Binder. He has assisted with choreographies of Jiri kylian, Sharon Eyal, Marcos Morau, Edward Clug, Bobbi Jene Smith, Andonis Foniadakis, Hofesh Shechter, Saburo Teshigawara and La Ribot among others.

My aim in Ballet class is to obtain a result by using visualization: through using imaginary elements, rather than prioritizing the posture or the form of classical dance. Nowadays, dancers are exposed to different styles, so the purpose is to encompass all their needs in order to make them work with fluidity and awareness of how to use their weight. I also like to insist on putting the right energy in the right place, therefore, allowing them to avoid unnecessary tension. Musicality in class is an essential tool for giving the right nuances and freedom. It helps to give a vast choice of textures and qualities to their movement.

LINDA MAGNIFICO completed her dance education in Italy and received her first engagement with the Croatian National Ballet in Zagreb, where she danced as a soloist from 1988 to 1991. From 1994 to 2003 she was a soloist with the Compagnia Zappalà Danza and assistant to Roberto Zappalà. In 2004 Linda moved to Switzerland. She danced for cie. Anna Huber and was a dancer at the Lucerne Theatre under the direction of Verena Weiss for three years. In 2007 she founded the company „dysoundbo“ together with the composer Sasha Shlain. As a ballet mistress and choreographic assistant, she worked for the Theater St. Gallen and Staatstheater Darmstadt. From 2014 to 2019 she worked as rehearsal director for the dance company Konzert Theater Bern. Since January 2021 she is president of IG Tanz Zentralschweiz, founder and curator of Profitraining & Workshops Zentralschweiz, artistic director of Tanzfest Zentralschweiz and director and coordinator of various other projects. Linda is also active as a guest teacher nationally and internationally.

In her teaching, Linda Magnifico uses elements of different styles with which she became familiar during her career. The lesson focuses on preparing the body for rehearsals or performances. Basics that are important in her class are placement, fluidity, density in movement, change of body weight and direction and movement through space. The emphasis is on musicality, clarity and dynamics of movement.

SOL BILBAO was born in Spain. She studied dance in Madrid with Carmina Ocaña, the Professional Royal Conservatory of Dance "Mariemma" and the Superior Conservatory of Dance „Maria de Avila“. She has danced professionally in various companies in Europe since 2003. Arriving in Basel in 2008, she was part of the Ballett Theater Basel until 2017. During her career as a dancer she has worked with choreographers such as Jiří Kylián, Ohad Naharin, Mats-Ek, Imbal Pinto, Richard Werlock, Angelin Preljocaj, Alexander Ekman, Stijn Cellis, Sharon Fridman, Nacho Duato, Johan Inger, among others. Since 2007 she has created dance performances and has collaborated with other artists in various interdisciplinary projects in Switzerland and abroad. Sol holds a Master of Arts degree in Dance Performance and teaches dance history, classical ballet, contemporary dance and guided improvisations at various venues in Basel and abroad.

Sol's pedagogical interest lies in the relationship between body and space. Her work focuses on the awareness of gravity and its potential towards our bodies in movement. She emphasizes the expansion of borders in relation to technique, in order to achieve a personal approach, aesthetic and understanding of motion.

AZUSA NISHIMURA is from Hiroshima, Japan. Her repertoire ranges from classical ballet to contemporary dance. She began her professional career in Europe in 2000. Since then she has been living in Zürich and works throughout Switzerland as a dancer, teacher and choreography assistant. Collaborating with artists from other fields as well, she has performed in operas, dance films, theater performances, music videos, commercial events and photo shoots.

Azusa's ballet classes are for everybody, regardless whether they have a background in classic ballet or contemporary dance. She focuses on the individual bodies of the students and believes that each and every one of us is different. Her barre exercises are fairly simple and designed to help students to pay attention to their body and activate their own resources to be able to maximize their potential when we move on to the centre exercises.