

BALLET

ALEXANDER CYR BEZUIJEN completed his dance education in Zurich at the dance academy (TaZ) in 2015. From 2015-2018 he danced in several renowned companies such as Netherlands Dance Theatre, Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, or the State Theatre of Hessen as a soloist dancer, where he worked with choreographers such as Akram Khan, Wayne McGregor and Hofesh Schechter. He now creates his own performances and has collaborated with the university of Darmstadt, the Opera of Wiesbaden, Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, Laura Rae Bernasconi's company, and others. Led by his roots in ancient shamanistic teachings, he feels compelled to share and also organise retreats related to movement, health and spirituality themes. He is very passionate about the vision that life is a dance and therefore keeps delving further into the mechanics of the human body in order to share tools as a personal trainer for anatomical restructuring, energy field alignment and creating coherent life-postures for a healthy life-style. He is the creator of Bloom Infinity and the company manager of ONE MOVEMENT.

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.

MARIA LIBERTAD PEDREIRA was born in Madrid, Spain. There she started her dancing studies. At the age of 20 she left Spain to join the National Ballet of Cuba in Havana, where she danced ballets of the classical repertory. After her return to Europe she started dancing with companies in Spain (Luis Fuente Ballet, Euskadi Ballet), France (Ballet du Rhin, Opera de Nice) and Switzerland (Phantom der Oper, Tanz Ensemble Cathy Sharp) where she now lives and teaches ballet for adults, teenagers and children.

CLAUDIA TOGGWEILER studied dance at the Swiss Professional Ballet School under the direction of Heinz Spoerli and at the Academy of Classical Dance in Monte Carlo. She then got her Masters degree at ZHdK and taught ballet at the Zürich Dance Academy. Since that time she has been teaching ballet to adults in groups and privately. In 2016 she founded enScène in Zürich. It is an agency which focuses on culture management and dance photography.

EMMA MURRAY is a New Zealand dancer, performer and choreographer living in Bern. She danced as a soloist with the Royal New Zealand Ballet from the age of 19 before moving to Europe in 1997. She then danced with the Stadt Theater Bern for 8 years, leaving in 2008 to establish herself as a Swiss based choreographer and performer. She was appointed Associated Artist at the Dampfzentrale Bern from 2013-2015 where her work is regularly co-produced. Since 2013, and in recognition of her emerging presence in both national and international settings, she has been the recipient of support from the City of Bern and ProHelvetia Switzerland, to aid in the distribution and artistic development of her work. Her performance work to date includes; My Body is an Island (2008), You Should Have Seen Me (2009), naturalcauses (2010), MADE TO ORDER (2011), This is the Beginning (2012), the way you look tonight (2014), Participation (Footnote NZ Dance Co 2017) and Mother*Fuckers (2017). As well as performing and producing her own work she continues to teach, act and assist in choreographic and theater projects throughout Switzerland. She currently studies for her MA in Contemporary Art Practice at the Hochschule der Künste in Bern.

DEIRDRE O'NEILL was born in Ireland and completed her professional training at Bush Davies School and Laine Theatre Arts in England. She performed with Night Star Dance Company in Ireland and with PACT Ballet Company in South Africa. She then qualified as a teacher with the RAD specializing in Vocational Teaching. During the last 20 years she has taught professionally in Ireland, Germany and Switzerland. Deirdre's curiosity continues to inform and deepen her understanding of the body with self-study and exploration through the modalities of Feldenkrais, Gyrotonics, Rolfing, Yoga, and breathe work. Deirdre's class is offered as an invitation to each person to connect, observe, adjust, refine and enjoy the sense of movement within and of the body through ballet.

CONTEMPORARY

AMI TOURÉ completed her dance training at various West African dance schools and companies, and worked for one of the most important contemporary and traditional dance companies in Benin, Wàlo. Her choreographies at the Écoles normales d'instituteurs in Benin have won several awards. She studied for three years at École des Sables, Senegal, where she got certified in dance teaching, choreographic creation and Danses Noires. In 2017, Ami Touré danced in South Korea for the Festival des danses du monde. In 2018 she created the collectif amifusion which performed in Basel at Pataphysisches Institut, at Kaserne and during the festival Treibstoff Theaterstage. In 2019, Ami Touré was selected for Le Sacre du Printemps, a production of the Pina Bausch Dance Company Wuppertal. The world tournee lasts since 2021.

ANNA HEINIMANN works as a dancer, dance pedagogue and choreographer in the independent scene in Bern, Basel and Berlin. She completed her dance studies at the Danceacademy balance 1 in Berlin. She has worked with various choreographers and companies (YET Company, Nunzio Impellizzeri, Brigitta Schrepfer and others) and created many short pieces and performances. In 2012 she founded the Bern-based group "Kollektiv F", in collaboration with Luzius Engel. The collective is associated artist of Dampfzentrale Bern during the seasons 17/18 and 18/19. It mainly creates pieces for a young audience. In addition to this, she performs in art houses, music videos and street actions for Amnesty International. She teaches professional trainings in Zürich, Basel and St. Gallen. From 2007 to 2017 Anna taught contemporary dance for children, adolescents and adults at tanzplatz vorbern on a regular basis, as well as having directed numerous dance projects in schools with the company „d'Schwyz tanzt...". Together with Pascale Altenburger, she has been directing a youth company since 2015. They create pieces collectively with the youths and search for an artistic language between contemporary and urban dance.