

BALLET

EVAN SCWHARZ is a Swiss/Austrian/American freelance dancer, choreographer, and teacher. He received his early training from the *Los Angeles County High School for the Arts*, and later trained at *The Juilliard School*, in New York City, graduating in 2014. Upon graduating from Juilliard, Evan began working with *Ballet Bern* in Switzerland, and thereafter with *National Dance Company Wales* in the UK. Evan has had the pleasure to dance repertoire and new creations by Pina Bausch, Ohad Naharin, Marcos Morau, Maxine Doyle, Roy Assaf, Twyla Tharp, Guy Weizman & Roni Haver amongst others. Throughout his career, Evan has danced across the United States, Europe, Asia and the Middle East, including with various international companies as a guest artist. He also has worked on various commercial jobs and has won prestigious awards. Recently he joined the *fabien prioville dance company* (DE). Evan continues to freelance internationally with his base in the Netherlands.

ANA LOPEZ began her dance studies at Kindertanztheater Claudia Corti and at the Zürich Opera House Ballet School. She absolved all exams of the Royal Academy of Dancing and received a Migros Stipendium to continue her studies at the Hamburg Opera House Ballet School. In 1989 she was given the chance as a young dancer to perform with the ballet company at Zürich Opera House under the direction of Uwe Scholz. Then she performed as a guest in Bern and in Milan. In 1993 she was a soloist at Braunschweig Theater. In 1998 she was first soloist in the Compañía Nacional de Danza in Madrid. She toured with the company world-wide over the course of 14 years and danced at many international dance festivals, from Lincoln Center in New York to the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow. She worked with renowned choreographers such as Jirí Kylián, Mats Ek, William Forsythe, Wim Vandekeybus, Ohad Naharin, Oscar Araiz, Johan Inger, Uwe Scholz and many more. In 2012 she joined the Basel Ballet. Since 2015 she enjoys working as a dance teacher, choreographer and bodywork practitioner.

ALICE BERTSCHY started dancing in Geneva at the Académie de danse de Genève and then at Dance Area before attending the English National Ballet School in London. She then worked for three seasons with the Polish National Ballet in Warsaw. Following that she took a break to work as a volunteer with horses. She then came to Basel/Alsace and worked with Maria Guerrero. She also works as a massage therapist, Pilates instructor and freelance dance teacher.

JACK WALDAS studied at Ballet School New York and danced with New York Theater Ballet and the state theatres of Mannheim, Augsburg, Innsbruck and Linz. He is a teacher with over 20 years of pedagogical experience. His classes focus on an organic, individual source of movement and expression in the classical medium. He has developed the movement systems Anandansa® - a merging of yogic principles with contemporary dance, as well as “Organic Ballet” – the harmony between the physiology of the dancer and the dance itself. In addition to his teaching activity at Iwanson Int. School of Cont. Dance, he is also co-director of Spanda Yoga Teachers Training, a core ballet teacher at Tanzproject Munich, and gives dance workshops internationally. He has taught at the Ballett Akademie der Hochschule für Musik und Theater München, Brückner University, Akademie für Zeitgenössisches Ballett Linz, Tanzmedizin Deutschland Kongress, Bad Lemons Project München, Tanzquelle München, Yoga Dance Festival Stockholm and Spiraldynamik Akademie Zürich.

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.

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 Wherlock. 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.

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 programme especially conceived for people with dementia.

CONTEMPORARY

MIRJAM GURTNER works as a choreographer and dance artist in Basel, Berlin and London. Currently she is researching instant composition, structured improvisation and the correlation between sensation and physicality. In her multidisciplinary collaboration with sound artists, she questions the relation between audience, the moving body and sound. Most recent works are the duet *unknowing*, which toured with Tanzfaktor 2018 across Switzerland, the performance *DISPLAY* for Candoco Dance Company at the Wellcome Collection London and *Public Affairs* for Wildwuchs Festival 2017 at Kaserne Basel. Her evening length work *SKINNED* will be premiered in October 2018 at Theater Roxy, Birsfelden and presented during Tanztage 2019 at Sophiensäle in Berlin. Born in Switzerland, Mirjam studied dance at Basel Theater, the Vienna State Opera, the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London (Transitions Dance Company, MA Dance Performance). As an associate artist with the London Dance Company Candoco, she works as a choreographer, rehearsal director, teacher and performer. Performance engagements include Trisha Brown's *Set and Reset/Reset* and Thomas Hauert's *Notturmo* for STEPS Dance Festival Switzerland, Jérôme Bel's *The Show Must Go On* (UK Theatre Award) and touring in India, Ukraine and Jakarta in *Studies for C* by Javier de Frutos. Mirjam teaches professional class and contemporary dance workshops. She facilitates workshops and teacher training in inclusive practice, is a certified Qi Gong/Taiji Quan teacher and leads international dance projects. She is the recipient of the Dance UK Mentorship 2015/16 for future leaders in dance. She was supported by the TANDEM program 2017 of Tanzbüro Berlin and is part of the European program A.t.e.n.a. (Atelier Temporaire européen de navigation artistique) for female artists in Sète/FR. www.mirjamgurtner.com

CHRIS LECHNER works as a movement artist with a special curiosity towards performance that installs the body in various contexts and environments. His preferred materials are light, glass and water. He oscillates between choreographed and improvised work. Chris was born in Burma and grew up in India. Following a career as a soloist with the Hamburg, Zürich and Stuttgart companies where he danced in works of all the major choreographers, he went on to become an independent artist. In search of a more personal movement language, he has drawn upon various sources such as fascial bodywork, Chi practices, Water dance, gravity-based motion, partner work, experiential anatomy and Yoga. He worked and performed with Laurie Booth, William Forsythe, Kirstie Simson, Adam Benjamin, Fin Walker and Anna Huber. He has lived and worked in the UK, Switzerland, Germany and India, where besides his creative research, he taught, mentored work in various contexts and collaborated with fellow artists. Since 2013 he lives in Bern, where he develops work together with his wife Sunita Asnani. They have turned their research focus towards blurring the roles of performer and audience. The outcome has been immersive and interactive performance/ workshop hybrids which are set up site-specifically.

LAURA LAMY & TRISTAN ROBILLIARD met in 2006 at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et Danse de Lyon, where they studied for four years and graduated in 2010. After being international free-lance dancers for six years (France, Sweden, Germany) Laura and Tristan started their collaboration as choreographers and artistic directors. They created Resodancer Company in 2016. Since then they have been touring with their pieces in Germany, France, Spain, Italy and Panama, etc. They work as guest choreographers with various companies such as Metz Opera Ballet (France), Cie Calabash (France), Althea Dance Company (France- USA), Derida Dance Center (Bulgaria) and Belgrade Dance Institute (Serbia) among others. Parallel to their choreographic works, Laura & Tristan studied dance pedagogy and obtained the DE/ French Contemporary Dance Teacher diploma. They have developed their own technique called *Spiral Training*. They often teach *Spiral Training* around Europe.

CHRISTINA MERTZANI is a choreographer, dancer and teacher. She graduated from Athens State School of Dance in 2004. She choreographs her own work for freefall company which she co-directs with Evangelos Poulinas. Also, she co-directs "one small step" International Contemporary Dance Festival in Urban Environment which takes place in Corfu, Greece. As a performer, Christina has worked with Johannes Wieland, Stella Zannou, Kostandin Mixos, Kat Valastur, Apostolia Papadamaki, Maria Gorgia and Sofia Spyratou as well as having performed choreographies by Wim Vandekeybus, Mark Morris and Martha Graham. During the last 12 years she has been teaching extensively in Europe, leading master classes, workshops and intensives for dancers and companies in theaters, universities and professional studios. Promo video: <https://vimeo.com/230262042>

HEIDI WEISS received her BFA in modern dance from the University of the Arts in 1992. She choreographed and performed with Group Motion, a Philadelphia based Company, from 1992-96. In 1997 she moved to Germany and founded Zen in the Basement Co., with Jennifer Mann. They have created many works together which have been presented in theaters and festivals in the EU and abroad. Heidi has been teaching various modern techniques for many years. Together with Jennifer Mann she has developed the weiss-mann technique*, which she continues to teach in workshops, festivals, private schools and at universities. Heidi was a professor at Palucca Schule Dresden from 2004-07. She has been a guest artist in residence at Virginia Commonwealth University (USA), in addition she has been a guest at Duncan Conservatory in Prague, London Contemporary (the place) in London, SEAD in Salzburg and at the Danceworx in New Delhi and at the National University of Arts in Seoul, Korea, where she spent a semester as a guest professor. Furthermore, she has given training to many companies such as Sasha Waltz and DV8 and is currently a regular teacher for Toula Limnaios Company in Berlin. Heidi has taught improvisation and contemporary dance in schools for TANZZEIT for over 10 years. She co leads the GROUP MOTION workshop with Jennifer Mann monthly for the past three years in Berlin. She also gives training for professional dancers at Marameo Berlin, NRW in Düsseldorf and K3 in Hamburg. Heidi is a faculty member of USF Study abroad program Paris, she teaches technique and choreography tools. From 2019-20 Heidi spent a semester as visiting professor at Folkwang University. Creating a new work on the students which premiered in the Pina Bausch Theater. She is a regular guest teacher/ choreographer at Iwanson International School of Contemporary Dance.