



Cultural Association Balletto di Toscana
Toscana Ballet School



FONDAZIONE
CR FIRENZE

Artistic Director: Cristina Bozzolini
Co-direction Lucia Geppi

This is a Google translated document/profile of Balletto Di Toscana. Their website is currently under construction, and those applying for the workshop auditions can temporarily find information about the school here.

Classes

Studies are carried out for students aged 6 to 18 years.

The classes are as follows:

- Ballet lessons (classical, pas de deux, variations, point technique, male technique)
- Contemporary dance lessons (choreography workshops, contemporary repertoire)
- Pilates classes and physical training
- History of dance
- Several performances per year

Teachers

Classical Ballet:

- Farida Beech
- Alice Polzato
- Lucia Geppi
- Simonetta Giannasi
- Eugenio Scigliano
- Umberto De Luca

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Teachers

Contemporary Dance:

- Arianna Benedetti
- Martina Barwoud
- Giulia Molinari
- Angela Placanica
- Gabriella Secchi
- Carmine Catalan
- Alessio Barbarossa
- Daniele Cervino

Pianists

Maestro Francesco Novelli

Guests/Guest Choreographers

- Olivier Lucea
- Philippe Kratz
- Francesca Caroti
- Raffaella Renzi
- Sveva Berti
- Luca Cesa
- Damiano Artale
- Mario Bermudez Gil

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PURPOSE

La Scuola aims to train professional dancers, who will go on to join major international companies. To achieve this, we teach students to develop the essential qualities necessary to perform in this area, namely discipline, respect for the profession, empowerment of the choreographic artist, openness to the world of the arts, and creation of passion.

THE SCHOOL

In 1970, Cristina Bozzolini founded the school of the Centro Studi Danza with Lilia Bertelli, in the historic headquarters of Piazza Santa Croce.

Since 1987, the headquarters of the school has moved to via Monteverdi, in the San Jacopino district, where it remains until today.

The study plan of each academic year of the Scuola Del Balletto Di Toscana, takes care of its students from 5/6 years of age, up to 18/22: The entire stages of educational, propaedeutic, professional training, technical-expressive improvement and internship on stage, all of which are necessary to ensure and complete the best suitability for a classical and contemporary dancer. This training caters to the profound changes in the current scene of dance art, and works in harmony with the renewal of repertoire in the best professional dance companies on the national and international scene, as well as with the interests and expectations of a new dance audiences.

Initially, for children who are at least 5/6 years of age, the educational and playful-expressive aspect of studying dance is enhanced, developing above all the creativity and personality of children. This is achieved with programmes including animation, rhythmic, and other elements of introduction to movement and dance, monitoring the processes of socialisation in all activities, and all accomplished with a constant relationship of information and dialogue with parents.

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Subsequently, progressing over the years, in the intermediate and advanced grade classes, the approach and knowledge is deepened of the classical-academic technique, based on the tradition of the Russian school, but revised, corrected, and enriched in light of new experiences and orientations of teaching at an international level. This is achieved in personal synthesis with the skills acquired in the extraordinary career of Cristina Bozzolini, and her deep collaborative relationships with the most qualified Masters of international renown.

At the same time, in the development of the training course, starting from the intermediate grade classes, students are integrated with the discipline of classical dance, as well as the study of techniques and multiple languages of modern dance, all the way from contemporary dance, to hip-hop, all of which today are relevant and necessary in the preparation of a dancer, one ready for the most articulated panorama of opportunities offered by the dance labor market, in all types of artistic expressions of dance.

With precisely this perspective, in the levels of the advanced and advanced grade classes, a specialisation process is configured divided into two Departments: Classical - Academic and Contemporary, both mutually complementary and interconnected, with the aim of taking care of the expressive peculiarities of each student in relation to their personal choices and aspirations.

In this context, some relevant opportunities are offered to all students, in relation to their levels of technical acquisition:

1. A series of choreographic workshops and in-depth internships, conducted by renowned guest Masters, throughout the academic year;
2. Acquisition of professional internship experience on stage, also for students of intermediate and advanced level courses, with the preparation of variations and ensemble ballets to be represented in qualified dance festivals;
3. Participation for all students in the preparation of the annual event that concludes the entire learning path of the academic year, at the great "Essay-Show" at the end of June;

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4. To become part, for the most suitable, selected in the Specialisation Courses of the two departments of the School, in the staff of the Company of the "Nuovo Balletto di Toscana" realising its productions signed by talented choreographers. This serves as potential springboard for a "career" of a professional dancer.

In it, also flows the heritage of experiences, artistic relationships and organisational methodologies accumulated in the fifteen years of history of the Balletto di Toscana, from 1985 to 2000, now legendary artistic training (with a strong presence of many former students of the school), founded and directed by Cristina Bozzolini, admired and applauded on the most prestigious international stages and, in its short but intense life, authentic "flag" company of Italian dance on the international scene.

From this point of view, our School boasts one of the most remarkable "palmares": probably the most relevant in the national panorama of "private" dance schools, with over 100 of its former professional students "in career" in important ballet companies and groups of modern dance languages. Our dancers are prepared for the most articulated panorama of opportunities offered by the dance labor market, in all types of artistic expressions of dance in Italy and in Europe.

It is precisely this high professional profile, one of setting up and conducting all our educational and training activities, which offers the possibility, for many but not for all, to conquer an outlet on the labor market and a coveted professional position, for all guarantees the acquisition of an optimal psycho-physical balance, of a greater awareness of the levels of self-discipline of one's own behaviour, in relationships with others, with one's own image, with one's own way of being and communicating, of a superior sensitivity of artistic expression, and an overall enrichment of one's personality that remains forever, whatever one's personal and professional future.

The guiding principle of our activities are rooted in our experience, because when working on training, at every level and in any perspective, nothing can, or should be left to improvisation and amateurism.

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EVENTS ORGANISATION

The structure of what is today known as the 'Nuovo Balletto Di Toscana,' has been organising its own events since 1970, beginning with the "Eventi Danza" project by Riccardo Donnini, which included exhibitions and shows in various places in the city of Florence. These types of projects have continued and existed until today, changing and adapting to the times, and arriving today at "Eventi Danza 2022," a project culminating in shows and summer festivals in theatres and outdoor spaces, including The Limonaia of Villa Strozzi, and Florentine theatres such as "La Compagnia" and "the Teatrodante Carlo Monni", in addition to the organisation of internships, masterclasses and workshops related to the performances. This structure has always involved total autonomy in the management of all aspects: set-ups, permits, production, site, tickets, with thanks also to a precious thirty-year collaboration with its technical director, Saverio Cona.

The company's headquarters, located in Florence, can be used as for public showings and is periodically used for studies open to the public and open rehearsals. The structure also usually organises events and shows for the school and its students several times during each academic year.

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