



ZFINMALTA

NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY

2022/23

SEASON PROGRAMME



/ Our Mission

ŻfinMalta, National Dance Company, under the Artistic Direction of Paolo Mangiola, is a talented and adaptable dance ensemble with a diversity of creative voices reflecting the many influences that form today's Malta. Every season programme brings audiences a new experience of dance. All our productions, education and participation programmes, and online activities, push boundaries and engage the best local and international choreographers, dancers, and artists.

ŻfinMalta provides a space for artists to develop and take risks, contributing to an open and expansive dance ecology in Malta and internationally, and providing opportunities for aspiring, emerging and established dance professionals to realise their potential and connect with audiences and communities.

Our work invites audiences to contemplate and question our contemporary world, with the ambition to enrich the lives of all who interact with the company — collaborators, spectators, and participants alike.

/ From the Chair



I am immensely proud to witness ŻfinMalta launch this new season of growth and discovery with great finesse, especially following the tough ride the last few years have taken us on. I am always impressed by the maturity and development of the whole team, and I look forward to our audiences seeing the fruits of the company's collaborations with renowned local and international practitioners, all of whom have furthered the company's powerful work through choreography, dramaturgy, set and costume design. Now is an exciting time for ŻfinMalta, as we return to touring and take our work and our perspective all over the world, to share these thought-provoking pieces with others who look to the future with intrigue and an open mind.

Alison White,
Chair, ŻfinMalta Board of Directors



/ Artistic Director



This season our gaze is on the future, in a time when conflict and climate change are very real and present in our lives. Each artist in this season's stunning line up offers their unique perspective on questions like, 'What will the future look like in 100 years?' and 'Will we find a way to take the human body from centre-stage bringing it into co-existence with nature and technology?' Such questions are at the core of each artist's practice, and all share a similar sense of urgency in their enquiries.

Through all of these works we have created a new season that touches on the themes of memory, archives, rebuilding, interdependence, nostalgia, ecology, utopia, and transformation, and what it means to define ourselves as human in a post-human world. Every artist captures this moment in history and expresses it through unique choreographies which are humorous, introspective, and sometimes nostalgic, but above all beautiful, powerful, and evocative.

Grounded in the present, it is with courage and optimism that we use the extraordinary platform of dance to step into new futures with our senses alive and our awareness trained. I am thrilled to invite you on this great journey and hope you will move and be moved with us.

Paolo Mangiola

01 / *PRODUCTIONS*

ON REEFS AND ERODED LANDS WE DANCED
/ Choreography by Paolo Mangiola

ŻFINMADE – NEW FUTURES
Six solos and duets by six emerging choreographers
/ Choreography by Rebecca Camilleri, Charlene Galea, Romeo Roxman Gatt,
Simon Riccardi-Zani, Emma Walker, Chakib Zidi

ŻFINDAYS – one double bill, two full length works, over two weekends
/ Choreography by Roy Assaf, Tânia Carvalho, Marco D'Agostin, Paolo Mangiola

UTOPIA / Choreography by Emanuel Gat

02 / *REACHING OUT*

ŻIGUŻAJG / Festival for children and young people

CREATIVE MOVEMENT RESIDENCIES / Tailor-made workshops for schools

03 / *EDUCATION*

COMPANY OPEN CLASSES / Led by local and international dance artists

DANCE INTENSIVES / Movement workshops, intensives, and technique training

IŻFEN MA' ŻFINMALTA / Community Evening Classes

ASPIRE / Internship programme for aspiring contemporary dance professionals

04 / *PARTICIPATION*

MOVIMENTO / A series of public, interactive talks by experts outside of dance, looking in

OPEN REHEARSALS / Taking audiences behind the scenes during the creation process

05 / *ARTIST DEVELOPMENT*

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE / Artist in residence programme

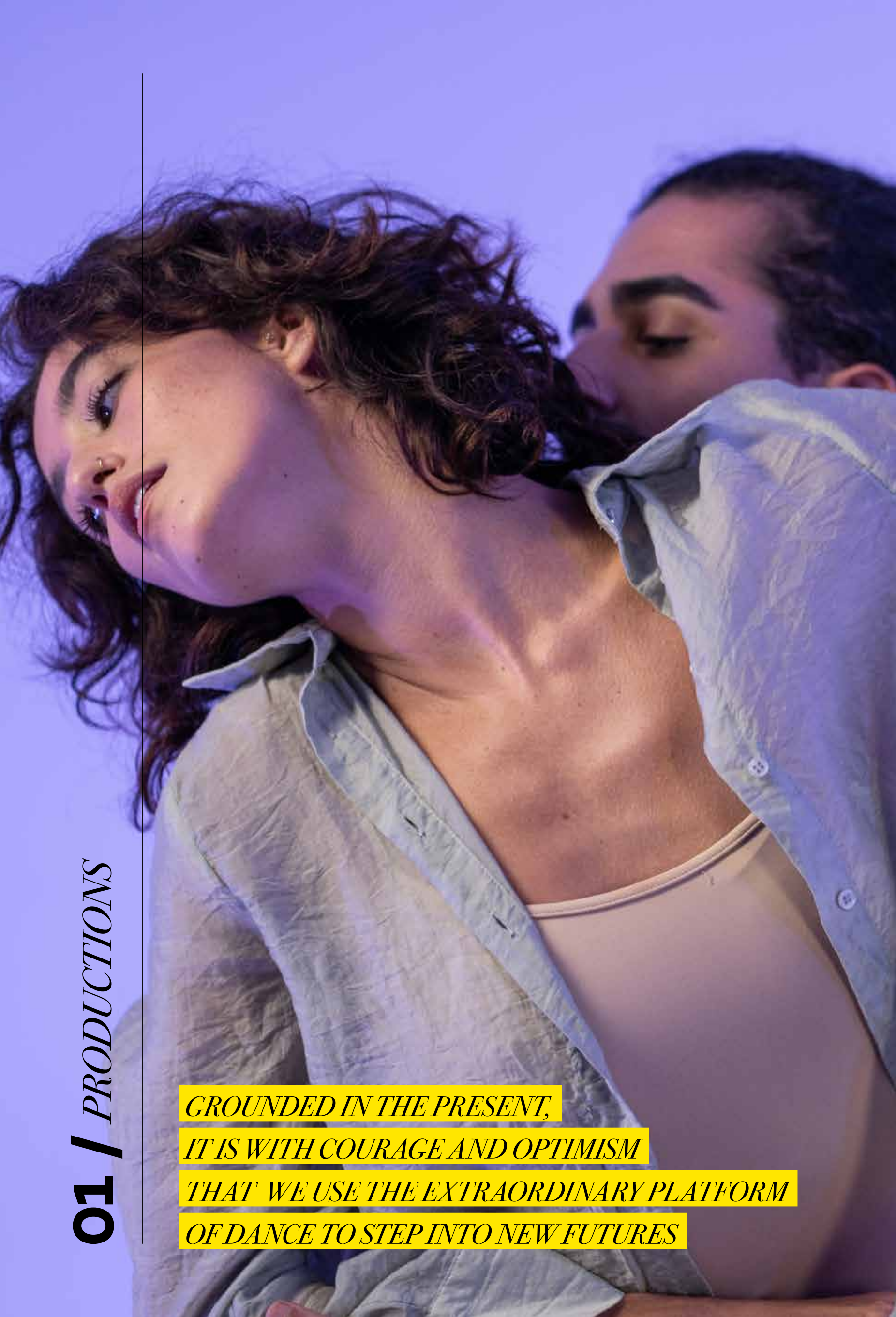
06 / *ONLINE RESOURCES*

ŻFIN BLINKS / Videos on the making of dance

ŻFIN STORIES / Dance stories on film

ŻFINMALTA PODCASTS / Conversations on dance

*ŻFINMALTA PROVIDES A SPACE FOR ARTISTS
TO DEVELOP AND TAKE RISKS, CONTRIBUTING
TO AN OPEN AND EXPANSIVE DANCE ECOLOGY
IN MALTA AND INTERNATIONALLY*



GROUNDING IN THE PRESENT,

IT IS WITH COURAGE AND OPTIMISM

THAT WE USE THE EXTRAORDINARY PLATFORM

OF DANCE TO STEP INTO NEW FUTURES



ON REEFS AND ERODED LANDS WE DANCED

DATES & TIME: 21/22/23 OCTOBER 2022

VENUE: VALLETTA CAMPUS THEATRE

Artistic Director Paolo Mangiola opens the season with a new full-length work. Taking inspiration from the Svalbard seed bank – a vault built to contain the world's most prized crops in case of an apocalyptic event – this work explores the possibilities of what we as humans select and conserve as essential elements to protect and preserve life on earth. Collaborators include the Indian composer Goya, Maltese visual artist Matthew Attard, and dramaturg Victor Jacono.

Paolo Mangiola is a choreographer, dance educator and performer working within ballet and contemporary dance practices. Operating in the interstices between codified dance and ordinary movement, Paolo is interested in exploring this relationship in the context of our interconnected society, drawing inspiration from various artistic sources, the web, and emerging movements. Paolo has created works for the Royal Ballet, Tanztheater Nürnberg, Aterballetto, Szczecin Opera Ballet and Balletto di Roma. He was appointed Artistic Director of ŻfinMalta in 2017.

BOOKINGS: www.showshappening.com
DURATION: 70 minutes / **AGE:** 5+

PRODUCTION TEAM
Choreography: Paolo Mangiola
Dramaturg: Victor Jacono
Visual artist / Set design: Matthew Attard
Original score: Goya
Light design: Moritz Zavan Stoeckle
Costumes design: Louie Noir & Emma Walker

ŻFINMADE – NEW FUTURES

SIX EMERGING CHOREOGRAPHERS

DATES & TIME: 1/2/3/4 DECEMBER 2022, 19:30 / VENUE: SPAZJU KREATTIV

ŻfinMade is one of ŻfinMalta's biennial signature programmes and exemplifies the company's ongoing commitment to cultivating contemporary dance practice in Malta. Responding to the theme 'New Futures' and the question 'what will the future look like in 100 years?' ŻfinMade invites six emerging choreographers and artists working with movement to create a series of solos and duets with the ŻfinMalta company dancers.

Presented in collaboration with Spazju Kreattiv, the project provides a space to foster and nurture local artists, bringing them into contact with the country's leading institutions. Each of the six choreographers is given the resources to develop and create a new work, including mentorship by the company's artistic director and staff. ŻfinMade culminates in four evenings of dance performances showcasing the work and introducing the choreographers and dancers to new audiences and collaborators.

Presented in collaboration with Spazju Kreattiv.

BOOKINGS: To be announced / **DURATION:** 70 minutes / **AGE:** 5+

FRUITFUL DARKNESS

A solo exploring the fertile void. A ritual honours a shadow of what still lives. Between what was and what follows, there is nothing to do and nowhere to go. A metamorphic dance embraces the ending and reveals the blooming.

Choreography: Rebecca Camilleri

Dancer: Pearl Calleja

CAPSULE

In the future, what will be left of the land that produces fresh food today? Will anyone be here to work the land, if there is land left alive during climate change? Each day, humans will wake up to the instruction to swallow a set of food capsules, thus erasing from their lives the possibility to experience all senses activated by eating and preparing food, and the social aspect of gathering around food. How can a dancer fully experience their senses and body when their diet is in capsules? Will they rebel in order to reconnect and provide fuel for their body?

Choreography & story: Charlene Galea

Dancer: Felix Deepen

Music: David Grech

RUN BY HYENAS

What will the future look like in a hundred years?

When bodies are no longer policed

When patriarchal masculinity is obsolete

When masculinity means a gentle being

When femininity is celebrated in

it / they / she / he

No hierarchy

Body and soul in harmony

Human, animal, and machine are now one. The creature you see before you was once only a dancer, but now no more. They crawled and walked and limped and marched and ran until they found their true passion — a passion for transgression. They developed a capacity to transform and transfigure and bring you the queerest form of invitation. They ask you to reconsider your understanding of how our bodies and the environments that frame and define them can be reimagined.

Choreography & story: Romeo Roxman Gatt

Dancer: Keith Micallef

Music: Hearts Beating In Time and Romeo Roxman Gatt

ONES

One. One or one. One and one. One on one. One in one. One with one. One for one.

Is there a place for interactions and differences in a world where individualism has reached its climax?

Is the randomness of our connections enough to pass as humanity? Are our differences present enough to pass for diversity?

Let's try to contemplate a new model, by searching for poetry within a new reality.

One. One and one. One and two.

Choreography: Simon Riccardi-Zani

Dancers: Lotte La Haye & Amber Van Veen

IN PURSUIT OF POLES AND EMPERORS

"If you march your Winter Journeys you will have your reward, so long as all you want is a penguin's egg." Apsley Cherry-Garrard

A work inspired by the 1922 publication *'The Worst Journey in the World,'* an autobiographical account by Apsley Cherry-Garrard of Scott's doomed Antarctic expedition. A story otherwise known for its failures, but which succeeds in capturing the abundance of all that had yet to be discovered. There is an urgency, and sense of wonder, surrounding the apparent limitlessness of the unknown, and a plenitude of all things 'new'. A century later, much of our planet's surface is known, but a new playing field has opened beyond it, where stores of the undiscovered, undocumented, and unconquered have been replenished. Whether for notoriety, or in the noble pursuit of knowledge, we continue to attempt these impossible journeys in the name of exploration.

Choreography: Emma Walker

Dancers: Lidia Caricasole & Jérémie Lafon

HUMAIN SANS PAROLE

In the future, biological bodies will be replaced with better equipped nanite robotics. Consciousness will be uploaded to a virtual hive mind. Transmission will be just as easy as other forms of brain augmentation. Picking up thoughts and relaying them to another brain will not be much harder than storing them on the net. Humans will not need to communicate through words, instead thought transmission will take over. Our brains will become better at abstract operations, while becoming less and less influenced by our 'ancestral instincts'.

Choreography: Chakib Zidi

Dancers: Nik Folini & Tara Dallì

ŻFINDAYS

1 DOUBLE BILL, 2 FULL LENGTH WORKS, OVER TWO WEEKENDS

DATES & TIME: 17/18/19 & 24/25/26 FEBRUARY 2023, 19:30

VENUE: VALLETTA CAMPUS THEATRE

ŻfinDays is an annual programme of works by choreographers who are currently in the spotlight on the international dance stage. Introduced in 2019 by ŻfinMalta's Artistic Director Paolo Mangiola, ŻfinDays has become one of the company's annual signature programmes, exposing ŻfinMalta's company dancers, and its audiences, to the extraordinary diversity of talent on the European choreographic scene. For the first time, ŻfinDays 2023 will run over two weekends, each weekend featuring the D'Agostin/Mangiola double bill on the first night, and one full length work on the following two nights.

DOUBLE BILL

OKOKOK

DATES & TIME: 17 & 24 FEBRUARY 2023, 19:30

General rehearsal for a nuclear variety show; a genetically modified musical; a seductive choreography with the worst intentions. *OKOKOK* wants to conquer the record of stared stares, break the hardest of hearts, compete with itself and with every other choreography ever seen and danced before.

In this new work created for ŻfinMalta, Marco D'Agostin extends his research around entertainment as a specific form of relationship between performer and spectator (with *Everything is ok*, which toured Europe for over 6 years, and *Best Regards*, his recent tribute show to Nigel Charnock/DVB). *OKOKOK* tests the possibility of an irresistible, unabashedly frontal, hyper-citationist choreography, continually striving to tear itself and the dancers who perform it apart, to reveal the deafening silence in which we all move when we try to entertain someone.

Marco D'Agostin is an Italian artist active in the fields of dance and performance. He is currently Associate Artist at Piccolo Teatro in Milan, 2022-24. After training with renowned leaders including Yasmeen Godder, Nigel Charnock, Rosemary Butcher, Wendy Houston, and Emilio Greco, and dancing for Claudia Castellucci / Societas Raffaello Sanzio, Alessandro Sciarroni, Liz Santoro, Iris Erez, and Tabea Martin, in 2010 he set out to establish his own choreographic practice. Credits include twice named at Aerowaves, and performances at Théâtre de La Ville in Paris, Les Brigittines in Brussels, The Place Theatre in London, Sala Hiroshima in Barcelona, Tanzhaus Zürich, Romaeuropa, Torinodanza, OperaEstate, and many more.

Co-produced with Associazione Culturale VAN.
Supported by the Italian Cultural Institute of Valletta.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography:

Marco D'Agostin

Assistant choreographer:

Florinda Camilleri

Costume design:

Holly Knowles

Set design:

Tom Van Malderen

Sound: LSKA

1 DOUBLE BILL

2 FULL LENGTH WORKS

OVER TWO WEEKENDS

NUOVA FIGURA

Nuova Figura charts the choreographic journey of choreographer Paolo Mangiola and the dancers, exploring the human gaze and images we create of our world. The work takes as its starting point the world map of the cosmos drawn in 1582 by Gozitan cartographer, astronomer, and astrologer, Antonino Saliba. In this extraordinary document Saliba combined ancient pagan and medieval Christian cosmology with Renaissance beliefs and experiences. He imagined a world that appears at once orderly and chaotic, spiritual and temporal, familiar and fantastic; filled with decorative hemispheres, rings of fire, demons, salamanders, and people digging into the earth. *Nuova Figura* transposes these images into a contemporary context. A multi-layered canon of words and movement emerges, mapping our present-day image of the world. The demons of our time unfold in the densely atmospheric space – the over-forming of our nature, the consequences of the pandemic and the effects of war – as circular, explorative movements simultaneously reveal our capacity to move forward with hope and a desire for something better to come.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography:

Paolo Mangiola in collaboration with the dancers

Set design:

Jacob Saliba

Original score:

INSYNK Collective

Dramaturg:

Thomas Schaupp

Light design:

Moritz Zavan Stoeckle

Costume design:

Jeandor Farrugia

DURATION: 60 minutes / AGE: 5+



ZFINDAYS

GIRLS & BOYS

DATES & TIME: 18-19 FEBRUARY 2023, 19:30
DURATION: 65 minutes / **AGE:** 12+

Performed by ŻfnMalta for a second season, Girls & Boys, by award-winning choreographer Roy Assaf, turns gender dynamics and roles on their head in a performance that is at once playful and provocative.

Through the potent language of choreography, Assaf highlights some of the attributes that make us human and how they are imposed upon the gender binary roles of masculine and feminine.

"A white, straight, male choreographer. This is how some people define me. This human tendency to overgeneralise lies at the core of Girls & Boys."

Roy Assaf, Choreographer

Roy Assaf has worked independently as a choreographer since 2010, with venues and festivals including Théâtre National de Chaillot, Jacob's Pillow, Bolzano Danza, Pavillon Noir, Biennale di Venezia, and the 17th Biennale de la Danse in Lyon, while he has created new work for the Los Angeles Dance Project (LADP), The Royal Swedish Ballet, Batsheva Dance Company, Göteborgs Operans Dans Kompani, The Juilliard School, Ballet de Capitole, and Staatstheater Mainz.

World premiere: Staatstheater Tanz Braunschweig, Germany, 2014.
 The adaptation of Girls & Boys was commissioned by the Batsheva Dance Company in 2018.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography: Roy Assaf

Assistants to the choreographer:

Ariel Freedman, Avshalom Latucha

Music editing & arrangement:

Reut Yehudai Music: "Girl from the

North Country" by Bob Dylan,

"Trauermarsch" by Uri Caine,

"Rama" by Takagi Masakatsu,

"End of the World" by Arthur Kent

and Sylvia Dee, "Mambo No. 5"

by Perez Prado, "Be My Little Baby" by

Jeff Barry, "Parsifal" by Richard Wagner,

"You Are So Beautiful" by Billy Preston

and Bruce Fisher, "Girls Just Wanna

Have Fun" by Robert Hazard, "Hangover

Boogie" by Meade "lux" Lewis, Excerpt

from "Yoko Ono's Meltdown" by Reggie

Watts, "Kyllikki" – Three Lyric Pieces

for Piano, Op. 41, II. Andantino by Jean

Sibelius, "Du bist die Ruh, song for voice

& piano, D. 776, Op. 59/3" by Schuber

Light design: Roy Assaf

and Moritz Zavan Stoeckle

Costumes: Roy Assaf and Sarah Grech

WEAVING CHAOS

DATES & TIME: 25-26 FEBRUARY 2023
DURATION: 70 minutes / **AGE:** 12+

Homer's *Odyssey* is the driving force behind this piece, which summons its dancers to interpret the stubbornness, the pain, and the will of the epic hero returning home. Between the show of individuality of a character and their presence or dissolution in a collective, the tireless search for movement remains, and they fall, in order to rise again.

Weaving Chaos was first premiered at the Biennial de la Danse de Lyon followed by the Centre Pompidou in September 2014. Since then, it has been performed on many prestigious stages throughout the world. Maltese audiences can see this astonishing work performed for a second season by the National Dance Company.

Tânia Carvalho's career as a choreographer spans over 20 years and includes works for the Lyon Opera Ballet, the Company of Elders in London, the National Ballet of Portugal, the Paulo Ribeiro Company, Dançando com a Diferença, and Ballet National de Marseille, among many others. Her work also encompasses music, drawing and film.

"...Everything I do emerges from the depths of my being, and yet it has the ability to reach the other. That's what I appreciate more and more, that binds me to artistic creation: a sharing of feelings that lead us to thoughts kept and silenced..." **Tânia Carvalho, Choreographer**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography:

Tânia Carvalho

Assistant choreographer:

Luís Guerra

Music:

Ulrich Estreich

Original light design:

Zeca Iglésias

Light design in Malta:

Moritz Zavan Stoeckle

Light Scenography:

Jorge Santos

Costumes:

Aleksandar Protic

BOOKINGS: To be announced



UTOPIA

DATES & TIME: 26/27/28 MAY 2023, 19:30
VENUE: TEATRU MANOEL

Choreography, being a practice of organising groups of people in action, can and must be a manner of pointing towards ideal forms and systems for individuals and societies. Regardless of the achievability of these utopian models, the fact that a certain choreographic system shows clear evidence of being beneficial for the group involved, is of great value. It is a daily practice of striving to achieve — within the artistic realm — that which is un-achievable (and probably has no place) in the real world.

Utopia is the result of a collaboration between Emanuel Gat and the ŻfinMalta company dancers, a celebration of their uniqueness, virtuosity, engagement, fearlessness, sense of responsibility and humanity. In a stream of choreographic consciousness, Utopia charts the personal journeys of ten individuals looking for connection and examining the role of the performer as an onstage, live creator.

Emanuel Gat was born in Israel and first danced with the Liat Dror Nir Ben Gal Company before setting out as an independent choreographer in 1994. His company Emanuel Gat Dance is based in Marseilles, France. His unique and personal approach to choreography and dance making has him ranked as one of Europe's leading and most prolific choreographers working today. Over the past 25 years, Gat's work has been presented in most of the leading venues and festivals for dance worldwide.

Supported by the Embassy of France in Malta.

BOOKINGS: booking.teatrumanoel.com.mt / **DURATION:** 60 minutes / **AGE:** 5+

PRODUCTION TEAM
Choreography: Emanuel Gat
Costumes: Holly Knowles
Light design: Emanuel Gat

AMBASSADE
 DE FRANCE
 À MALTE
 Liberté
 Égalité
 Fraternité



*...CHARGED TO SHARE THE
TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF MOVEMENT
WITH MALTA'S YOUNG LEARNERS*

ŽIGUŽAJG

DATES & TIME: 18/19/20 NOVEMBER 2022
VENUE: SPAZJU KREATTIV THEATRE

Aimed at a teenage audience, this collaboration between Žigužajg and ŽfinMalta interweaves physical theatre, dance, poetry and spoken word. The full cast brings together actors and the ŽfinMalta dancers to explore the question: 'What is a teenager's lived experience today?' Together they will create an original work to be performed as part of Žigužajg Festival for Children and Young People.

Director: Philip Leone Ganado
Writer: Leanne Ellul

CREATIVE MOVEMENT RESIDENCIES

ŽfinMalta's School Outreach programme is stronger than ever this season, charged to share the transformative power of movement with Malta's young learners. Under the Artistic Direction of Paolo Mangiola and our highly skilled professional dancers, ŽfinMalta's Creative Movement Residencies are tailored for students of all ages and backgrounds and delivered within the safety of the classroom. Created under the ethos that dance is a means by which anyone can experience and explore their creativity and imagination, sessions can be up to two hours and we'll provide two dancers for every group of 20 participants.

Contact Education & Outreach Artist Martina Zammit





OPEN CLASSES, COMMUNITY CLASSES,

AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

COMPANY OPEN CLASSES

DATES: ONE WEEK, MONTHLY, FROM SEPTEMBER 2022 TO JUNE 2023
TIME: 10:00 – 11:30 **VENUE:** ŻFINMALTA STUDIOS, VALLETTA

Every month ŻfinMalta opens its doors to local and international professional dance artists and students to join the ŻfinMalta dancers during their morning practice. Led by a cast of venerable local and international guest teachers, classes are varied and challenging. This season includes Lucia Geppi, Hervé Palito, Paolo Mangiola, Anna Nowak, Florinda Camilleri, Zoe Camilleri, Julienne Schembri, and more. ŻfinMalta open classes provide a safe and inclusive space for dancers to further develop a professional practice and connect with the company.

COST: starting at €9 per session / **AGE:** 18+

DANCE INTENSIVES

DATES: ONE WEEK, MONTHLY, FROM SEPTEMBER 2022 TO JUNE 2023
VENUE: ŻFINMALTA STUDIOS, VALLETTA

ŻfinMalta's seasonal intensives expose local and international, professional, and aspiring dancers to diverse techniques and training supporting the development of their own practice. Intensives are led by a range of experts, each focusing on a particular movement technique. This season begins under the guidance of expert ballet teachers Lucia Geppi and Herve Palito. Intensives are best experienced through special pre-paid package offers, with drop-in sessions also available.

COST: starting at €15 per session / **AGE:** 11+

İZFEN MA' ŻFINMALTA

COMMUNITY EVENING CLASSES

DATES: MONDAYS FROM SEPTEMBER 2022 – JUNE 2023
TIME: 18:30 – 20:00 **VENUE:** ŻFINMALTA STUDIOS, VALLETTA

Get moving with ŻfinMalta at our evening community dance classes. Open to participants from all backgrounds and levels of fitness and flexibility, these fun and accessible classes address our fundamental human need to move. Each month classes alternate between ballet and contemporary technique. Most importantly, no previous experience in dance is required! Classes are led by expert teachers Martina Zammit and Zoe Camilleri.

COST: €12 per session/ €40 monthly package (4 sessions) / **AGE:** 18+

ASPIRE

Designed for aspiring contemporary dance professionals, this internship programme provides a unique platform for students who are ready to take it to the next level. Following an open call and audition process, selected applicants are given the opportunity to participate in over 90 hours of professional company class, studio rehearsals, and open rehearsals with the ŻfinMalta company dancers. Under the Artistic Direction of Paolo Mangiola, Aspire interns receive exposure to the company's repertoire, creative processes, guest artists, choreographers, and teachers commissioned by the company, and are given a platform to showcase their own work.

Applications are closed for this season. Stay connected with our newsletter and social media for announcements on the next intake.





*OPEN REHEARSALS TAKE AUDIENCES BEHIND
THE SCENES OF ŻFINMALTA'S PRODUCTIONS
DURING THE CREATION PROCESS*

MOVIMENTO

DATES & TIME: TO BE ANNOUNCED
VENUE: ŻFINMALTA STUDIOS, VALLETTA

Movimento is a series of public, interactive talks presented from the perspective of artists outside of dance, looking in. Movimento takes a fresh and innovative approach to audience engagement, where invited guests share their experience of dance or movement, demystifying and making accessible this rich and beautiful art form and inviting the audience to become active spectators.

Now in its fourth season, Movimento 2022/23 is five appointments with five artists who use their practice as a lens to explore dance and the process of choreography. See dance come to life through the stories of these five diverse thinkers as they take you on a journey of discovery that reveals how patterns of choreography can be found all around us.

OPEN REHEARSALS

DATES & TIME: SATURDAYS / 15:00
1 OCTOBER 2022, 28 JANUARY 2023, 4 FEBRUARY 2023, 11 FEBRUARY 2023, 20 MAY 2023, 10 JUNE 2023
VENUE: ŻFINMALTA STUDIOS, VALLETTA

Our new Open Rehearsals take audiences behind the scenes of ŻfinMalta's productions during the creation process. This is a rare opportunity to preview the work before opening night and experience the process of what goes into making a dance production for stage. Join open rehearsals for each production throughout the season to see the dancers at work and meet the many artistic collaborators who bring a work to life.

COST: Purchase your ticket for the performance and present it at the Open Rehearsal session for free entry / or pay €5





ŻFINMALTA PROVIDES AN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE SPACE TO FURTHER DEVELOP PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES AND TO CONNECT WITH THE COMPANY

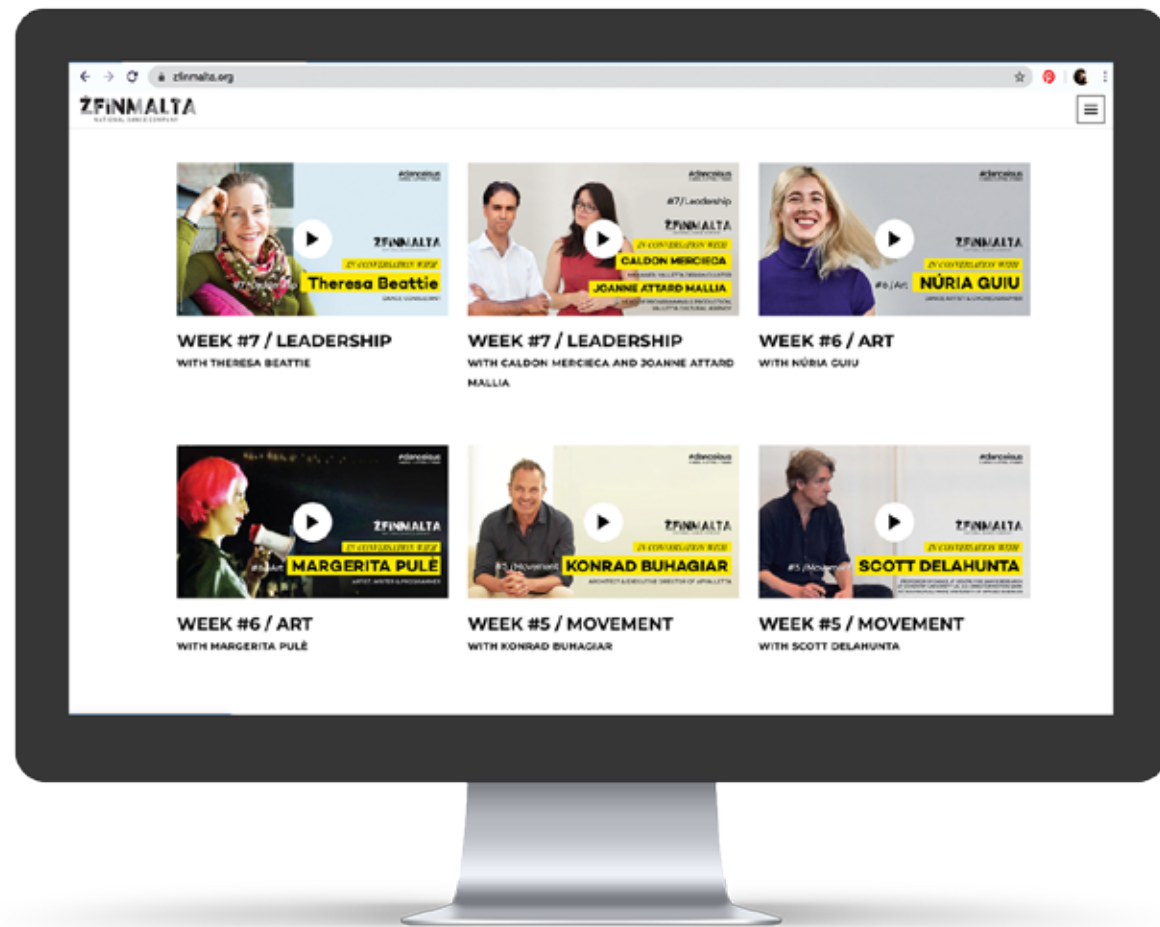
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

DATES & TIME: OPEN CALL IN FEBRUARY 2023;
RESIDENCIES BETWEEN 29TH MAY – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023
VENUE: ŻFINMALTA STUDIOS, VALLETTA

Now in its fifth year, the ŻfinMalta Artist in Residence (AiR) programme is supporting three residencies this season. Open to artists based in Malta who are engaged in dance making and choreography, AiR is an opportunity for emerging dance artists to explore their ideas in a new context, and a space to research, experiment, take risks, and discover new ways to develop and present their work.

PAYMENT: Each resident receives €1000





*EVERYONE HAS A RELATIONSHIP
WITH MOVEMENT, AND EVERYONE
HAS AN EXPERIENCE OF DANCE*

ŽFIN STORIES
DANCE STORIES ON FILM

Part documentary, part day in the life of, Žfin Stories takes you behind-the-scenes with ŽfinMalta’s company dancers. This series of five candid, moving, and sometimes funny, short films has been created in collaboration with the award-winning director James Vernon. Each episode is both an exploration of the artistic creation process and an insight into the personal and professional lives of ŽfinMalta’s extraordinarily talented, professional company dancers.

ŽFIN BLINKS
HOW DANCE IS MADE

Short and sharp, as the name suggests, ŽfinBlinks is a series of videos dedicated to the making of dance. Every episode explores how choreography is used to compose dance. ŽfinBlinks investigates different choreographic tools and their development over time, and through the analysis of a range of works from solos to duets, ensembles, and collaboration, looks at how dance-makers create.

ŽFIN PODCASTS
CONVERSATIONS ON DANCE

This series of podcasts aims to highlight the myriad ways dance features in our lives, reminding us that everyone has a relationship with movement, and everyone has an experience of dance. It’s also an opportunity to draw on the opinions, ideas, and perspectives of the many voices in our cultural ecology. In these candid interviews by members of the ŽfinMalta team, we get an insight into the lives and minds of dancers and choreographers, as well as artists working in other disciplines, policy makers, curators, writers, directors, and thinkers, many of whom are also our collaborators.

For more content like this and to receive notification of new releases subscribe to ŽfinMalta’s youtube channel. Watch the full Žfin Stories & Žfin Blinks archive on our website – zfinmalta.org/resources



YOUR GATEWAY TO VALLETTA

The VBL Group is the largest private owner of real estate in Valletta with a diversified portfolio of residential, hospitality, commercial and office space. As the dominant player in Valletta’s real estate market, VBL Group combines a comprehensive knowledge of the local market with an innovative business model integrating property acquisition, regeneration, and operations.

The Group’s coverage within Valletta is extensive and includes a range of accommodation offerings in the City, as well as regeneration projects such as The Gut, Valletta’s premier nightlife destination located in the lower part of Strait Street.

VBL Group has been supporting the local arts and culture scene since its inception. The Group truly believes the arts are core to Valletta and has played a major role in the overall regeneration of the City.

www.vbl.com.mt



VBL Group

For reservations visit www.vallettastay.com or contact: info@vbl.com.mt

/ Dancers



Pearl Calleja was born in Malta in 2002. She started dance at the age of five and has since trained in classical ballet, contemporary, and spanish dance, under the direction of Marisha Bonnici. She undertook further studies at Dance Arts Faculty in Rome. Pearl has worked with artists including Mauro Astolfi, Michele Merola, Thomas Noone, Roberto Scafati, Francesca Frassinelli, Shirley Esseboom and Emanuele Soavi. She joined ŻfinMalta as an apprentice in 2020 and as a company dancer in 2021.



Lidia Caricasole was born in Verona, Italy in 1997. She began her dance education at the Vic Ballet Academy in Verona. In 2021, she graduated with a BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School, under the direction of Alicia Graf Mack. Following her studies, Lidia was awarded the Juilliard Career Advancement Fellowship for the years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. Lidia has performed in repertoire works by José Limon, Paul Taylor and Martha Graham, as well as in new creations by Ohad Naharin, Bryan Arias, Spencer Dickaus, Jianhui Wang, Andrea Miller, Matthew Neenan, and Allysen Hooks.



Tara Dalli was born in 1998. She began gymnastics at the age of three, and trained with the National Gymnastics Team of Malta between the ages of 8 and 13. Tara trained in classical ballet and contemporary dance under the direction of Dorian Mallia. She has participated in numerous projects locally, including '88 Lilies and a Dog' with Cienfuegos Dance Company, as well as productions with Moveo Dance Company. Tara has worked with choreographers Jacopo Godani, Jorge Crecis, Kerry Nicholls, Kristina and Sade Alleyne, Peter Jasko and Oded Ronen. Tara joined ŻfinMalta in 2018.



Félix Deepen was born in Brussels in 1996. He trained in classical ballet and was accepted at the Rudra Béjart School in 2014, where he performed in The Boléro and The 9th Symphony, by Maurice Béjart. In 2016 Felix joined 'Don't Dance Division', based in The Hague, where he danced pieces by the directors Thom Stuart and Rinus Sprong. In 2017, he moved to Barcelona to dance with IT Dansa, under the direction of Catherine Allard, where he performed pieces by Akram Khan, Jiri Kylian, Alexander Ekman, Lorena Nogal, Ohad Naharin, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Rafael Bonachella. Félix joined ŻfinMalta in 2019.



Nik Folini was born in Italy in 2000. Nik's early dance training began with Scuola di danza Maria Selvini in Chiasso, in classical and modern dance, from 2006 to 2018. In 2020 he graduated from Rudra Béjart, under the direction of Michel Gascard, where he studied classical ballet, the Béjart repertoire, and Martha Graham technique, as well as percussion, singing and kendo. Nik's other experience includes 9 years of karate and 14 years' professional figure skating. He joined ŻfinMalta in 2021.



Jérémie Lafon was born in France and began his dance training at the National Ballet School of Marseille, from 2014-2017. He graduated from the Paris National Conservatoire in 2020 with a Bachelor's degree, obtained with distinction, and went on to further training with the Ensemble Chorégraphique junior company, and Ballet de L'Opéra National du Rhin. He has performed in works by Bruno Bouché, Ohad Naharin, Wayne McGregor, Maud Le Pladec, William Forsythe and Boris Charmatz.



Lotte La Haye was born in 2000 in The Netherlands. Since 2009 her dance education at The Royal Conservatoire The Hague, The Netherlands, has included both the School for Young Talent, Dance, HBO Bachelor Programme, Dance. From 2014-2018 she was part of the Netherland Dance Theatre's (NDT) Young Talent Project, a collaboration between the NDT and The Royal Conservatoire, The Hague. Lotte became an apprentice with Scapino Ballet Rotterdam in 2018. She joined ŻfinMalta in 2021.



Keith Micallef, born in 1993, began his dance training at age 12 under the tuition of Theresa Lungaro Mifsud at The Dance Workshop. He trained in classical ballet in the Cecchetti Method, achieving a Distinction in Advanced 2 level. He also trained in contemporary and flamenco dance styles. Keith joined ŻfinMalta in 2014, and has since performed works by Paolo Mangiola, Jacopo Godani, Jose Agudo and Iván Pérez Avilés, among others. Prior to joining the company, Keith graduated from the University of Malta with a Degree in Legal Studies.



Simon Riccardi-Zani was born in 1998 in Nice, France. He started classical dance aged eight and furthered his studies with programmes at Rosella-Hightower Dance School (Cannes), Princess Grace Academy (Monaco), and Lyon National Conservatoire. Simon began professional classical training at the Opera Ballet School of Paris and later trained in contemporary dance at the Paris National Conservatoire (CNSMDP). He has danced repertoire including Kurt Jooss, Olivier Dubois, Rainer Behr and Pina Baush. Workshops have included Anne Teresa De Keersmaker processes, Gaga techniques, and repertoire by Akram Khan, Angelin Preljocaj, and William Forsythe. Simon joined ŻfinMalta in 2019.



Amber Van Veen was born in Amsterdam in 1999. She started her dance education at the Dutch National Ballet Academy in Amsterdam and graduated from the Royal Ballet School Antwerp in Belgium in 2018. During a traineeship at the Royal Ballet Flanders, she had the opportunity to work with Akram Khan, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Jean-Christophe Maillot and Alexander Ekman. Meanwhile she toured throughout The Netherlands and Belgium as an apprentice of the Dance Theatre, Amsterdam. Amber joined ŻfinMalta in 2019.

/ Company



**Paolo Mangiola,
Artistic Director**

Paolo Mangiola is a choreographer, dance educator and performer working within ballet and contemporary dance practices. Operating in the interstices between codified dance and ordinary movement, Paolo is interested in exploring this relationship in the context of our interconnected society, drawing inspiration from various artistic sources, the web, and emerging movements.

As a performer Paolo has collaborated with, and danced for, artists and choreographers including Wayne McGregor, Deborah Hay, Martin Creed, and Mauro Bigonzetti. Paolo has created works for the Royal Ballet, Tanztheater Nürnberg, Aterballetto, Szczecin Opera Ballet and Balletto di Roma. He attained a Masters in Choreography at The Place, London, and designed the programme for the Contemporary Dance Department, Scuola del Balletto di Roma. Paolo was appointed resident choreographer at Balletto di Roma in 2015, where he remained for three seasons. Since 2017 he has been Artistic Director of ŻfinMalta, Malta's national dance company.



**Christabel Borg Preca,
Agency Head**

Christabel joined ŻfinMalta in December 2021 with the aim of strengthening the agency's operation strategy. Christabel's background is rooted in strategy and policy and she holds a master's degree in strategic management and Public Policy. Her main academic interests lie in the field of creativity and its interaction with policy and education, particularly STEAM education. Christabel has held various arts administration roles, starting her career in 2014 as an administrator with Odd Arts, a community theatre company based in the UK. Since then, she has held positions in cultural management with the Valletta 2018 foundation, Arts Council Malta, and the Maltese Education Ministry.



**Sylvia Attard,
Secretary**

Sylvia's passion for the company comes through in the vital administrative support she provides across all aspects of programming and activities. Sylvia joined ŻfinMalta in 2020 and is dedicated to the company's dancers, team, and operations. When she is not busy taking care of the ŻfinMalta office, she takes pleasure in cooking, baking, and spending time with her family, especially her grandsons.



**Nicole Bearman,
Producer**

Nicole is a cultural producer with more than 25 years' experience creating programmes, events and publications for contemporary art spaces, museums, universities, and festivals, including ŻfinMalta, Blitz, Malta Design Week, the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney, the Biennale of Sydney, Sydney Design Festival, and Australian Design Centre. She has also worked extensively both as an editor and a contributor to numerous international art, architecture, and design magazines. Nicole holds degrees in Visual Arts and Museum Studies, both from the University of Sydney. She joined ŻfinMalta in 2019 as Producer of Threaded Fine, by Rosemary Lee, and in 2020 was appointed as the company's Producer.



**Emma Walker,
Creative Learning & Archive**

Emma graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Dance and Performance from The Central School of Ballet in London, and joined ŻfinMalta as an apprentice in 2015. Emma toured the UK with DeNada Dance theatre's production 'Toro,' by Carlos Pons Guerra, and later joined ŻfinMalta as a dancer in 2017. Since 2021, she has been transitioning into the role of ŻfinMalta's Creative learning co-ordinator, creating written and visual educational resources related to dance making and viewing, as well as education and outreach projects for the company.



**Martina Zammit,
Education & Outreach Artist**

Martina was born in Malta in 1987. She first danced with the Olivia Dow School of Russian Ballet in Malta, where she studied the Legat System. Martina completed three degrees at the University of Malta, beginning with a Bachelor degree in English and Archaeology, and followed by a Masters in English, Modern and Contemporary Literature and Criticism. She then undertook a Bachelor of Dance Studies, which is where she was introduced to contemporary dance. Martina joined ŻfinMalta as a company dancer in 2014, and since 2018 has been making the transition to the role of Education & Outreach Artist.



**Moritz Zavan Stoeckle,
Production Manager**

Moritz Zavan Stoeckle is a dancer and a lighting designer. He began his career in dance in 1995 in Bharatanatyam training with Savitry Nair. In 2007 he started his career in lighting design at Teatro Fondamenta Nuove in Venice. Since 2010 Moritz has been primarily practicing contemporary dance. In 2018 he obtained an MA in Performing Arts, Dance, with a dissertation on multi-genre choreographies that merge Indian classical dance and contemporary dance. Currently he is working as a freelancer with several theatre and dance companies in Malta, Italy and England, both as a dancer and lighting designer, and he also teaches light design at MCAST, Institute for the Creative Arts in Malta.



**Anna Nowak,
Artistic Coordinator**

Anna is a dance artist, educator, re-stager and rehearsal director with over 20 years of professional experience, leading educational and choreographic projects, delivering masterclasses and workshops internationally, as well as creating her own work. She is a former dancer with Wayne McGregor Company, where she performed in Europe, the USA, Canada, Mexico, Australia and Asia, and participated in art installations and films. During her six seasons with the Polish National Ballet, Anna danced solo roles in classical repertory, including Swan Lake, La Bayadere, and Sleeping Beauty, as well as Balanchine, Kylian and others. Anna joined ŻfinMalta in 2020.



**Mohamad Ali 'Dali' Aguerbi,
Technical Assistant**

Dali is a theatre artist and an LGBTQI+ activist from Tunisia, based in Malta. As an artist, his work interrogates the intersection of storytelling and performance with everyday politics and resistance. He has collaborated with various international artists as a performer and co-creator. Dali has co-designed lighting and assisted light designers both in Tunisia and Malta on numerous productions including 'Un-Marry Us' for Dream City festival, 'Dido and Aeneas' at the Manoel Theatre, and 'Out Of The Cistem' with MCAST. He started working with ŻfinMalta as a technical assistant in 2022.

ŻFINMALTA

NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY

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Your support of ŻfinMalta ensures that we can continue to deliver as one of the region's leading contemporary dance companies. By getting involved you are providing vital support for our artistic programming and productions, touring programme, education and participation activities for all ages, and professional development programmes. Most importantly, you will share in the beauty and joy of contemporary dance and know that your gift, regardless of its size, is of tremendous value to us.

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