

21-23 OCTOBER 2022, 19:30 / VALLETTA CAMPUS THEATRE

Duration: 60 minutes / Age: 5+

Bodies emerge from protective capsules to play out the passage of life, crawling from brimming reefs onto the land as homo sapiens, accelerating the entropic process and laying all to waste. In a bunker charged with the synthesis of Paolo Mangiola's lavish choreographic images, the organic modular structures and digital projections of Matthew Attard, Goya's ethereal soundscapes, and Moritz Zavan Stoekle's atmospheric lightscapes, the dancers perform the memory of a life that was, from the luminosity of coral reefs to forests and cities swarming with activity. On Reefs And Eroded Lands We Danced is a dance work that contains the memory of evolution and destruction. Like the seedbank of Svalbard, from which it takes its inspiration, this interdisciplinary performance also preserves the seeds of regeneration, a function typically performed in ancient rituals. We are invited to enter its vault, to witness its movements, which are at once evocative of our fears and hopeful for our planet.

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, Malta's national dance company in 2017.



We have written ourselves into the DNA of this planet, laced human history into the very earth. Every environment bears a palimpsest of its past. Every woodland is a memoir made of leaves and microbes that catalogue its 'ecological memory'. (*Islands of Abandonment: Life in the post-human landscape*, Cal Flyn, 2021. p. 10)

The silt here wears a hard rime of salt that gives way as I lower my weight onto it, like sun-crusted snow. (*Islands of Abandonment: Life in the post-human landscape*, Cal Flyn, 2021. p. 293)

We know that good soil is not just dirt. When you dig into rich, fresh earth, you can feel the life in it. Fertile soil crumbles and slides right off a shovel. Look closely and you find a whole world of life eating life, a biological orgy recycling the dead back into new life. Healthy soil has an enticing and wholesome aroma—the smell of life itself. [Dirt, David Montgomery, 2007. p. 1]

This latency of life. It drifts around us all the time, invisible, like an aether. It's in the air we breathe, the water we drink. Savour it: each breath, each sip is thick with potential. In this cup of nothing, the germ of everything. (Islands of Abandonment: Life in the post-human landscape, Cal Flyn, 2021. p. 26)





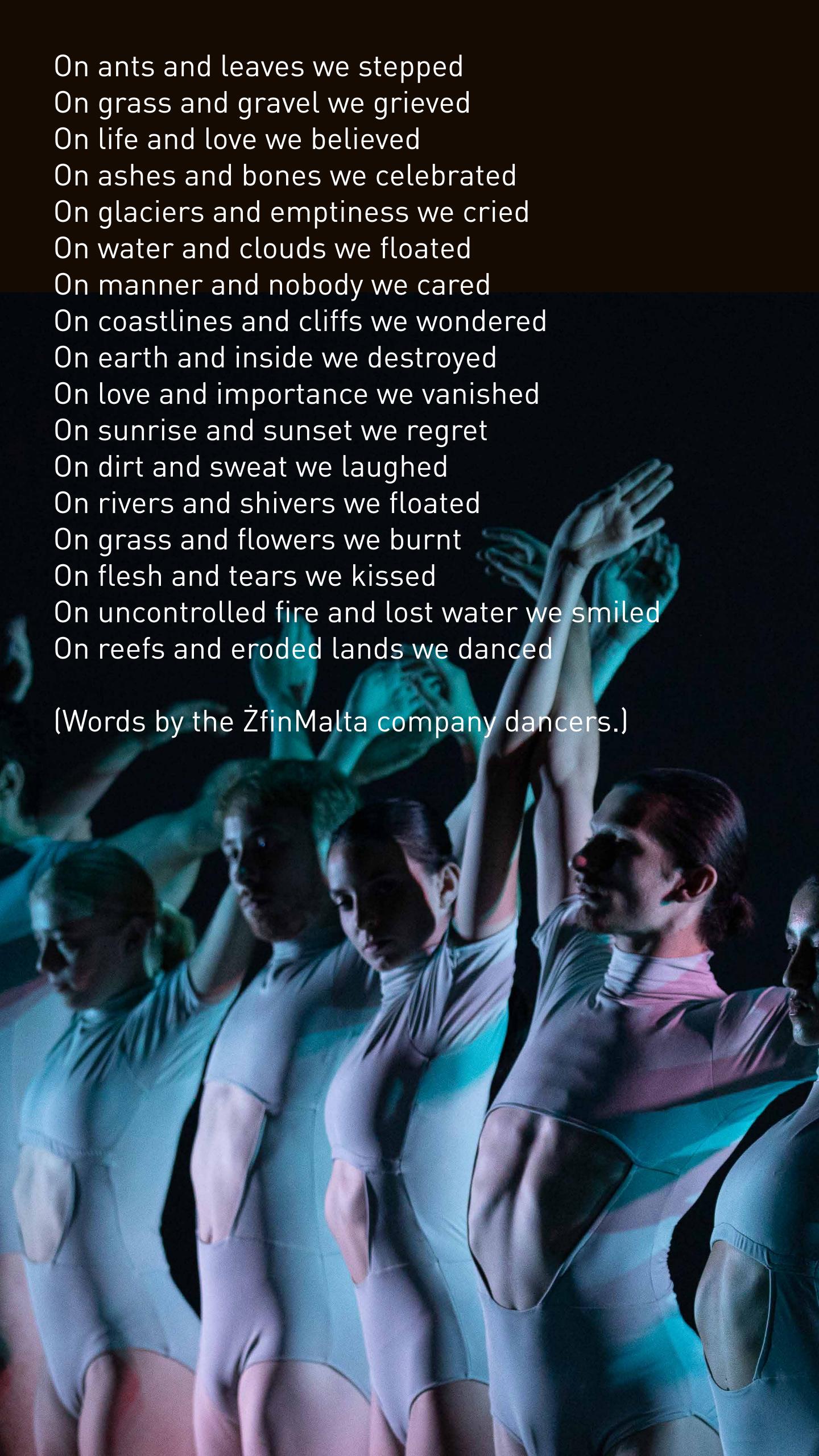




I've been travelling a long time. I feel distant, lightheaded. ... I keep walking, moving at right angles to the faded shores, ... Despite what I know of this shimmering mirage - despite the stink and the rot and the waste that surrounds it, despite the staring eyes of the dead and desiccating fish that litter its shrinking shores, despite the absence of vegetation - I can't help but quicken my pace. ... I look down, through the surface, and feel myself falling through the whole sky, all of it lit with a truly celestial light. (Islands of Abandonment: Life in the post-human landscape, Cal Flyn, 2021.)



On promises and aspirations, we sailed On limits and limitations, we thrived On God and humanity, we deceived On deception and morality, we existed On kingdoms and nations, we expanded On tasks and subjects, we quarrelled On ambitions and reality, we choked On observancy and action, we failed On dust and rusted statues we waited On leftovers and sweat we learned On dead ends and closed frontiers we crossed On white and black we thought On absences and loss we forgot On reeds and ashes, we prevailed On caves and valleys, we fell On dirt and cartilage, we dreamed On luck and violence, we conquered On cracks and wombs, we were born On fibres and proteins, we were warm On poise and depravation, we evolved On precious ores and rotten wood, we drifted On cells and disease, we waited. On putrid land and hallow nerves, we prayed On myth and fear, we healed On chaos and hubris, we believed On rocks and ice, we accepted On leaves and broken branches we walked On rocks and salty plastic we swam On plastic and salty rocks we stood On rocks and forgotten churches we prayed On clouds and breezy air we swam On leaves and roots we lived On stones and wood we grew On lavender and daffodils we died On waves and dunes we sang On playgrounds and castles we smiled



# PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography: Paolo Mangiola

Dramaturgy: Victor Jacono

Visual artist / set design: Matthew Attard

Original score: Goya

Light design: Moritz Zavan Stoeckle

Costume design: Louie Noir & Emma Walker

# **DANCERS**

Pearl Calleja, Lidia Caricasole, Tara Dalli, Felix Deepen, Nik Folini, Lotte La Haye, Jérémie Lafon, Keith Micallef, Simon Riccardi-Zani, Amber Van Veen





# COMPANY

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Paolo Mangiola

#### **Agency Head**

Christabel Borg Preca

#### Producer

Nicole Bearman

#### **Education & Outreach Artist**

Martina Zammit

#### **Artistic Coordinator**

Anna Nowak

#### **Creative Learning & Archive**

Emma Walker

#### Secretary

Sylvia Attard

#### **Production Manager**

Moritz Zavan Stoeckle

#### **Technical Assistant**

Mohamed Ali 'Dali' Aguerbi

### Design, Marketing & PR

NoċeMuskata

#### **Photography**

Alexandra Pace

# **THANKS**

ŻfinMalta acknowledges the support of Arts Council Malta, and the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government.

# **SPONSORS**

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# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

Valeria and Jordi Goetstouwers

Dr Joanna Delia

Samantha Rowe-Beddoe & Gregory Nasmyth

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Alison White (Chair)
Kate De Cesare
Andrea Cassar
Joanne Butterworth
Felix Busuttil



# BECOME A SUPPORTER

Your support for ŻfinMalta National Dance Company will contribute directly to the future of world-class dance in Malta and support programmes that develop new Maltese dance works, cultivate emerging artists and inspire audiences.

For further information contact: NICOLE BEARMAN / Producer

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# FULL SEASON PROGRAMME zfinmalta.org

**SUBSCRIBE** 





#### SUPPORTED BY











# **ŻFINMADE – NEW FUTURES**

SIX EMERGING CHOREOGRAPHERS

1/2/3/4 DECEMBER 2022, 19:30 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. The project provides a space to foster and nurture local artists, bringing them into contact with the country's leading institutions.

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. 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

**BOOK NOW** 

Duration: 70 minutes Age: 5+