

ŻFINMALTA

NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY



2023/24
SEASON PROGRAMME



2023/24
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 Executive Head

It is with great delight that we present to you the first ŻfinMalta programme under the National Agency for the Performing Arts (NAPA), a new agency formed under the recent amalgamation – on an administrative, legislative and organisational level – of ŻfinMalta, Teatru Malta, and KorMalta.

ŻfinMalta was the first national company to be established of the three, through which we aim to keep on developing the contemporary dance sector on a local level, while continuing to build on the Company's strong international profile.

This season's programme will once again have ŻfinMalta staples, such as ŻfinDays and Intimate Żfin, as well as its educational programmes, which serve as an essential tool to further propagate dance not only in the culture and creative sector, but also beyond.

This programme will also see the likes of renowned Maltese artists Trevor Zahra, The New Victorians, and Alexandra Alden, as we aim to continue showcasing different synergies being presented through the wonderful medium of dance.

We do hope you can join us and enjoy what ŻfinMalta has in store for us.

Dominic Galea,
Executive Head, NAPA



Artistic Director

It is an honour and a privilege to introduce our new 2023/24 season. ŻfinMalta begins the journey towards its ten-year anniversary and I couldn't be prouder of what we have achieved, in particular in my seven fulfilling years as Artistic Director. This season our focus shifts to notions of voyage and exploration as curious citizens of this beautiful and complex planet we inhabit. We immerse ourselves in new works that touch on tradition and humour, storytelling, and fantasy; works that offer hope and solace and a place to reflect and be moved. One of the intentions of art is to envisage a future, using the tools developed by artists in the present. This season's line-up is filled with new and established voices who observe and capture aspects of the world through their own perspective, giving back works that are poetic and powerful.

As this is my last season at ŻfinMalta, I wish to thank first and foremost all the dancers who have worked with me and played an essential role in the growth of the company, as well as my team, and all the artists and collaborators who in these past seven years have made ŻfinMalta a place where knowledge and risk are shared, and art is made. I would also like to thank you, our ever-expanding audience. Your curiosity and trust are testament to the quality and success of our work. Lastly, I would like to share a quote from one of my favourite authors, Carl Sagan: "Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people, citizens of distant epochs, who never knew one another. Books break the shackles of time - proof that humans can work magic." In this case I ask you to replace *writing* with *dancing*, and *books* with *choreographies*. Enjoy this new journey!

Paolo Mangiola



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THIS SEASON OUR
FOCUS SHIFTS TO
NOTIONS OF VOYAGE
AND EXPLORATION AS
CURIOUS CITIZENS OF
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WE INHABIT

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*OUR WORK INVITES
AUDIENCES TO
CONTEMPLATE
AND QUESTION OUR
CONTEMPORARY WORLD*

01

PRODUCTIONS



AERIAL

AS PART OF NOTTE BIANCA 2023

DATE: 7 OCTOBER 2023

VENUE: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, VALLETTA

In this new work, commissioned by Notte Bianca, Artistic Director and choreographer Paolo Mangiola collaborates with pianist Tricia Dawn Williams exploring the notion of a 'bird's eye view' and what it means to experience dance from above. Through the music of three renowned contemporary composers, John Cage, John Adams and Ezio Bosso, intricate piano compositions intertwine with delicate choreographies on a miniature scale. Taking inspiration from the point of view used in cinema, this work explores a different dialogue between dance and music, seen from an aerial perspective.

Commissioned by Notte Bianca.

Attend the open rehearsal on 30 September 2023 for free.

DURATION: 20 min, performed on a loop each hour

AGE: 5+

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography: Paolo Mangiola

Ballet Master: Florinda Camilleri

Music: John Cage: In a Landscape,

John Adams: China Gates,

Ezio Bosso: Following a Bird

Live Piano: Tricia Dawn Williams

Light design: Dali Aguerbi

Costumes: Paolo Mangiola

HOLM TAL-MILIED?

CHRISTMAS SHOW WITH THE NEW VICTORIANS

DATES & TIME: 15/16/17 & 19/20/21/22 DECEMBER 2023, 19:30

VENUE: VALLETTA CAMPUS THEATRE

ŻfnMalta presents its first Christmas production with direction and original music performed live by The New Victorians, and choreography by Adriano Bolognino. This dynamic new work is a dance theatre adaptation of the Christmas book, *Holm tal-Milied?* by Trevor Zahra, a classic story many know and love from their childhood and continue to pass on. 'Holm tal-Milied?' is a delightful full family experience, taking audiences on a nostalgic ride, while juxtaposing classic Maltese traditions with a fresh and contemporary musical score and aesthetic. Dramaturgy is by regular collaborator Victor Jacono and for the first time, ŻfnMalta collaborates with set designer Anna Horvath and Laurent Uyttersprot for costumes.

The New Victorians are a high-profile, award-winning sister duo who make music and theatre. Since 2015, they have released two full length studio albums and multiple EPs, opened for multi-platinum artist Anastacia on her Evolution Tour and for the BBC Concert Orchestra in 2019, and repeatedly topped local airplay charts.

Adriano Bolognino's extensive portfolio of achievements includes recipient of the Danza&Danza Emergent Choreographer Award 2022, new creations for Kayzer Ballet in 2023 and Compagnia Opus Ballet in 2022. He was selected by the European Dance Network Aerowaves, and in 2020 the Venice Biennale commissioned him to create *Your body is a battleground*.

Purchase your ticket and attend the Open Rehearsal on 2 December 2023 for free.

BOOKINGS: showshappening.com

DURATION: 70 minutes

AGE: 5+

Based on the book Holm tal-Milied? by Trevor Zahra. Published in Malta by Merlin. Supported by the Italian Cultural Institute of Valletta.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Artistic direction, original score, and live performance:

The New Victorians

Choreography: Adriano Bolognino

Dramaturgy: Victor Jacono

Ballet Master: Florinda Camilleri

Set design: Anna Horvath

Costumes: Laurent Uyttersprot

Light design: Dali Aguerbi

Paper artist: James Dimech

ŻFINDAYS 2024

DOUBLE BILL: CANTATA, ARINGA ROSSA .10

DATES & TIME: 16/17/18 & 23/24/25 FEBRUARY 2024, 19:30

VENUE: VALLETTA CAMPUS THEATRE



CANTATA

ŻfinMalta is thrilled to present 'Cantata' by the inimitable Mauro Bigonzetti. 'Cantata' is Bigonzetti's personal quest to read and recover the traditional musical heritage of Southern Italy. The passionate and visceral gestures of the choreography are evocative of its wild, Mediterranean origins. 'Cantata' is an intuitive dance that stages a continuous game of opposites, sacred and profane, man-woman, sun and moon, love and violence, where music, sounds, voice and body are the main interpreters of the piece.

Mauro Bigonzetti (born 1960, Rome) is one of Italy's pre-eminent dancers and choreographers. His training began at the Rome Opera Theatre, where he studied and worked from 1972 until 1983. The following year he joined Aterballetto as a dancer, where he remained for ten years before leaving to focus on choreography. His first creation, 'Sei in Movimento', was presented in 1990. In 1997, he was named Artistic Director and Principal Choreographer of Aterballetto, a position he held until late 2007. He has since choreographed for companies around the world, including English National Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, Staatsballet Berlin, Ballet del Teatro Argentino, New York City Ballet, and Ballet du Capitole de Toulouse. In 2016 he directed the Corpo di Ballo del Teatro alla Scala. Most recently, he has staged 'King Lear' with the Stuttgart Ballet, performed by Egon Madsen, and 'Madina' at Teatro alla Scala, performed by Roberto Bolle.

Supported by the Italian Cultural Institute of Valletta.

Purchase your ticket and attend the Open Rehearsal on 20 January 2024 for free.

DURATION: 30 minutes

AGE: 5+

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography:

Mauro Bigonzetti

Assistant choreographer:

Vincenzo Capezzuto

Ballet Master: Brenda Lee Grech

Music: Original and traditional music by Assurd (L. Monti - C. Vetrone), Enza Pagliara and Enza Alessandra Prestia

Light design: Carlo Cerri

Costume design:

Helena de Medeiros

Costume maker: Louie Noir

ARINGA ROSSA .10

In this collaboration with ŻfinMalta, choreographer Ambra Senatore revisits 'Aringa Rossa', first created as a full-length work in 2014. Attentive to a curious, open dance, attuned to the experience of the choreographer and the dancers, 'Aringa Rossa' takes Senatore's compositional style to the extreme, constantly shifting the pieces of an ever more astonishing puzzle. Working with clues, games with changing rules, and fragmented scenes, the dancers eventually take over this meticulous choreography. Working with assistant choreographer Vincent Blanc, this adaptation 'Aringa Rossa .10' is the encounter between the ten-year-old original and the personalities of the dancers.

Ambra Senatore has been director of the National Choreographic Center in Nantes since 2016. Her dance is found in the tenuous space between the construction of action, fiction in rehearsal, and the truth of presence. Underpinning all gestures is the everyday, observed with a magnifying glass, which she shifts and reverses until the gesture becomes fictionalised, until the dance becomes theatrical. Adept at surprises, cuts, and reminiscent of cinema.

Supported by the Embassy of France in Malta, and the Italian Cultural Institute of Valletta.

Purchase your ticket and attend the Open Rehearsal on 3 February 2024 for free.

DURATION: 30 minutes

AGE: 5+

BOOKINGS: zfinmalta.org

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography:

Ambra Senatore

Assistant choreographer:

Vincent Blanc

Original Music: Igor Sciavolino

Original light design:

Fausto Bonvini

Light design in Malta: Dali Aguerbi

Costume design:

Roberta Vacchetta

Costume maker: Holly Knowles

Photography: Viola Berlanda





INTIMATE ŻFIN

AS PART OF MALABIENNALE.ART 2024

DATES & TIME: 15/16 MARCH 2024, 19:30

VENUE: GRAN SALON, ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, VALLETTA

Intimate Żfin is where music meets dance in unexpected spaces. It is an opportunity to see the company's extraordinary dancers up close in a series of choreographic miniatures created by ŻfinMalta's Artistic Director Paolo Mangiola. Intimate Żfin unfolds through a series of dance sketches, creating a dialogue between the choreography, music, and architecture. Performing live in the space, Alexandra Alden and her band focus on the themes of belonging, home and braving the unknown. Songs are from Alden's discography, albums 'Wild Honey' (2018) and 'Leads to Love' (2021), with preview of her upcoming album. The band is made up of both Maltese and Dutch musicians who Alden has collaborated with closely over the years.

Presented as part of malabiennale.art 2024.

Purchase your ticket and attend the Open Rehearsal on 9 March 2024 for free.

BOOKINGS: zfinmalta.org

DURATION: 60 minutes

AGE: 5+

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography: Paolo Mangiola, in collaboration with the dancers

Costumes: Julia Boikova

Music: Alexandra Alden – vocals and acoustic guitar; Daniel Van Der Duim – keyboards, backing vocals, and samples;

Juriaan De Kok –

acoustic and electric bass;

Luke Briffa – drums;

Jimmy Bartolo –

electric guitar and effects

Light design: Moritz Zavan Stoeckle

DANCES FOR GOZO

DOUBLE BILL: CANTATA, FLESH AND STONE

DATES & TIME: 6 APRIL 2024, 20:00

VENUE: AURORA THEATRE, GOZO

CANTATA

CHOREOGRAPHY BY
MAURO BIGONZETTI

(refer to page 14)

FLESH AND STONE

Inspired by the temples of Gozo, this new creation by Canadian choreographer Lesley Telford, explores the echo and enormity of the influence of our mothers. Through her fascination with the myths of the Ġgantija giants of our past, Telford imagines how the power of those who came before us may seem super-human. Starting from the image of the mother goddess, the work questions: How do we fit into the larger-than-life remnants of our past and how do our regular lives, failures and stories relate to this colossal mother image?

Lesley Telford is a Vancouver-based choreographer and Artistic Director of Inverso Productions. Her work has been described as having 'a profound way of tapping into very deep recesses of our emotional and intellectual landscapes'. Lesley danced with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Compañía Nacional de Danza in Spain, and Netherlands Dans Theater 1, where she worked with choreographers including Jiri Kylian, Paul Lightfoot and Sol Leon, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, Johan Inger, and Crystal Pite and others. She has choreographed new works for Ballet BC, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Netherlands Dans Theater 1, Hubbard Street Dance Company 2, Compañía Nacional de Danza 2, Ballet Vorpommern, Pro Arte Danza, and Arts Umbrella Dance Company, among others. She founded Inverso Productions to experiment with other art forms and ways of creating dance.

DURATION: 30 minutes

AGE: 5+

Dances for Gozo is commissioned by the Ministry for Gozo.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography: Lesley Telford

Ballet Master: Florinda Camilleri

Composer: Ruben Zahra

Light design: Dali Aguerbi





GEOGRAPHERS OF SOLITUDE

DATES & TIME: 24/25/26 MAY 2024, 19:30

VENUE: TEATRU MANOEL

ŻfinMalta joins forces with Ballet D'Jerri, the national dance company of Jersey Island, in a new work by ŻfinMalta Artistic Director Paolo Mangiola. Twenty dancers come together to explore what unites the two islands through distinctive geographical and cultural landscapes.

Taking inspiration from the Arctic Tern, a bird known for having the longest migratory patterns on the planet, 'Geographers of Solitude' is a conversation on diversity, the fragility of different voices, and fostering collective harmony. Just as these birds take shelter on both islands during their long journey, the dancers on stage explore both itinerant and protracted island life and the dynamic interplay between solitude and communal, on our individual and collective narratives. It delves into the notion of islands as a microcosm of the world at large – a contained environment where its inhabitants develop unique cultures and ways of organising societies.

A co-production with Ballet D'Jerri.

Purchase your ticket and attend the Open Rehearsal on 18 May 2024 for free.

BOOKINGS: teatrumanoel.com.mt

DURATION: 70 minutes

AGE: 8+

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography: Paolo Mangiola,
in collaboration with the dancers

Light design: Dali Agreb

Dancers: ŻfinMalta and Ballet D'Jerri

VOICES AT THE END

DOUBLE BILL: TWISTING LANDSCAPES, VOICES AT THE END
AS PART OF THE MALTA INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

DATES & TIME: 15 JUNE 2024

VENUE: TEATRU MANOEL

TWISTING LANDSCAPES

Twisting Landscapes is a chamber work for clarinet, violin, and piano written by Japanese Composer Makiko Kinoshita in 2004. Taking around 16 minutes to complete, the composition has three movements, which follow a rhythmic atmospheric-rhythmic structure. As a starting point for this piece, Mangiola looked at fractal behaviour and activity in nature. The landscapes of the score are explored through the composition of trios, duets, and ensemble resulting in an unpredictable dialogue with the music score.

DURATION: 17 minutes

AGE: 5+

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography & light design:

Paolo Mangiola

Music: Makiko Kinoshita

VOICES AT THE END

Commissioned by the Malta International Arts Festival and choreographed by Paolo Mangiola, 'Voices at the end' takes its name from the score by Greek composer John Psathas. Mangiola explores how the score, inspired by the film *Planetary*, informs the dance in dialogue with the themes of ecological and organic systems and our need to move from a society driven by industrial growth to one that is life sustaining. Through this intense dialogue between choreography and music, 'Voices at the end' traverses different moods, from dreamscapes to cities, and the abstract to the concrete, offering its audience an experience that is both choreographically and musically stunning.

Commissioned by the Malta International Arts Festival.

BOOKINGS: teatrumanoel.com.mt

DURATION: 30 minutes

AGE: 5+

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography: Paolo Mangiola

Music: John Psathas

Dancers: ŻfinMalta

Costumes: Paolo Mangiola

Light design: Dali Aguerbi

A man and a woman in light-colored, form-fitting dancewear are performing a contemporary dance move on a sandy beach. The man is in a low, crouched position, supporting the woman as she balances on his back with one leg extended high into the air. The background features a large, layered rock formation under a clear blue sky. The lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

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*ŻFINMALTA TOURS
INTERNATIONALLY
WITH WORKS FROM
OUR OUTSTANDING AND
EXTENSIVE REPERTOIRE*

02

ON TOUR



ŻFINMALTA ON TOUR

ŻfinMalta tours internationally with works from our outstanding and extensive repertoire. See the company perform at these venues and festivals already confirmed for the new season.

GORIZIA DANCE FESTIVAL, ITALY / SLOVENIA

13 OCTOBER 2023

Girls & Boys, choreography by Roy Assaf

BELGRADE DANCE FESTIVAL, SERBIA

9/10 APRIL 2024

Utopia, choreography by Emanuel Gat

TEATRO ARIOSTO, REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY

17 APRIL 2024

Utopia, choreography by Emanuel Gat

JERSEY ISLAND, UK

7/8/9 JUNE 2024

Geographers of Solitude, choreography by Paolo Mangiola

Full repertoire: zfinmalta.org/repertoire

To book ŻfinMalta contact Producer Nicole Bearman:
nicole.bearman@zfinmalta.mt



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

03

REACHING OUT

TOI TOI – BABY TO THE MOON SERIES

A TOI TOI & ŻFINMALTA COLLABORATION
DATES & TIME: 3 & 4 FEBRUARY 2024 / 09:30 & 11:00
VENUE: TEATRU MANOEL STUDIO THEATRE

‘Baby To the Moon’ is an enchanting dance performance designed especially for children aged 0-4. Through this collaboration ŻfinMalta’s apprentice dancers and Education and Outreach Artist explore interplanetary space, taking audiences through the experience of life beyond Earth and attempting to show how its vastness can help us to also appreciate the vastness of life within. With the aim of capturing imaginations by introducing the wonders of space, this interactive dance spectacle takes its young audiences on a delightful journey through the solar system, to the moon and beyond.

CAST: Benjamin Spiteri and Marion Paquet
CHOREOGRAPHY: Martina Zammit

ĊaQLaQ – SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

ŻfinMalta’s School Outreach programme is stronger than ever this season, charged to share the transformative power of movement with Malta’s young learners. Led by the company dancers, under the Artistic Direction of Paolo Mangiola, ŻfinMalta’s school outreach programmes take the highest level of dance to students in pre-primary, primary, secondary, and upper secondary education. Programmes are tailored for students of all ages and backgrounds, delivered within the safety of the classroom, and created under the ethos that dance is a means by which anyone can experience and explore their creativity and imagination.

Contact Education & Outreach Artist Martina Zammit to discuss a ĊaQLaQ programme best suited to your students and environment:
martina.d.zammit@zfinmalta.mt.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT WORKSHOPS

ŻfinMalta’s Creative Movement Workshops are the perfect team building activity for your organisation, group, or community. Each workshop is tailored to the skills, background and age of participants and is led by a minimum of two ŻfinMalta company dancers. Workshops are centred around ZfinMalta’s own unique ‘Choreographic Toolbox’, which has been meticulously researched and developed over the years by the dancers and Artistic Director Paolo Mangiola, to introduce participants to the world of dance and help them dig deeper into a pre-existing relationship with dance. Creative Movement Workshops encourage participants to open up in a safe, curated space, and explore new concepts through the lens of movement.

Contact Education & Outreach Artist Martina Zammit to request a detailed workshop structure or proposal: martina.d.zammit@zfinmalta.mt.





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*VARIED CLASSES FOR
EVERYONE EXPLORING
DANCE IN A SAFE AND
INCLUSIVE SPACE*

04

EDUCATION

Education and participation programmes aim to provide a strengthening, transformative and confidence-building experience for your body and mind. For schedule announcements and updates throughout the season, go to zfinmalta.org and subscribe to our newsletter.

COMPANY OPEN CLASSES

DATES & TIME: ONE WEEK, MONTHLY, MONDAY TO FRIDAY / 10:00 – 11:30
VENUE: ŻFINMALTA STUDIOS, VALLETTA

Every month ŻfinMalta opens its doors to local and international professional dance artists and students following vocational training 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 and include somatic, contemporary, ballet, and yoga practices. ŻfinMalta company open classes provide a safe and inclusive space for dancers to further develop a professional practice, make connections, and experience life within the national dance company. Classes are open to experienced dancers, as well as those enrolled in vocational training.

AGE: 18+
COST: €10 per session / 5 sessions for €35 (booking fees apply)
COMMENCEMENT: Monday 4th September 2023 /
Ballet with Alessandro Bigonzetti

DANCE INTENSIVES

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. It is also an opportunity to experience the ŻfinMalta repertoire. Intensives are led by a range of experts, such as Alessandro Bigonzetti and Robert Parker, each focusing on a particular movement technique. This season includes somatic and contemporary techniques for participants aged 10 years and above, while workshops for those with no dance background offer an introduction to creative movement techniques.

AGE: 10+
COST: packages from €45 / drop-in sessions available from €25 (booking fees apply)
COMMENCEMENT: Saturday 2 September 2023 /
Ballet with Alessandro Bigonzetti.
SCHEDULE: Dance Intensive schedule to be announced on ŻfinMalta socials, website and newsletter.



IŻFEN MA' ŻFINMALTA: COMMUNITY EVENING CLASSES

DATES: MONDAYS & TUESDAYS FROM SEPTEMBER 2023 - JULY 2024
(4 SESSIONS PER MONTH)
TIME: 19:00 – 20:30
VENUE: ŻFINMALTA STUDIOS, VALLETTA

Get moving with ŻfinMalta on Monday and Tuesday evenings at our community dance classes, led by expert teachers. Open to participants from all backgrounds and levels of fitness and flexibility, these fun and accessible classes address our fundamental human need to move. Most importantly, no previous experience in dance is required.

AGE: 18+
COST: €12 per session / monthly package for €40 (4 sessions) / 4-month package for €140 (16 sessions)
MONDAYS: Ballet classes led by Martina Zammit and Emma Walker
TUESDAYS: Contemporary/Somatic led by Zoe Camilleri, Florinda Camilleri, Julianne Schembri, and Rachel Calleja.
COMMENCEMENT: Monday 4 September 2023 / Ballet with Martina Zammit
Tuesday 5 September 2023 / Contemporary with Zoe Camilleri



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*...FRESH AND INNOVATIVE
APPROACH TO AUDIENCE
ENGAGEMENT*

05

PARTICIPATION

MOVIMENTO

DATES: 5 APPOINTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

TIME: 18:30 – 19:45

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.

Once again, this season we ask five artists to use their practice as a lens to explore dance and the process of choreography. Past presenters have included Alex Camilleri, Alexandra Pace, Lara Zammit, Scott de la Hunta, Michele Tufigno, Tom Van Malderen, Victor Jacono and Dr Michael Quinton. 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.

AGE: Open

COST: €5 per session (booking fees apply)



OPEN REHEARSALS

DATES: 30 SEPTEMBER 2023 (AERIAL, NOTTE BIANCA),
2 DECEMBER 2023 (HOLM TAL-MILIED?),
20 JANUARY 2024 (CANTATA),
3 FEBRUARY 2024 (ARINGA ROSSA .10),
9 MARCH 2024 (INTIMATE ŻFIN),
18 MAY 2024 (GEOGRAPHERS OF SOLITUDE)

TIME: 14:30 – 15:30

VENUE: ŻFINMALTA STUDIOS, VALLETTA

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 (booking fees apply)



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*OPEN TO ARTISTS BASED IN
MALTA WHO ARE ENGAGED
IN DANCE MAKING AND
CHOREOGRAPHY*

06

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

AIR2024 – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

DATES & TIME: OPEN CALL FEBRUARY 2024;
RESIDENCIES TO TAKE PLACE 2024.

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. While choreography is the central exploration of the residency, makers from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

PAYMENT: Selected residents will receive a financial contribution from ŻfinMalta to support their project.





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BEHIND-THE-SCENES

WITH ŻFINMALTA'S

COMPANY DANCERS

07

ONLINE RESOURCES

ŻFIN STORIES

DANCE STORIES ON FILM

Part documentary, part day in the life of, Żfin Stories takes you behind-the-scenes with ŻfinMalta'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 ŻfinMalta's extraordinarily talented, professional company dancers.

ŻFIN BLINKS

HOW DANCE IS MADE

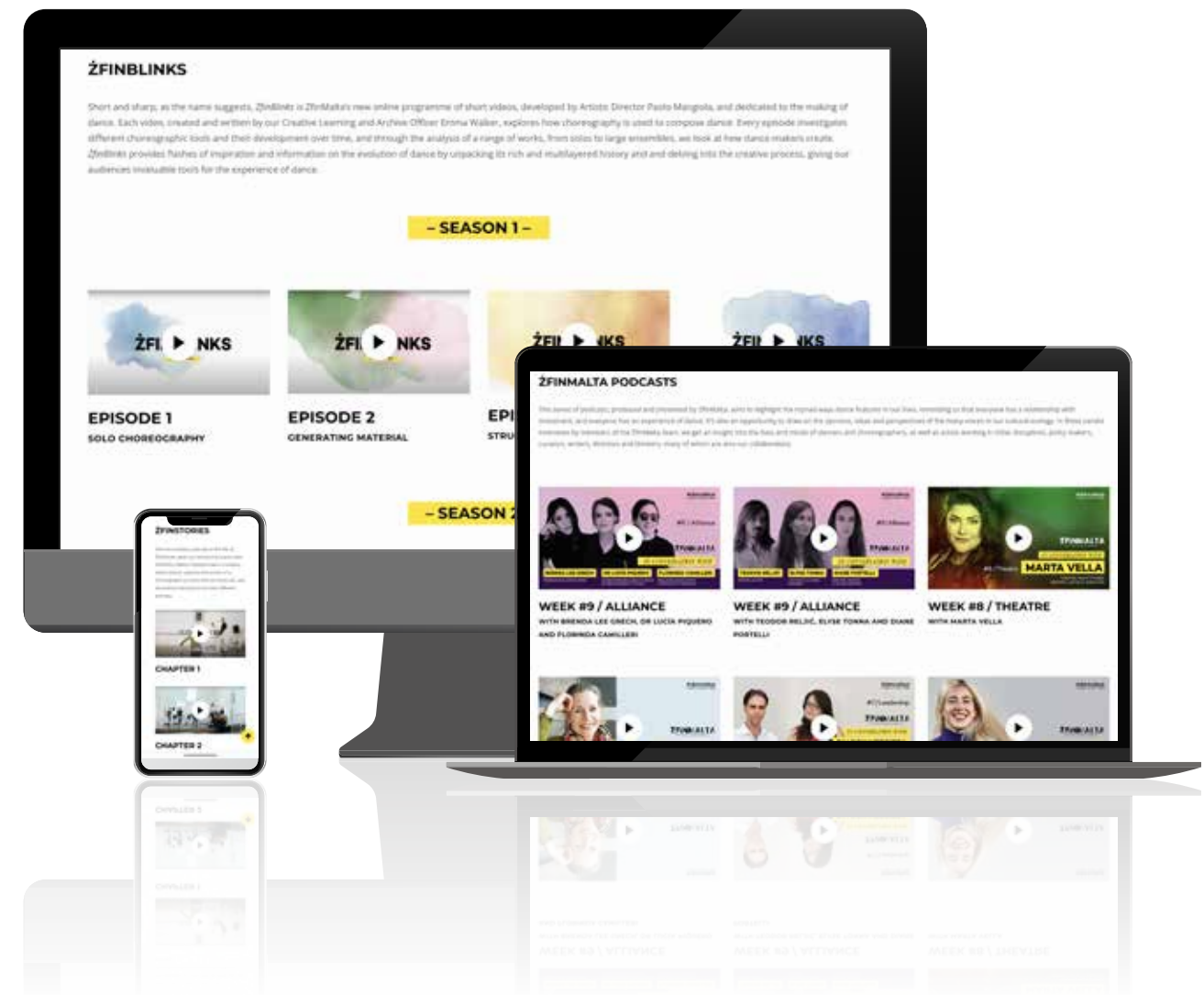
Short and sharp, as the name suggests, ŻfinBlinks is a series of videos dedicated to the making of dance. Every episode explores how choreography is used to compose dance. ŻfinBlinks investigates different choreographic tools and their development over time, and through the analysis of a range of works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

ŻFIN 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 ŻfinMalta 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 ŻfinMalta's YouTube channel. Watch the full Żfin Stories & Żfin Blinks archive on our website – zfinmalta.org/resources.



Company Dancers



MARTI BLANCO ROMEU

Born in Barcelona in 2001, Marti started dancing in an elementary school where dance was mixed with music, later he studied at the professional dance conservatory of the Institut del Teatre, Barcelona, where he worked with various guest dancers and established choreographers. Marti graduated in contemporary dance in 2020 and subsequently joined IT Dansa, Barcelona, as an apprentice for the first year and then as a company dancer. During his time with IT Dansa he has worked with an extensive and varied repertoire of choreographers such as Akram Khan, Alexander Ekman, Cayetano Soto, and Ohad Naharin, among others.



PEARL CALLEJA

Born in Malta in 2002, Pearl started dance at the age of five and has trained in classical ballet, contemporary, and Spanish dance. She graduated from Seed Dance Studios in 2019 and furthered her studies in contemporary at DAF (Dance Arts Faculty) in Rome under the direction of Mauro Astolfi. Pearl has worked with artists including Michele Merola, Emanuele Soavi, Roberto Scafati, Francesca Pennini, Roy Assaf, Tania Carvalho, and Emanuel Gat. Pearl was also nominated for the Young Artist of the Year Award in the 2022 edition of Premju għall-Arti. She joined ŻfinMalta as an apprentice in 2020 and as a company dancer in 2021.



LIDIA CARICASOLE

Born in Italy in 1997, Lidia began her dance education at the Vic Ballet Academy in Verona. In 2021, she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from The Juilliard School in NYC, under the direction of Alicia Graf Mack. Lidia has performed in repertoire 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. Following her studies, Lidia was awarded the Juilliard Career Advancement Fellowship for the years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, a recognition to students considered of impact for the future of the performing arts. Lidia joined ŻfinMalta in 2022.



NOEMI COIN ANDREOTTI

Noemi is an Italo-French dancer. She graduated from Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris, and in 2019 became a dancer with Ballet de l'Opera National du Rhin in France. Here she danced in an extensive repertoire including the choreographers Ohad Naharin, William Forsythe, KOR'SIA, Hélène Blackburn, Alba Castillo, Bruno Bouché, Gil Harush, and Martin Chaix. She has also performed in musical theatre, 'West Side Story' by Barry Kosky and 'On achève bien les chevaux' by Clément Hervieu-Leger.



AMBER VAN VEEN

Born in 1999 in Amsterdam, Amber began her training at the Dutch National Ballet Academy and completed her education at the Royal Ballet school of Antwerp. After her graduation in 2018, she enrolled as trainee with Ballet Flanders, where she had the opportunity to work with choreographers including Akram Khan, Jean-Christophe Maillot and Alexander Ekman, under the artistic direction of Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. She was also an apprentice at the International Danstheater in Amsterdam, touring for a year in the Netherlands and Belgium. Amber joined ŻfinMalta in 2019 and has since enjoyed a varied repertoire under the artistic direction of Paolo Mangiola.



JÉRÉMIE LAFON

Jérémy was born in France and began his dance training at the National Ballet School of Marseille, which he attended 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, Boris Charmatz, Tânia Carvalho, Emanuel Gat, and Paolo Mangiola, among others.



KEITH MICALLEF

Born in 1993, Keith 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 at 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, Roy Assaf, Iván Pérez Avilés and Emanuel Gat, among others. Prior to joining the company, Keith graduated from the University of Malta with a Degree in Legal Studies.



MATTEO REAL

Born in France in 2001, Matteo started ballet aged seven at the Toulouse Conservatoire and continued his dance education in the Paris National Conservatoire. He graduated after five years of professional classical training and furthered his studies in the Master of Repertoire and Creation for three years with a focus on contemporary dance styles. He has performed in works by Wayne McGregor, William Forsythe, Hervé Robbe, Trisha Brown, Boris Charmatz, and Maud le Pladec, among others.



SIMON RICCARDI-ZANI

Born in 1998 in Nice, France, Simon began his dance training aged eight, and furthered his studies at the Opera Ballet School of Paris. He continued his education in contemporary dance and graduated in 2019 from the Paris National Conservatoire. Simon joined ŻfinMalta the same year, and has since performed works by Paolo Mangiola, Roy Assaf, Emanuel Gat, Jacopo Godani, Tânia Carvalho, among others. Simon's first choreographic work was commissioned in 2022 as part of the biennial ŻfinMade programme.



LOTTE LA HAYE

Lotte was born in 2000 in The Netherlands. Since 2009 her dance education at The Royal Conservatoire of The Hague has included both the School for Young Talent and the HBO Bachelor Program. From 2014-2018 she was part of the Netherlands Dance Theatre's (NDT) Young Talent Project, a collaboration between NDT and The Royal Conservatory of The Hague. Here she danced in works from Jiří Kylián, Johan Inger and Ohad Naharin. Lotte became an apprentice with Scapino Ballet Rotterdam in 2018 under the direction of Ed Wubbe. She joined ŻfinMalta in 2021.

Apprentice Dancers



MARION PAQUET

Marion Paquet was born in France and began ballet at the age of four. She attended the National Dance School of Marseille, followed by Codarts Rotterdam where she joined the codarts dance company in her third year. She has worked with various choreographers including Roy Assaf, Andonis Foniadakis, Ed Wubbe, Michel Kelemenis, and Cayetano Soto, among others. Marion joins ŻfinMalta as an apprentice in 2023.



BENJAMIN SPITERI

Born in 2003 in Malta, Benjamin began his dance training at the age of 11 dancing various styles including ballet, contemporary, hip-hop, and jazz. In 2020, he relocated to the UK to train vocationally at Elmhurst Ballet School where he studied classical ballet and contemporary, as well as jazz, flamenco and piano. He graduated in 2023 with a Trinity Level 6 Diploma. He has performed works by Morgan Runacre-Temple, Mark Baldwin OBE,

Jordan James Bridge, Avatâra Ayuso, and Cris Penfold, and a classical repertoire by Sir Frederick Ashton and Sir David Bintley CBE. Ben joins ŻfinMalta as an apprentice in 2023.

The 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.



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.



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's 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 in the role of Education & Outreach Artist.



SUZANNA NIKOLIC, Marketing & Communications Manager

Born in Malta, Suzanna graduated from the University of Malta with a Bachelor of Commerce in 2019. She furthered her studies at Lund University in Sweden where she obtained a master's degree in international marketing and strategic brand management. Suzanna joined ŻfinMalta in 2023. Apart from ensuring that the ŻfinMalta brand is widely known and continuously innovating itself, she truly enjoys being active in sports and travelling.



EMMA LOUISE WALKER, Marketing, Communications, and Administration Officer

Emma was born in the UK. She was accepted as an associate at the Royal Ballet School, and participated in 'Blink Margate', working with Company Wayne McGregor. She later graduated with First Class Honours from Central School of Ballet and was selected for the pilot year of Akram Khan's AKX programme. In 2018, Emma toured the UK with DeNada Dance theatre's production 'Toro,' by Carlos Pons Guerra. Emma joined ŻfinMalta as an apprentice in 2015, and a full-time dancer in 2018, working with choreographers including Paolo Mangiola, Jacopo Godani, and Tânia Carvalho. Emma now works for ŻfinMalta in marketing, content creation and education.

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Samantha Rowe-Beddoe & Gregory Nasmyth

SUPPORT US

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.

For further information contact: **Nicole Bearman, Producer**
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NAPA GOVERNANCE

ŻfinMalta National Dance Company is part of the National Agency for the Performing Arts (NAPA), a public agency providing a joint legal, administrative, and organisational framework for KorMalta, Teatru Malta and ŻfinMalta.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alison White (Chair), Kate De Cesare, Andrea Cassar, Mary Ann Cauchi, Joanne Butterworth, Felix Busuttil, Adrian Mamo

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Dominic Galea, Executive Head
Christabel Borg Preca, Acting Director for Administration

CO-PRODUCERS



Ballet D'Jerri, the national dance company of Jersey Island, UK

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zfinmalta.org

2023

2024

LIVE CULTURE SEASON



THE ROYAL OPERA

DAS RHEINGOLD
LIVE SEP 20 2023
ENCORE SEP 24 2023

MADAMA BUTTERFLY
LIVE MAR 26 2024
ENCORE MAR 31 2024

CARMEN
LIVE MAY 1 2024
ENCORE MAY 5 2024

ANDREA CHENIER
LIVE JUN 11 2024
ENCORE JUN 16 2024

THE ROYAL BALLET

DON QUIXOTE
LIVE NOV 7 2023
ENCORE NOV 12 2023

THE NUTCRACKER
LIVE DEC 12 2023
ENCORE DEC 17 2023

MANON
LIVE FEB 7 2024
ENCORE FEB 11 2024

SWAN LAKE
LIVE APRIL 24 2024
ENCORE APR 28 2024

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