

ŻFINMALTA
NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY



2025
SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMME

NAPA National Agency
for the Performing Arts

03

ŻFIN10

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
OF ŻFINMALTA

09

PRODUCTIONS

17

LEARNING
& PARTICIPATION

21

THE COMPANY

11

DECADE

Choreography by **Thick & Tight**

Teatru Salesjan

13

MORTAL HEROES

Choreography by **Sita Ostheimer**

Teatru Manoel

15

**SOMIGLIANZA (PRÉLUDE À L'APRÈS-
MIDI D'UN FAUNE)**

Choreography by

Antonio De Rosa and Mattia Russo – Kor'sia

Dance Festival Malta

19

ŻFINMALTA WORKSHOP TOUR

16th – 28th June

19

**SUMMER INTENSIVE I
ŻFINMALTA X DANCEHIVE**

7th – 18th July

CONTENTS



ŽFIN10 - CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ŽFINMALTA

ŽfinMalta National Dance Company is proud to present ŽFIN10, a celebratory week of special events and participatory projects, culminating in the premiere of the highly anticipated DECADE, a brand-new production created by Thick & Tight.

As Malta's national contemporary dance company, ŽfinMalta has spent the past ten years sharing world-class performances, nurturing local talent, and highlighting Malta as a vibrant cultural centre internationally. Join us in celebrating a decade of artistic excellence, innovation, and development.

Supported by **Arts Council Malta**

photo by **Alexandra Pace**





FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MATTHEW WILLIAM ROBINSON

Our anniversary is a moment to reflect on history and express optimism for the future: a time to celebrate what has been, while shaping what could be.

As part of the celebrations marking our tenth anniversary we reaffirm our commitment to be contemporary, to be shaped by life as it is now, critically engaging with its challenges, its complexities, and its beauty. To be in dialogue with new generations, with new innovations, and to work collaboratively to shape the world for the better.

On and off stage ŻfinMalta National Dance Company is entering new territories. I am delighted to share our upcoming programme and invite you to experience the company like never before.

10 – A ŻFINMALTA DOCUMENTARY

Premiere screening

Monday 21st April | 19:30
ŻfinMalta Studios, Valletta

A special evening of film, conversation, and celebration as we unveil a brand-new documentary marking 10 years of the National Dance Company.

TEN

Youth Performance Project

Choreography by **Nicola Micallef and Tara Dalli**

Over an intensive week ten young Maltese dancers will create a new piece of work with artists Nicola Micallef and Tara Dalli. Made especially for the public space of Teatru Salesjan the performance will form the opening act of DECADE.

12-17 year olds are invited to respond to our open call and participate in a selection workshop on 17th April at ŻfinMalta Studios.

Apply by 9th April.

Details [zfinmalta.org/education-and-participation/zfin10-call-for-participation](https://www.zfinmalta.org/education-and-participation/zfin10-call-for-participation)

ACTIVE AGEING WORKSHOPS

With **Sarah Vella and Benji Cachia**

22nd & 23rd April
Salesian Oratory, Sliema

A total of thirty-five participants from Msida, Birkirkara, Siggiewi and St. Paul's Bay Active Ageing Centres experience sound and movement workshops.

IŻFEN MA' ŻFINMALTA

A special edition of our evening adult class series

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th April
ŻfinMalta Studios

Rebecca Camilleri leads adult contemporary classes on Thursday evenings throughout April. Participants who book a monthly package for April will receive a free ticket to ŻfinMalta's 'DECADE'. No previous experience of dance is required. www.zfinmalta.org/dance-with-us

Cost €12 drop-in ticket / €40 Monthly package



DANCE DIALOGUES

New podcast series

Released on 21st April

Online

Get to know the artists of Malta's National Dance Company while enjoying an engaging and intimate look into the inner workings of the company. Each episode will explore the facets of life as a dancer, the evolution of the company, and the artistry that defines ŻfnMalta's performances.

OPEN REHEARSAL

Tuesday 22nd April

Teatru Salesjan

Be among the first to experience the incredible choreography of Thick & Tight, and watch the theatre transform for this very special, free event.

Whether you're an avid dance lover or curious about the magic that happens behind the scenes, this is an experience not to be missed.

ARCHIVE RELEASE

In celebration of ŻfnMalta's tenth anniversary, the company is proud to unveil a comprehensive archive of its repertoire. This archive serves as a testament to the company's creative journey, and will soon be available for exploration at zfnmalta.org.





photo by Alexandra Pace



PRODUCTIONS

DECADE

Choreography by **Thick & Tight**

25 & 26 April 2025 | 19:30

Teatru Salesjan, Sliema

DECADE is a spectacular new work celebrating Maltese identity. The award-winning British duo Thick & Tight bring their distinctive and theatrical style of dance to mark the 10th anniversary of ŻfinMalta, Malta's national dance company. Theatrical and raucous, intimate and thought-provoking, DECADE is an invitation to celebrate the achievements of ŻfinMalta and to see Malta through fresh eyes.

DECADE is part of ŻFIN10, a celebratory week of special events and participatory projects, culminating in the premiere of the highly anticipated DECADE, a brand-new production created by Thick & Tight.

Choreography Thick & Tight -
Eleanor Perry and Daniel Hay-Gordon
Costume Design Laurent Uyttersprot
Light Design Dali Aguerbi

Duration 40 minutes

Age 5+



MORTAL HEROES

Choreography by **Sita Ostheimer**

23/24/25 May 2025, 19:30

Teatru Manoel, Valletta

Explosive and delicate, aggressive, and gentle, Sita Ostheimer's new work for ŻfinMalta takes the viewer into a captivating world where words are replaced by movement, emotions collide, and feelings transform.

Sita Ostheimer's work is a journey in search of the 'Other', through her distinctive movement language and approach to sound and light. In *Mortal Heroes* she leads us on a journey of deep self-reflection and remembrance, of leaving and returning.

"The visuals, dynamics, music, and qualities of moving bodies in my work allow dancers and viewers to discover a barely touched realm of their existence and experience the unseen motivation behind all moving forces. In *Mortal Heroes*, the aim is to create a pulsating and tense space that will put the audience in a high state of unceasing inner excitement and allow them to experience the power and ability of body, mind and movement." Sita Ostheimer

Purchase your performance ticket and attend the Open Rehearsal for free.

Choreography Sita Ostheimer

Light Design Barnaby Booth

Composer Adrien Casalis / VIMALA

Costume Design Holly Knowles

Rehearsal Assistant Elena Martello

Production Coordinator Tillmann Becker

Duration 50-60 minutes

Age 5+



SOMIGLIANZA (PRÉLUDE À L'APRÈS-MIDI D'UN FAUNE)

Choreography by **Antonio De Rosa and Mattia Russo**

– Kor'sia

DANCE FESTIVAL MALTA



26 July 2025

Teatru Manoel, Valletta

Somiglianza (Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un faune) is an ironic and joyful homage to Nijinsky's legendary creation and his renowned modern ballet, *L'après-midi d'un faune*. Combining fin de siècle imagery with curious staging, *Somiglianza* questions symbolism in Western society. Nijinsky's creation of Debussy's *L'après-midi d'un faune*, one of the most famous modern ballets, serves as a starting point for Kor'sia to showcase their unique vision of dance iconography. Blending end-of-century imagery with contemporary entertainment, the work is a captivating journey through the history of dance, reinterpreted with a modern and innovative perspective.

Re-created for ŽFINMALTA in 2025.

Choreography & Set Design and Lighting

Mattia Russo & Antonio de Rosa – Kor'sia

Music Claude Debussy - *Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un faune* and Alejandro da Rocha

Stylist Luca Guarini

Costumier Linda Rowell

Duration 30 minutes

Age 5+





photo by Camille Fenech



LEARNING & PARTICIPATION

Get moving with training opportunities for all ages and abilities, or immerse yourself in dance as an active spectator, with activities designed to connect our audience with ŻfinMalta's artistic collaborators.

ŻFINMALTA WORKSHOP TOUR

Ten workshops led by ŻfinMalta company dancers in dance schools of Malta

16th – 28th June

ŻfinMalta is providing the opportunity for aspiring professional dancers to connect with their National Dance Company within the dance schools that nurture them. We are launching an open call for dance schools to apply for a workshop, led by ŻfinMalta company dancers, to be held within their school. Workshops are of a maximum length of 2 hours and the age of participants is 15+.

Apply now at **www.zfinmalta.org/education-and-participation/workshop-tour**

Deadline 4th May

SUMMER INTENSIVE

ŻfinMalta x DanceHive

ŻfinMalta Studios

Your Summer, Your Inspiration

Welcoming young, pre-professional, and professional dancers eager to push their artistic boundaries through an immersive contemporary dance experience.

The ŻfinMalta x DanceHive Summer Intensive is offering two intensive programmes:

Pre-professionals & Professionals (16+)

7th – 12th July / 10:00 – 17:00

10 – 15 years

14th – 18th July / 15:00 – 18:00

Each day begins with a dynamic warm-up class followed by an in-depth exploration of ŻfinMalta's repertoire, which includes works by world-renowned choreographers such as Liliana Barros, Thick & Tight, Sita Ostheimer, Emanuel Gat, Matthew William Robinson and more. The programme places a strong focus on versatility, group dynamics, and artistic refinement in a professional creative setting.

Beyond the studio, dancers will have the opportunity to engage in insightful discussions with ŻfinMalta's Artistic Director, Matthew William Robinson, and participate in interactive sessions with company members.

Apply now at **www.zfinmalta.org/education-and-participation/summer-intensive-25/**

Deadline 26th April

For information about our ongoing programmes and updates on **Dance Intensives, Company Open Classes** and **Open Rehearsals**, go to **zfinmalta.org/education-and-participation** and subscribe to our newsletter.



photo by Camille Fenech

THE COMPANY

ŻfinMalta is a home for groundbreaking artistic collaborations that centre movement as a transformative force in our world, engaging a breadth of artistic voices from near and far to create visually striking, physically distinctive dance work, that captivates the imagination of audiences nationally and internationally. Embedded within the artistic ecology of the nation, ŻfinMalta strives to highlight Malta as a vibrant cultural centre within the European landscape of artistic practice.

Under the artistic direction of Matthew William Robinson, the company is made up of ten full-time dancers, and two apprentice dancers, hailing from Malta and across Europe. Behind the scenes is a highly skilled and passionate team of dance and arts professionals who bring to the company their expansive knowledge of the local and international contemporary art world. Combined, they make up a repertory dance company which is fast gaining recognition and a reputation on the European touring circuit.

Dancers Andrea Biagioni, Martí Blanco Romeu, Pearl Calleja, Lidia Caricasole, Lotte La Haye, Mario Manara, Keith Micallef, Hugo Olagnon, Simon Riccardi-Zani, Amber Van Veen

Apprentice Dancers Nicole Chetcuti, Luke Bugeja Gauci

Artistic Director Matthew William Robinson

Executive Producer Nicole Bearman

Associate Artistic Director Brenda Lee Grech

Executive, Education & Outreach Martina Żammit

Marketing & Communications Manager Suzanna Nikolic

Content & Creative Learning Officer Emma Walker

Technical Manager Mohamed Ali 'Dali' Aguerbi

Technical Assistants Nick Ebejer and Luca Parolin





OUR SUPPORTERS



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR NATIONAL HERITAGE,
THE ARTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



VisitMalta



direct



AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
À MALTE

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



OSTEOPATHY MALTA

EST. 2012

EDEN
— CINEMAS —

SEASON SPONSOR

FACES®

Thanks to our accomodation partners IANNA – Anna Gallo & Ian Camilleri, and Elisa & Simon Grech

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 more information contact:

NICOLE BEARMAN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

+356 99999520

nicole.bearman@zfinmalta.mt

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

Valeria & Jordi Goetstouwers Odena

Dr Joanna Delia

Samantha Rowe-Beddoe & Gregory Nasmyth

Design Bloom Creative

NAPA GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALISON WHITE
CHAIRPERSON

KATE DE CESARE
ANDREA CASSAR
MARY ANN CAUCHI
JOANNE BUTTERWORTH
FELIX BUSUTTL
ADRIAN MAMO

THE NAPA TEAM

DOMINIC GALEA
CEO

CHRISTABEL BORG PRECA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ELAINE BUGEJA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
MARIA AQUILINA
MARKETING EXECUTIVE
JOY DECELIS
MARKETING & PRODUCTIONS ASSISTANT

SYLVIA ATTARD
SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICER
ISABELLE SAMMUT
PERSONAL ASSISTANT
CLAUDE BUSUTTL
SUPPORT ADMINISTRATOR
VESNA MATIC KARIC
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

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.

The National Agency for the Performing Arts (NAPA) was established in 2023 with the distinct aim of raising the profile of performing arts in Malta, both locally and internationally. As the go-to agency for the performing arts, its aim is to have an active role in policymaking and advocacy for the performing arts as a discipline in all its facets – from backstage to onstage, from administration to performance and from development to legacy – through the creation of a sustainability strategy for the itself and the sector it operates within, as well as synergies with other Public Cultural Organisations (PCOs) and the private sector.

In its contribution towards fair and sustainable opportunities for engagement within the arts, NAPA administers and sustains the three national companies of theatre, dance and choir – Teatru Malta, ŻfinMalta and KorMalta. Its organisational structure has been designed to strengthen the respective artistic visions, development, brands, and identities of Teatru Malta, ŻfinMalta and KorMalta ensuring that they are uniquely distinct to each produce a yearly stand-alone artistic programme, but synergised through co-productions and collaborations for a local and international audience.

The Agency is governed by a Board of Directors and a Chairperson, and is managed by Mro. Dominic Galea as Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Director Christabel Borg Preca, and three Artistic Directors.





