

ŻFINMALTA

NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY

25/26

NAPA

National Agency
for the Performing Arts

A portrait of Matthew William Robinson, a man with short brown hair and a light beard, smiling. He is wearing a dark brown t-shirt. The background is a solid light grey. The image is framed by a red border at the top and bottom.

WELCOME

Dialogue is at the heart of ŻfinMalta's identity. The dialogue we create between artists, with audiences, and across nations. We are shaped by the multiplicity of voices and perspectives we invite into our repertoire, and by the artists of our company, whose practices continually redefine who we are.

Dialogue is something our world urgently needs more of. More spaces where perspectives can meet, more encounters that open rather than divide. This is the power of our identity as a company.

This season reflects perceptions of now. It is conscious of our present moment and attuned to the challenges and opportunities we share. Our programme critically engages with the conflict and division that marks the world around us, while embracing the beauty and connection that can so often feel distant.

ŻfinMalta is investing beyond the stage, expanding programmes that bring dance to

young people and communities, enabling aspiring Maltese dancers to develop, and emboldening independent artists of the islands. We believe movement profoundly affects a young person's life trajectory, and the wellbeing of us all, however we engage with it.

ŻfinMalta reflects an open, progressive Malta, one in which ideas, innovations, and new generations have the space and resources to flourish. We are passionate about dance, and its potential to shape the world for the better.

We are a company on the move, and we invite you to join us.

MATTHEW WILLIAM ROBINSON
Artistic Director

VISION

Under the artistic direction of Matthew William Robinson, ŻfinMalta is a radical force in the dance landscape, critically engaging with the multifaceted nature of contemporary society, challenging and re-imagining the dynamics of movement and representation. Through the integration of diverse perspectives and innovative practices, we seek to explore and articulate new paradigms of physical expression.

ŻfinMalta transcends traditional boundaries and conventions of dance, using a range of artistic methods to interrogate and reflect upon the evolving intersections of culture, technology, and identity. By fostering a rich dialogue between Malta and the world, we aspire to create a space where diverse perspectives are acknowledged and deeply examined.

In our pursuit of artistic excellence and intellectual rigour, ŻfinMalta endeavours to inspire thoughtful discourse and transformative change. Our goal is to continuously push the frontiers of dance, enriching the cultural landscape and challenging our audiences to rethink the role of dance in a rapidly evolving world.



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.

The company forms part of the National Agency for the Performing Arts and 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 national, repertory dance company, fast gaining recognition on the European touring circuit.

06 PRODUCTIONS

22 PARTICIPATION

30 THE COMPANY

40 SUPPORT US

CONTENTS

photo by Alexandra Pace





PRODUCTIONS

ŽfnMalta productions are shared with audiences across Malta and all over the world. This season the company will premiere five new works, revisit three works from the repertoire, tour an acclaimed audience favourite across Europe, and much more.

photo by **Alexandra Pace**

BORDER | NATION

Choreography by **Matthew William Robinson**

A choreographic diptych created by ŻfnMalta Artistic Director Matthew William Robinson. How do we confront the end? BORDER/NATION considers our response to the crumbling systems that surround us, and our human response to death and decay. Is our collective grief shaping our collective future?

Each work draws together an international team of artists, working across mediums and forms. Expect a hyper-physical experience that pulls to the extremes. An emotional journey divided in two, that will unfold over the season.

BORDER

4 October 2025

Notte Bianca
Malta Chamber of Commerce,
Valletta

BORDER

20/21/22 February 2026

ŻfnDays
Valletta Campus Theatre



BORDER, reflects on the lines we draw between us, that divide us and sustain us. Like rope binding and fraying, bodies combine and fracture, revealing an abyss of repetitive memories and ritual. BORDER explores a return to tradition in response to decay, a search for definition guided by a fear of the future.

Choreography Matthew William Robinson
Costume Design Holly Knowles
Art Direction (Notte Bianca) Jon Banthorpe
Light Design Dali Aguerbi

Duration 24 minutes

NATION is a groundbreaking artistic collaboration between ŻfnMalta Artistic Director Matthew William Robinson and Azzopardi Studio. In a stark landscape a collection of lost souls ferociously searches for what will come after the end. Haunting and razor-sharp, NATION swerves between the intimate and the vast, the delicate and the brutal.

Choreography Matthew William Robinson
Costume Design Azzopardi Studio
Music Alexander Comana
Set Design Tom Van Malderen
Props Jon Banthorpe
Light Design Dali Aguerbi

Duration 30 minutes

NATION

22/23/24 May 2026

Unfold
Teatru Manoel, Valletta

ON TOUR

MORTAL

HEROES

Sita Ostheimer's *Mortal Heroes* premiered as part of ŽfinMalta's 2024/25 season. The company now proudly presents the work internationally with performances in France, Germany and Italy.

Audiences in Malta will not miss out on the return of this profound work. Get up close to *Mortal Heroes* as part of ŽfinDays in 2026.

Duration 50 minutes

13 November 2025

Presidency of Malta, Council of Europe
Palais des Fêtes, Concert Hall, Strasbourg, France

11/12/13 December 2025

Schwankhalle, Bremen, Germany
Part of ŽfinMalta's ongoing partnership with Of Curious Nature, exploring new models of international collaboration and co-operation in Europe. (See pages 15-16 for more details.)

27-28 February & 1 March 2026

ŽfinDays
Valletta Campus Theatre, Malta
(See pages 19-20 for more details on ŽfinDays.)

21-22 March 2026

Teatro Alighieri, Ravenna, Italy



NEW GENERATIONS

A programme within a programme. The company's micro season of work for young people invites two generations of young people into ŻfinMalta's world.

New Generations is part of ŻfinMalta's commitment to developing new audiences for dance and enriching the cultural life of young audiences in Malta.

MOON

An enchanting dance performance for children aged 0-4. Moon captivates imaginations and immerses audiences in the wonders of space. As its two characters set out on an adventure to the moon and beyond, their curiosity leads them to bask in the moonlight, frolic in a lunar orbit, and dance among the stars.

Back by popular demand Baby to the Moon premiered as part of the Toi Toi Baby Series in 2024.

Choreography by **Martina Zammit**

11/12/18/19 April 2026

Manoel Studio Theatre, Valletta

Duration 30 minutes

photo by **Alexandra Pace**

SITT ĠRAJJJET U NAQRA ĠHALA SPIĊĊAJNA (KIF SPIĊĊAJNA)

A journey recounted in six post-apocalyptic chapters and specifically created for young audiences of 13+, sitt ġrajjet u naqra ġhala spiċċajna (kif spiċċajna) combines movement, poetry, music, and more. It presents a lyrical take on the big issues affecting young people today and asks: How did we end up here, and what do we do now?

Director Philip Leone Ganado
Choreography Martina Zammit
Script Writer Leanne Ellul
Light Design Gianluca Bianco
Light Operation Preston Carbonaro
Sound Design & Operation Noah Fabri
Set & Costume Design Isabel Warrington

SCHOOL PERFORMANCES
20-21 November 2025

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES
22-23 November 2025
 Spazju Kreattiv Theatre, Valletta

Duration 60 minutes

This project is a collaboration between The National Agency for the Performing Arts and ŻiguŻajg Arts Festival for Children and Young People 2025, supported by ŻfinMalta and Teatru Malta

ŻiguŻajg
 Arts Festival for Children & Young People

XITWAŻFIN | WINTER DANCE

This winter, ŻfnMalta proudly welcomes Of Curious Nature for a double-bill uniting two of Europe's most innovative contemporary dance companies.

This rare collaboration features the world premiere of White Echo, a compelling new work by acclaimed choreographer Helge Letonja, alongside FULGENCE, a striking creation by Brazilian choreographer Samir Calixto.

Two international dance companies. Eighteen exceptional dancers. One unforgettable winter evening.

XitwaŻfin | Winter Dance is part of ŻfnMalta's ongoing partnership with Of Curious Nature, exploring new models of international collaboration and co-operation in Europe.

19/20/21 December 2025

Valletta Campus Theatre
Age 12+

WHITE ECHO

Drawing inspiration from the cycle of winter, White Echo explores transience and impulsive new beginnings. In this phase of retreat and renewal, nature claims its victims, and new life emerges from death. Winter reminds us of our own transience – a dichotomy of resignation and anger, comfort and letting go, refusal and acceptance.

Using his haunting choreographic language Letonja, with the dancers of ŻfnMalta, examines the relationship of young people to Eros and Thanatos. Bodies meet in a field of tension, searching for connection and meaning and longing for life that awaits the return of Spring.

Choreography, Set and Costume Design Helge Letonja
Dancers ŻfnMalta
Costumier Linda Rowell
Light Design Niels Plotard
Technical Manager Pamela Kerr

Duration 30 minutes

White Echo is supported by the Embassy of Austria

FULGENCE

The act of rebellion begins in the depths of being.

Samir Calixto uses this starting point in search of our inherent resilience and its traits of perseverance, tenacity, and rebellion. How does this human characteristic manifest, mentally and physically, in socially challenging situations?

FULGENCE (meaning 'the radiant') evolves into an act of liberation. Through radiating explosions of energy, stemming from bursts of euphoric movement, the ensemble seeks to dispel our inner darkness, driving it to the surface. Feverish bodies dance in an act of resistance and illuminate the shadows of our existence with their inner radiance.

Concept and Choreography Samir Calixto
Choreographic Assistance, Training Management Mariko Koh
Dancers Of Curious Nature
Light Design Samir Calixto, Carlos Heydt
Costume Design Samir Calixto
Costume Production Nicola Essig
Music Hird, Lumisokea, The Knife
Technical Direction Nathaniel Johnson

Duration 30 minutes

FULGENCE is a production by TanzRAUM Nord gUG with steptext dance project, funded by the Fonds Darstellende Künste with funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, the Senator for Culture Bremen and the Waldemar Koch Foundation Bremen.

photo by Alexandra Pace



ŽFINDAYS

Over two weekends, experience the breadth of ŽfinMalta's work, and the distinct visions of three European choreographers making their mark in the international dance scene.

Week One – features the world premiere of **NÁCAR** by Paloma Muñoz, alongside **BORDER** by Matthew William Robinson.

Week Two – get closer to Sita Ostheimer's **Mortal Heroes** as ŽfinMalta presents this profound work in the intimate setting of Valletta Campus Theatre.

NÁCAR

NÁCAR explores a desire to inhabit ghosts; those that survive in images, that persist in our bodies, and call out from the invisible.

In this powerful new creation by Paloma Muñoz, one of Spain's most innovative choreographic voices, suspended figures appear frozen, breathing and decomposing under the gaze of others. As their flesh is exposed their bodies call out, striking one another as a call to resist and remember.

NÁCAR invites us to lend our bodies to the memory of others — to become vessels of presence, beauty, and shared echoes.

Choreography Paloma Muñoz
Assistant Choreographer Amanda Rubio Sánchez
Costume Design Linda Rowell
Music Alejandro Da Rocha
Light Design Moritz Zavan Stoeckle

Duration 30 minutes

NÁCAR is supported by the Embassy of Spain.

BORDER

BORDER, reflects on the lines we draw between us, that divide us and sustain us. Like rope binding and fraying, bodies combine and fracture, revealing an abyss of repetitive memories and ritual. **BORDER** explores a return to tradition in response to decay, a search for definition guided by a fear of the future.

Choreography Matthew William Robinson
Costume Design Holly Knowles
Light Design Dali Aguerbi
Music The Haxan Cloak and Kanding Ray

Duration 30 minutes

BORDER is commissioned by Festivals Malta as part of Notte Bianca 2025.

WEEK 1
20/21/22 February 2026

Valletta Campus Theatre

NÁCAR by Paloma Muñoz
BORDER by Matthew William Robinson

ZFINDAYS

MORTAL HEROES

Mortal Heroes invites us into a visceral exploration of human potential – an odyssey through chaos and love, shadow and light, fragility and force. Ostheimer's choreography becomes a poetic search for the 'other', a love letter to resilience, to the human capacity for survival, renewal, and transformation.

A charged, pulsating space emerges – tense yet alive – suspending the audience in a state of continuous anticipation, drawing viewers into the work's rhythm, evolving alongside the dancers, touching something raw and essential within themselves.

Crafted with her signature language of movement, layered with evocative music by Adrien Casalis and immersive lighting by Barnaby Booth, Ostheimer's work creates an atmosphere both intimate and vast. Mortal Heroes premiered in May 2025 at Teatru Manoel and returns for a new, up-close experience at Valletta Campus Theatre.

Choreographer Sita Ostheimer
Composer Adrien Casalis
Light Designer Barnaby Booth
Costume Designer Holly Knowles
Rehearsal Assistant Elena Martello
Production Coordinator Tillmann Becker

Duration 50 minutes

Mortal Heroes is supported by the Embassy of France in Malta and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.

WEEK 2

27-28 February & 1 March 2026

Valletta Campus Theatre, Malta



photo by Camille Fenech

UNFOLD

Two unique reflections on our world by two visionary choreographers of the moment. A bold, visually captivating evening of dance by Malta's national dance company.

22/23/24 May 2026

Teatru Manoel, Valletta

SWAY

SWAY is a new creation by renowned Italian choreographer Diego Tortelli. Exploring our burning desire for deep immediate connection, SWAY is an emotional journey of raw vulnerability, surrender and trust. Crashing like a wave, the work is a rebellion of bodies where the energy of the dancers merges with the heartbeat of the audience.

Choreography Diego Tortelli
Assistant Choreographer Tom van de Ven
Costume Design Diego Tortelli and Laurent Uyttersprot
Light design Dali Aguerbi

Duration 30 minutes

SWAY is supported by the Italian Cultural Institute of Valletta and the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands.



NATION

NATION is a groundbreaking artistic collaboration between ŻfinMalta Artistic Director Matthew William Robinson and Azzopardi Studio. In a stark landscape a collection of lost souls ferociously searches for what will come after the end. Haunting and razor-sharp, NATION swerves between the intimate and the vast, the delicate and the brutal.

Choreography Matthew William Robinson
Costume Design Azzopardi Studio
Music Alexander Comana
Set Design Tom Van Malderen
Props Jon Banthorpe
Light Design Dali Aguerbi

Duration 30 minutes

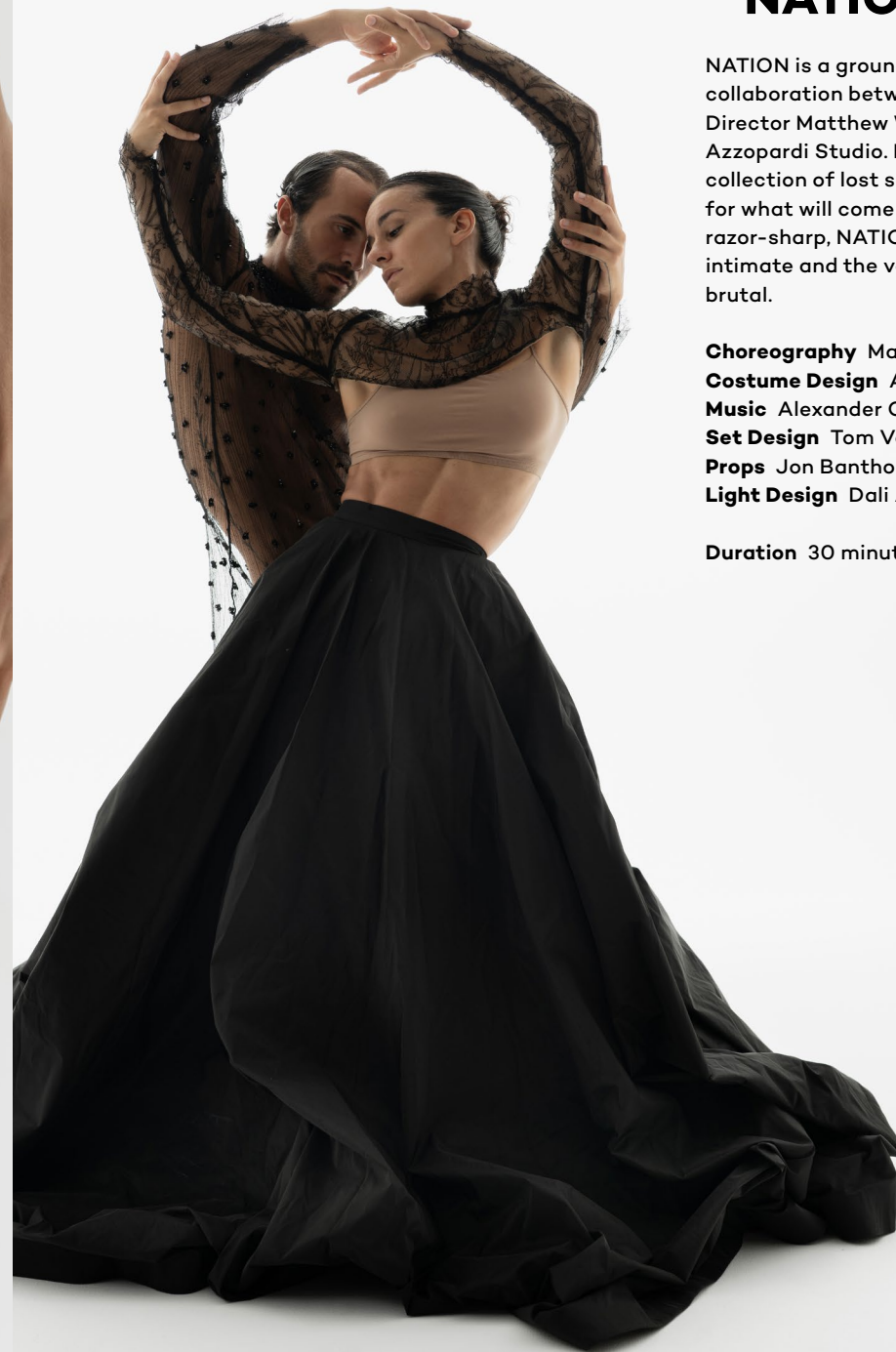




photo by **Alexandra Pace**

PARTICIPATION

Whether you are a young person eager to develop your skills, an audience member curious about creative process, a dance beginner ready to get moving, or an artist seeking to evolve your practice, ŻfinMalta's participation programmes enable everyone to get closer to dance.

Participation opens development pathways for young dancers, opportunities for audiences to step inside productions, and space for artists to sustain and evolve their practice.

Participation is a portal to new ideas, insights, and relationships, and is at the core of ŻfinMalta's commitment to the future of the Maltese cultural ecology.

Explore ŻfinMalta's three participation strands - **Learning**, **Dialogue**, and **Artist Development**.

LEARNING

Inclusive opportunities for all, to experience movement, develop new skills, and expand their personal artistry.

photo by Alexandra Pace

ĠŻFEN MA' ŻFINMALTA

ŻfinMalta's programme of open-level evening classes returns with a timetable of ballet, yoga and contemporary dance classes to get everyone moving.

Guided by a range of expert leaders sensitive to the goals of each participant, these inclusive sessions are the perfect opportunity to be creative, get fit and have fun within a supportive community.

INTENSIVES

ŻfinMalta intensives are an opportunity for dance artists to extend and develop their skills and artistry. Led by the company's artistic team and international guest artists, intensives offer up to one week of development activity, exploring physical techniques, creative tasks, and improvisation practices.

WORKSHOPS

Led by expert guest artists working with ŻfinMalta, these short workshops offer participants a focused insight into the work being explored by the company. Participants dive into new physical vocabularies and methods of making in an open and inclusive setting.

REPERTOIRE WORKSHOPS

These workshops are an opportunity for young people to get to know their national dance company. Led by ŻfinMalta Company dancers, at the island's dance schools, they are the perfect opportunity to explore the repertoire of the company before or after seeing a production. Look out for open calls this season.

ŻfinMalta wants to connect with you. Bespoke workshops are available on request. Contact martina.d.zammit@ŻfinMalta.mt if you have a specific enquiry or for more information about our offerings.

DIALOGUE

Opening the door for the curious to step behind the scenes and learn more about how ŻfinMalta's work is developed, from studio to stage.

OPEN REHEARSALS

Curious about how dance work is made? Or want to know more about the creative process of a specific choreographer? Get up close to the dancers as you step into ŻfinMalta's studios for an intimate glimpse of new work being created. Hear directly from the choreographers, collaborators, and dancers before experiencing the production in theatres.

PERFORMANCE TALKS

For a greater insight into a ŻfinMalta production join the company's artistic staff and guest collaborators for a post-performance talk. These conversations are an opportunity to deepen your appreciation of the work, engage in thought-provoking dialogue, and ask your own specific questions.

Before selected performances, or by request, the company can also offer pre-performance introduction talks. Contact martina.d.zammit@zfinmalta.mt for more information.



photo by Alexandra Pace

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

Creating space for artists to sustain and evolve their practice and develop new work with the support of Malta's national dance company.

COMPANY CLASSES

Professional dance artists are invited to join the ŻfnMalta company dancers in their morning class for a week each month. These classes are led by a range of guest teachers, in a programme curated to support the dancers' versatility and evolving practice.

AiR

For artists undertaking movement research or developing new work, and based in the Maltese Islands, ŻfnMalta welcomes applications for the company's Artist in Residence programme.

For both experienced and emergent artists, AiR provides a tailored experience of practice, research and dialogue, an opportunity for artists to focus on their research with support from ŻfnMalta.

APPRENTICES

Supporting the development of Maltese talent, the ŻfnMalta apprenticeship programme offers the selected apprentices the opportunity to learn from, experience, and contribute to the company's work.

The apprentice experience nurtures deeper physical understanding and expands the unique individual artistry of the dancers through full immersion in the company's activities with the mentorship of its artistic staff.

ŻfnMalta apprentice dancers for season 25/26 are Maya Attard and Carla Mifsud.

PROPEL ARTIST

For season 25/26 Luke Bugeja Gauci has been appointed ŻfnMalta's Propel Artist. This new programme supports an independent artist of Malta to take the next step in their professional development.

ASSOCIATE ARTIST

Zoe Camilleri has been appointed ŻfnMalta's Associate Artist. This position recognises the contribution of an independent artist of Malta to the company, providing them with support and a commitment to collaborate over the season.

THE COMPANY



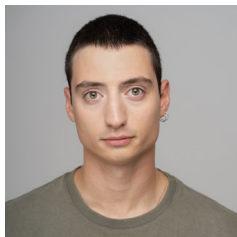
photo by Alexandra Pace

DANCERS



ANDREA BIAGIONI

Born in Italy in 1998, Andrea Biagioni's first experience as a child was urban dance. He undertook contemporary training from the age of nineteen. Since 2019 he has worked with various companies in Italy and abroad and performed works by Ogmia, Alexander Ekman, Maud Le Pladec, Staatstheater Stuttgart, Komische Oper Berlin, Staatstheater Hannover, Kodance&co, Michele Merola, and ResExtensa, on stages throughout Europe and Asia. Andrea joined ŻfnMalta in 2024.



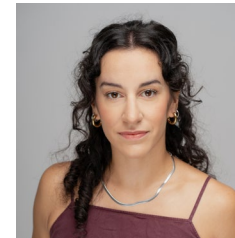
MARTÍ BLANCO ROMEU

Born in Barcelona in 2001, Martí started dancing at the age of six at the school Oriol Martorell, which focused on music and dance. Later, he studied for seven years at the professional dance conservatory of the Institut del Teatre, Barcelona, specialising in contemporary dance. Martí graduated in 2020 and was selected for the company IT Dansa, as an apprentice for the first year and then as a company dancer. He performed in both repertoire works and new creations, by choreographers including Akram Khan, Alexander Ekman and Ohad Naharin. Martí joined ŻfnMalta in 2023 under the direction of Paolo Mangiola.



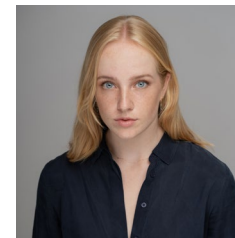
PEARL CALLEJA

Pearl was born in Malta in 2002. She started dance at the age of five and has trained in classical ballet, contemporary, and Spanish dance, graduating from Seed Dance Studios in 2019. She furthered her studies in contemporary at Dance Arts Faculty in Rome. Pearl has worked with artists including Mauro Astolfi, Michele Merola, Liliana Barros, Sita Ostheimer, Paolo Mangiola, Roy Assaf and Tânia Carvalho. Pearl was also nominated for the Young Artist of the Year Award in the 2022 edition of Premju għall-Arti, organised by Arts Council Malta. She joined ŻfnMalta 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, and Matthew Neenan. She was awarded the Juilliard Career Advancement Fellowship from 2021-2023. Lidia joined ŻfnMalta in 2022, performing in works by Liliana Barros, Sita Ostheimer, Paolo Mangiola, Emanuel Gat, Mauro Bigonzetti, Tânia Carvalho, Roy Assaf and Ambra Senatore, among others.



LOTTE LA HAYE

Lotte La Haye 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 2019 under the direction of Ed Wubbe. For two seasons she performed during both national and international tours, as well as partook in the on-screen work Carried Alive, choreographed by Justin de Jager. She joined ŻfnMalta in 2021 and has since performed a wide repertoire under the direction of both Paolo Mangiola and Matthew William Robinson.



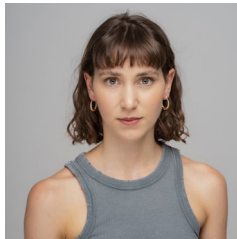
MARIO MANARA

Originally from Italy, Mario trained at Vic Ballet Academy in Verona before graduating with a First-Class BA (Hons) from Rambert School in London in 2020. During his studies, he worked with renowned choreographers, including Christopher Bruce, and presented his own choreography at the Lilian Baylis Studio at Sadler's Wells. In 2021, he joined VERVE, performing works by Botis Seva, Matthew Robinson, Caroline Finn, and Barnaby Booth. In 2022, he became a company dancer with National Dance Company Wales, touring works by Andrea Costanzo Martini, Marcos Morau, Matthew Robinson and Melanie Lane, among others. He joined ŻfnMalta in 2025.



ALESSANDRO PELLEGRINELLI

Born in Italy in 2001, Alessandro Pellegrinelli began his dance education at Area Dance Milan. In 2021 he joined Codarts University of the Arts in Rotterdam, where he performed works by Cayetano Soto, Sasha Waltz, Antonin Rioche, Tamara Dekel London, Noam Segal, and more. In 2024, he joined the Bühnen Bern Ballet, participating in creations by Felix Landerer, Giuseppe Spota, Mario Enrico D'Angelo, Lesley Telford, Ina Christel Johannessen, and Po-Cheng Tsai, among others. Alessandro combines physicality, theatricality, and a curiosity for diverse movement languages.



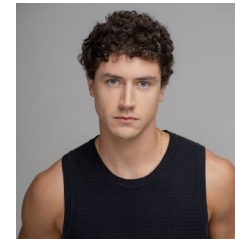
ELISA RUFFATO

Originally from Padova, Italy, Elisa Ruffato began her professional dance training in various studios across Italy. She moved to the UK to pursue a BA (Hons) in Contemporary Dance at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds, graduating with First Class Honours in 2019. Elisa expanded her training internationally through programs at Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company (Israel), Biennale College Danza (Italy), and Profit Training Berlin. From 2022 to 2025, she was part of Ballett TN LOS at Theater Nordhausen, Germany, directed by Ivan Alboresi. Elisa has performed works by Alboresi and other notable choreographers including Jiří Pokorný, Martin Harriague, Marco D'Agostin, and Alba Castillo, among others. She joins ŻfnMalta for its 2025-26 season.



AMBER VAN VEEN

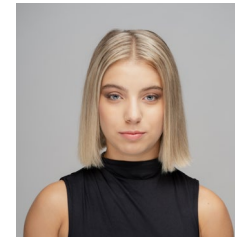
Born in 1999 in Amsterdam, Amber began her training at the Dutch National Ballet Academy and completed her education at the Royal Ballet school of Antwerp. After her graduation in 2018, she enrolled as trainee with Ballet Flanders, where she had the opportunity to work with choreographers including Akram 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 ŻfnMalta in 2019 and has since enjoyed a varied repertoire under the artistic direction of Matthew William Robinson & Paolo Mangiola.



SIMON RICCARDI-ZANI

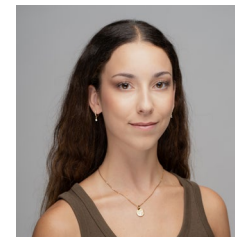
Simon Riccardi-Zani was born in Nice, France, in 1998. He studied at the Paris Opera Ballet School, followed by contemporary at the Paris National Conservatoire, and joined ŻfnMalta in 2019. Simon's interest in choreography led to an invitation to create a duet for 'ŻfnMade – New Futures' in 2022. The work, Les Unes, was also performed at Dance Festival Malta in 2024. In 2024, Simon represented France in the Franco-German Pavilion for the inaugural Malta Biennale with a second dance film Les Uns, which was also shown at the United Nations Ocean Conference in 2025. For ŻfnMalta's 2024/25 season, Simon choreographed Les Autres, a new work for the full company as part of ŻfnDays.

APPRENTICE DANCERS



MAYA ATTARD

Maya Attard began her training at The Dance Workshop under the direction of Theresa Lungaro Mifsud. She continued her studies at Tring Park School for the Performing Arts, in ballet, contemporary and jazz, graduating with a Level 6 Trinity Professional Performing Arts Diploma in Professional Dance. Upon finishing her studies, Maya was accepted into a professional development programme with Jasmin Vardimon Company, JV2, where she had the opportunity to explore her artistic identity further and work with a range of choreographers, including Jasmin Vardimon MBE.



CARLA MIFSUD

Carla was born in 2004 in Malta. She began dancing at an early age in various styles including ballet, contemporary, jazz, and hip-hop. She pursued professional training at London Studio Centre, graduating in 2025 with a BA (Hons) in Professional Dance Performance, specialising in ballet. During her studies, Carla performed with Images Ballet Company on their UK tour, and in theatres including the New Wimbledon Theatre and Sadler's Wells. She has worked with artists such as Neil Westmorland, Daniel Davidson, Leanne Benjamin, Christopher Marney, and Kate Lyons. Carla received the Malta Arts Scholarship in 2022.

OUR TEAM

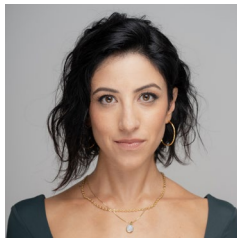


MATTHEW WILLIAM ROBINSON
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Artistic Director Matthew William Robinson joined ŻfinMalta in 2024. His vision for the company is supported by his distinguished career as a dancer, choreographer, rehearsal director, curator and artistic director. Collaborating across forms, Robinson is engaged in ongoing and emerging partnerships in the fields of sound, fashion, theatre and technology.

For many years Robinson was an integral part of Scottish Dance Theatre as dancer and rehearsal director, performing work by international choreographers. From 2016 he was Artistic Director of VERVE and in 2021 became Artistic Director of National Dance Company Wales.

Matthew is a graduate of London Contemporary Dance School.



BRENDA LEE GRECH
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR (ARTIST DEVELOPMENT)

Maltese artist Brenda Lee Grech has a diverse portfolio in both theatre and film within the dance sector. Locally, she trained under the direction of Johane Casabene before launching her professional career internationally, spanning over 20 years. She has worked in various capacities with Ballet d'Europe, Scottish Ballet, Rambert, Punchdrunk and Dancers Career Development. As a performer she has collaborated with and performed works by Kylian, Forsythe, Bourne, McGregor, Schecter, Eyal, Cherkaoui and others, touring worldwide. Brenda Lee is also known for her role as the Swan in the Netflix series Peaky Blinders. Locally she has appeared as the Head Judge in TV talent show Brillanti, dance series. She first joined ŻfinMalta as Rehearsal Director under the artistic direction of Paolo Mangiola, and was later appointed Associate Director during the company's transition into NAPA.



NICOLE BEARMAN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Nicole is a creative 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
EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION)

Born in Malta in 1987, Martina first danced with the Olivia Dow School of Russian Ballet, where she studied and taught the Legat System. She continued to nurture her love for performing and dancing throughout the completion of three degrees at the University of Malta; beginning with a bachelor's degree in English and Archaeology, followed by a Masters in English, Modern and Contemporary Literature and Criticism. She simultaneously performed a run of weekly live shows in which she found a dance community and understood what life as a performer could look like. This led to a Bachelor of Dance Studies, which is where she was introduced to contemporary dance. Martina joined ŻfinMalta as a company dancer in 2014, made the transition to the role of Education & Outreach Artist in 2018, and in 2021 took on Administration. Through this role, Martina continues to explore and share the notions of growth and connection through dance and give back to the scene that inspires her so much. Becoming a mother in 2024, Martina humbly acknowledges that life is a rollercoaster ride that she will never stop learning from.



SUZANNA PACE 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. She truly enjoys nature, adventure, travelling and being active in sports. Suzanna joined ŻfnMalta in 2023 and is dedicated to ensuring that the ŻfnMalta brand is widely known and continuously innovating itself.



EMMA WALKER
CONTENT & CREATIVE LEARNING OFFICER

Emma Louise Walker graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Dance and Performance from Central School of Ballet, London. During this time, she participated in 'Blink Margate,' working with Wayne McGregor | Random Dance, and was selected for the pilot year of Akram Khan's AKX programme. In 2015/16, Emma completed an apprenticeship with ŻfnMalta before joining DeNada Dance Theatre, touring the UK with 'Toro' by Carlos Pons Guerra. In 2018, she returned to ŻfnMalta as a company dancer, working with choreographers including Paolo Mangiola, Jacopo Godani, and Tânia Carvalho. Now ŻfnMalta's Creative Learning and Content Officer, Emma works within both marketing, and the company's learning and participation programme.



KEITH MICALLEF
PRODUCTION & ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Keith Micallef joined ŻfnMalta in 2014 as a dancer, in which time he has performed works by choreographers including Paolo Mangiola, Jacopo Godani, Jose Agudo, Roy Assaf, Iván Pérez Avilés and Emanuel Gat, among others. In 2025, after performing in ŻfnMalta's 10-year anniversary production DECADE, by Thick and Tight, Keith began his transition into a production, technical and administrative role, supporting the company from behind the scenes. Prior to joining the company, Keith graduated from the University of Malta with a Degree in Legal Studies.



MOHAMED ALI 'DALI' AGUERBI
TECHNICAL MANAGER & LIGHT DESIGNER

Dali is a Tunisian-born LGBTQI+ activist and artist based in Malta, whose work intersects performance, politics, and social justice. As a lighting designer and technical director, Dali has worked on a variety of productions, from intimate theatre pieces to large-scale opera performances. His expertise in stage lighting and technical management ensures that every production runs smoothly and delivers a visually stunning experience.



LUCA PAROLIN
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Luca Parolin is a contemporary dancer, movement explorer, and contemporary dance teacher. Trained in hip hop, contemporary dance, and physical theatre, he develops a dynamic, playful, and deeply aware approach to movement. He has collaborated with companies such as Twain Physical Dance Theatre, Naturalis Labor, and E.sperimenti Dance Company. He is co-founder of DanceHive, a platform helping dancers worldwide find housing solutions. In parallel, he works as a theatre lighting assistant, blending artistic sensitivity and technical expertise within his multidisciplinary vision of the stage.



NICK EBEJER
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Nick Ebejer has been a technical assistant for ŻfnMalta since early 2024, and has also toured with the company in Padua, Italy for their production of Utopia. He enjoys the dynamic environment and working with other creatives within the performing arts. Constantly learning new ways to enrich the choreography and dancers' movement through technical media is what inspires him the most when working with ŻfnMalta.



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photo by Alexandra Pace

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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 about becoming a supporter contact

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Design Bloom Creative
Editors Nicole Bearman & Matthew William Robinson
Photography Alexandra Pace

NAPA

This programme is presented as part of NAPA 2025/26 season under the distinguished patronage of the President of Malta H.E Myriam Spiteri Debono.

ABOUT NAPA

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 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, ŻfnMalta and KorMalta. Its organisational structure has been designed to strengthen the respective artistic visions, development, brands, and identities of Teatru Malta, ŻfnMalta 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 one Board of Directors and a Chairperson and it is being managed by Mro. Dominic Galea as Chief Executive Officer, Director of Administration - Christabel Borg Preca and three Artistic Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson Alison Micallef White
Vice-Chair Andrea Cassar

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Artistic Director (ŻfnMalta) Matthew William Robinson
Artistic Director (KorMalta) Riccardo Bianchi

THE NAPA TEAM

Dominic Galea – **Chief Executive Officer**
Christabel Borg Preca – **Director of Administration**

Elaine Bugeja – **Executive Producer**
David Debono – **Head of Marketing & Audiences**
Maria Aquilina – **Marketing & Communications Manager**
Joy Decelis – **Marketing & Productions Assistant**

Sylvia Attard – **Senior Administration Officer**
Isabelle Sammut – **Administration Officer / PA**
Claude Busuttil – **Support Administrator**
Vesna Matic Karic – **Administration Officer**

2025



2026

ROYAL BALLET & OPERA



THE ROYAL OPERA

TOSCA
LIVE OCT 1. 2025
ENCORE OCT 5. 2025

LA TRAVIATA
LIVE JAN 14. 2026
ENCORE JAN 18. 2026

SIEGFRIED
LIVE MAR 31. 2026
ENCORE APR 5. 2026

THE MAGIC FLUTE
LIVE APR 21. 2026
ENCORE APR 26. 2026

THE ROYAL BALLET

LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE
LIVE NOV 5. 2025
ENCORE NOV 9. 2025

WOOLF WORKS
LIVE FEB 9. 2026
ENCORE FEB 15. 2026

CINDERELLA (2024)
LIVE NOV 25. 2025
ENCORE NOV 30. 2025

GISELLE
LIVE MAR 3. 2026
ENCORE MAR 8. 2026

THE NUTCRACKER
LIVE DEC 10. 2025
ENCORE DEC 14. 2025

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