

ŻFINMALTA
NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY



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We move through a world of voices and images. Algorithms learn our preferences and return the familiar to us, surrounding us with reflections of ourselves. Difference becomes distant.

But we need the unexpected. The encounter that disrupts. An idea that makes us pause, look again and question what we thought we knew.

ŻfinMalta creates such encounters. Between people, places and mediums. We create the conditions for ideas to collide and relationships to form. We believe that when we encounter something beyond ourselves, we create the possibility of transformation.

This season, we choose to question, provoke and challenge. Not only what dance can be, but what we can be.

We are living through profound transformation. How we communicate, see, remember and experience one another is changing. Our realities move between the physical and the virtual, between what we can touch and what exists beyond our reach. And still, our bodies breathe, sweat, feel and fall. We carry memory, identity, fear and desire.

A body is never fixed. It shifts, adapts and becomes. This is the power of our art form as we meet our future.

As we embark on my third curated season as Artistic Director, I am proud of the growth we have seen in our audience, our profile and our impact. That growth gives us an opportunity, and a responsibility, to be bolder in what we ask of ourselves and our audiences.

So this season we stride forward, committed to being of the moment, responsive to the world we inhabit and the future we are moving towards.

We invite you to encounter the unexpected with us. Because an encounter can be brief, but perhaps, if we allow it, it can transform us.

Matthew William Robinson
Artistic Director

ARTIS TIC 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 COM PANY

ŻfinMalta, together with Teatru Malta and KorMalta, forms part of the National Agency for the Performing Arts. The company 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.

ŻfinMalta is made up of nine 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 national and international contemporary art world.

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PRODUCTIONS

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SUPPORT US



UPPROD UCTIONS

ŽfinMalta productions are shared with audiences across Malta and all over the world. This season the company will premiere four new works, revisit three works from the repertoire, tour critically acclaimed creations across Europe, and much more.

EKI / ECHOES

23/24 October 2026

Valletta Campus Theatre

This autumn, ŻfinMalta proudly welcomes tanzmainz for a double-bill uniting two of Europe's most innovative contemporary dance companies.

This rare collaboration features the highly anticipated return of *NÁCAR*, created by Paloma Muñoz for ŻfinMalta, alongside *Fall Seven Times*, a timeless work created for tanzmainz by the inimitable choreographic duo Guy Nader and Maria Campos.

Two international dance companies. Twenty exceptional dancers. One unforgettable evening.

EKI/ECHOES is part of ŻfinMalta's ongoing partnership with tanzmainz.

See *On Tour* for more information.



NÁCAR

choreography by Paloma Muñoz

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

In the return of this powerful creation by Paloma Muñoz, one of Spain's leading 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.

Premiered in 2026 with the support of the Embassy of Spain in Malta.

ARTISTIC TEAM

Choreography: Paloma Muñoz

Dancers: ŻfinMalta

Assistant Choreographer: Amanda Rubio Sánchez

Costume Design: Linda Rowell

Music: Alejandro Da Rocha

Light Design: Moritz Zavan Stoeckle

Rehearsal Director: Zoe Camilleri

Duration: 30 minutes

EKI / ECHOES

FALL SEVEN TIMES

choreography by Guy Nader & Maria Campos

Fall Seven Times is a powerful exploration of gravity, trust, and human resilience. Inspired by the Asian proverb "Fall seven times, stand up eight," this striking and poetic work transforms this idea of persistence into a continuous flow between surrender and recovery, survival and endurance.

Accompanied by Miguel Marín Pavón's minimalist sound score, *Fall Seven Times* creates a sequence of evocative images that invite personal associations and individual stories. At its core, the work asks us to reflect on our interdependence in a highly individualised world: the necessity of others when we fall, and the quiet strength found in collective support.

World premiere 27 October 2016. Awarded the German Theatre Prize DER FAUST in 2017. A production of Staatstheater Mainz.



ARTISTIC TEAM

Choreography: Guy Nader and Maria Campos

Dancers: tanzmainz

Music: Miguel Marín Pavón

Set Design: Lucia Vornrhein

Light Design: Sebastian Ahrens

Rehearsal Director: Simone Deriu

Duration: 40 minutes.



tanzmainz



SPECTRUM

SPECTRUM is a new, two-year ŻfinMalta National Dance Company development programme supporting Malta-based choreographic artists.

Following an open call for proposals ŻfinMalta selected seven artists to support in phase one of SPECTRUM. Each artist will spend one week in residence with the company in 2026, researching their ideas with the dancers, with the support of the Artistic and Production teams.

Next season, Phase Two will invite three of the selected artists to further develop their research, creating new works with ŻfinMalta for a production in Autumn 2027.

SPECTRUM PHASE ONE ARTISTS

Abigail Agius and Zoe Camilleri
Amber Van Veen
Douglas Comley
Gabriele Farinacci
Sarah Vella
Simon Riccardi-Zani

ENCOUNTERS

At the end of each residency ŻfinMalta invites you into the studio for an up-close encounter with the artists, their artistic practice and the outcomes of their research. Each 'encounter' will invite two of the selected artists to share their work and include a special guest performance.

"For ŻfinMalta to be contemporary means to be engaged with now. We are not fixed to one form of movement, but a contemporary approach to dance that challenges fixed ideas about the body in movement. I am thrilled to be supporting the selected artists, their ideas, and their approach to dance and dance making. Welcome to SPECTRUM."

Matthew William Robinson

6/13/20 November 2026 ŻfinMalta Studios

ONTOUR



As Malta's national dance company, ŻfinMalta proudly represents Malta internationally. Last season the company performed to thousands of people across Europe, sharing Sita Ostheimer's *Mortal Heroes* in France, Germany, Greece and Italy.

This season ŻfinMalta will tour to the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy, with plans for further touring in development for 2027.

31 October 2026

The Bull, the Princess, and the Hero,
choreography by Matthew William Robinson
Scottish Dance Theatre, 40th Anniversary Gala
Dundee Rep Theatre, Dundee, Scotland, United Kingdom

18/19 December 2026

NÁCAR, choreography by Paloma Muñoz
A double bill with *Arcadia* by Matthew William Robinson, created for Of Curious Nature.
Schwankhalle, Bremen, Germany
In collaboration with Of Curious Nature

Supported by the Ministry for Foreign and
European Affairs of Malta, Cultural Diplomacy Fund



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS



5/6 March 2027

NÁCAR, choreography by Paloma Muñoz /
Unfinished, choreography by Lali Ayguade
tanzmainz festival
Staatstheater Mainz, Mainz, Germany
In collaboration with tanzmainz

24 March 2027

Mortal Heroes, choreography by Sita Ostheimer
Teatro Alfieri, Asti, Piemonte, Italy

For more information see zfinmalta.mt

19/20/21/25/26/27 February 2027

Valletta Campus Theatre

ŻFINDAYS

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

Witness the world premiere of two works created for the company, *Unfinished* by Lali Ayguadé, alongside *Future Memory* by Nicolas Coutsier.



UNFINISHED

choreography by Lali Ayguadé

Unfinished reflects on the unpredictability of life, and our continuous movement toward the unknown, physically, emotionally and imaginatively.

In this evocative new work by Lali Ayguadé, one of Spain's most acclaimed choreographic voices, constellations of people form and dissolve, navigating the constant change, unexpected situations and shifting relationships that define life.



An emotional and deeply physical journey, *Unfinished* invites us to consider the absurdity of life and the temporary nature of our collective and individual existence.

Supported by the Embassy of Spain in Malta

ARTISTIC TEAM

Choreography: Lali Ayguadé

Costume Design: Holly Knowles

Music: Miguel Marín Pavón

Light Design: Dali Aguerbi

Rehearsal Director: Zoe Camilleri

Duration: 30 minutes

FUTURE MEMORY

choreography by Nicolas Coutsier

Future Memory explores how we create the memories of tomorrow.

In this creation by Nicolas Coutsier, a powerful new choreographic voice of Belgium, memory is explored not only as an inheritance, but something actively shaped through the body. In muscle, breath, touch, and what could be called the soul, memories live within us.



Where bodies gather in states of catharsis and heightened sensitivity, collective moments of intensity dissolve the boundaries between us. In these spaces, dancing becomes an act of remembering forward, a ritual through which we create *Future Memory*.

ARTISTIC TEAM

Choreography: Nicolas Coutsier

Costume Design: Malcolm Gauci

Music: Nigel Baldacchino

Light Design: Dali Aguerbi

Rehearsal Director: Zoe Camilleri

Duration: 30 minutes





COMING SOON

ANATOMY OF EFFORTS

choreography by *Andrea Peña*

21/22/23 May 2027

Teatru Manoel, Valletta

ŻfinMalta proudly presents
ANATOMY OF EFFORTS, a new
work by award winning Colombian/
Canadian choreographer and
cultural thinker Andrea Peña.

ANATOMY OF EFFORTS considers effort as a
contemporary condition through which agency
is continually negotiated within our highly
industrialized and productive society.

Drawing from queer and decolonial
perspectives, the work examines the unequal
distribution of effort and the ways bodies are
conditioned through systems of productivity,
power, and belonging.

Through a highly athletic movement language
of extreme articulation, precision is sustained
to the edge of its own instability. The body is
revealed not simply as a site of expression, but
as the place where autonomy, endurance, and
coexistence are continually tested.

ANATOMY OF EFFORTS lingers in the residue
of intensity, where the fragility and potential of
the human condition become inseparable.

ARTISTIC TEAM

Choreography: Andrea Peña

Costume Design: Linda Rowell

Light Design: Dali Aguerbi

Rehearsal Director: Tara Dalli

Duration: 60 minutes



TKELLEM BIL-MALTI

In July 2026, on what *Times of Malta* editor Herman Grech described as one of the busiest news days of his career, Malta was dealing with two police officers being shot during a standoff, widespread power cuts, and the fallout from the trial of the century. And yet another argument took hold. A journalist reporting from the standoff was speaking English. Then came the comments: “Tkellem bil-Malti, kiesha.” Speak Maltese. It felt absurd, but it also revealed something. In Malta, language is rarely only about language. It carries class, politics, education, belonging, embarrassment and memory. Tkellem Bil-Malti began long before that day, but suddenly reality seemed to be rehearsing the performance for us.

For the first time ever, Teatru Malta, ZfinMalta and KorMalta come together to create a performative documentary of Malta now: multilingual, contradictory, funny, devotional, vulgar, sentimental and political. At its centre is a simple proposition: an alien arrives in Malta. What follows is an encounter through the language we speak, the language we avoid, the language we inherit and the language we invent.

The alien may leave having understood something about who we are. The question is whether we have.

Premieres Summer 2027



PARTICIPATION

Whether you are a young person eager to develop your skills, an audience member curious about the 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.

IŻFEN

ŻfinMalta's programme of open-level evening classes returns with a timetable of ballet, yoga, pilates 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.

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





DIA LOG UE

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.

ENCOUN TERS

6/13/20 November 2026

ŻfinMalta Studios

As part of SPECTRUM, ŻfinMalta invites you into the studio for an up-close encounter with the participating artists, their artistic practice, and the outcomes of their research. Each 'encounter' will invite two of the selected SPECTRUM artists to share their work and include a special guest performance.

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 periodically invited to join the ŻfinMalta company dancers in their morning class. These classes are led by a range of guest teachers, in a programme curated to support the dancers' versatility and evolving practice.

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

AiR

For artists undertaking movement research or developing new work, and based in the Maltese Islands, ŻfinMalta 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 ŻfinMalta.

Apprentices

Supporting the development of Maltese talent, the ŻfinMalta 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.

ŻfinMalta apprentice dancers for season 2026/27 are Victoria Mercieca and Nina Ragonesi.

Associate Artist

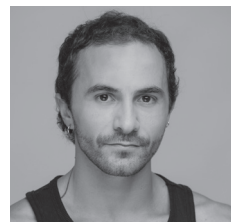
Zoe Camilleri and Tara Dalli are ŻfinMalta's Associate Artists. This position recognises the contribution of an independent artist of Malta to the company, providing them with support and a commitment to collaborate over the season.





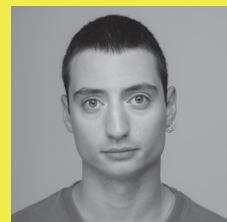
Maya Attard

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, and then undertook 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. Following one season as an apprentice dancer Maya now joins ŻfinMalta as a company dancer.



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 ŻfinMalta 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 ŻfinMalta 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 ŻfinMalta as an apprentice in 2020 and as a company dancer in 2021.



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 ŽfinMalta in 2021 and has since performed a wide repertory 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 ŽfinMalta 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 joined ŽfinMalta in 2025.



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 Matthew William Robinson & Paolo Mangiola.



Victoria Mercieca

Born in 2003, Victoria is a Maltese dancer and performer who began her training at Alison White Dance Studio in Malta. She initially trained in ballet, jazz and tap, later expanding into contemporary, aerial hoop and hip hop. Victoria trained at London Studio Centre, graduating in 2025 with a BA (Hons) in Professional Dance Performance, specialising in Jazz and Commercial Dance. During her training, she represented the school at Move It and worked with choreographers including Alison Desbois, Dane Bates and Duwayne Taylor. She also toured across the UK with company Jazz Co. Victoria was a recipient of the Malta Arts Scholarship in 2023.



Nina Ragonesi

Born in 2004 in Malta, Nina began her dance training at the Academy of Dance Arts Malta, studying a range of styles including ballet, contemporary, jazz, commercial and urban. She continued her professional training at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, graduating in 2025 with a BA (Hons) in Dance. During her studies, Nina performed at the Eurovision Opening Ceremony in Liverpool and explored the work of companies including New Adventures, Jasmin Vardimon Company, and Hofesh Shechter Company. She was awarded the Malta Arts Scholarship in 2022 and continues to develop her artistry as a professional dancer.

COMPANY STAFF



Matthew William Robinson **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Artistic Director Matthew William Robinson joined ŻfinMalta in 2024, for its 11th season. Robinson is an artist from the United Kingdom working internationally as an artistic director, curator, choreographer, facilitator and mentor. His own work and curated programmes have moved extensively to venues and festivals in Europe and beyond. As programmer and curator he has commissioned over 60 new works by artists from all over the world.

His choreographic work translates contradictions and complex emotional states, through highly physical choreographic construction. He is engaged in ongoing and emerging collaborative partnerships in the fields of sound, fashion, theatre, visual art and technology.

As a facilitator and mentor, he has co-developed projects and experiences around the world in varied contexts with artists, students and those with no experience of dance. With a passion for the potential of dance to enable us to see ourselves, each other and our world differently, Robinson is an advocate for movement as a fundamental part of everyone's lives.

He was an integral part of Scottish Dance Theatre for many years, working a range of international artists, including Sharon Eyal, Damien Jalet, Hofesh Shechter, and Victor Quijada. In 2013 he was invited to become Rehearsal Director, supporting the company and guest artists in creative process, and on multiple international tours.

Robinson was Artistic Director of VERVE from 2016-2021. In this time the company created distinct international touring programmes, collaborating with world renowned and fresh choreographic voices. Through his leadership the company grew its audience, in theatres, online and through outreach work, developed its reputation for bold commissioning and the quality of artistic training offered to emerging dance artists.

From 2021-2025 Robinson was Artistic Director of National Dance Company Wales. He was responsible for developing the company's artistic profile and curated programmes following the Covid-19 pandemic, positioning the company at the forefront of contemporary dance in the United Kingdom. Rooted in bold collaborations, the company embraced the highly distinctive physical vocabularies of artists from near and far inspiring audiences across Wales and the world.

Robinson was appointed Artistic Director of ŻfinMalta National Dance Company in 2024, taking on the company during its tenth anniversary year. He is committed to building on the company's rich history, developing exciting new collaborations and work, and evolving the company's artistic profile internationally and within the national context of Malta.

Matthew is a graduate of London Contemporary Dance School.



Martina Zammit
HEAD

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, being officially appointed ŻfinMalta Head in 2025. 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.



Nicole Bearman
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Nicole Bearman is a creative producer with more than 25 years experience delivering cultural programmes, events and publications across international contexts. A Maltese-Australian, she has been living in Malta for 13 years, contributing passionately to its creative ecosystem. Her substantial professional history in Australia and Malta includes working with dance companies, museums, art spaces, festivals, universities, publishers, architecture and design practices, individual artists, and international cultural partners.

Nicole's expansive career in arts organisations includes 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 contributing writer 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 was appointed as the company's Producer in 2020.



Emma Louise Walker
**CREATIVE LEARNING
& CONTENT**

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 ŻfinMalta before joining DeNada Dance Theatre, touring the UK with 'Toro' by Carlos Pons Guerra. In 2018, she returned to ŻfinMalta as a company dancer, working with choreographers including Paolo Mangiola, Jacopo Godani, and Tânia Carvalho. Now ŻfinMalta's Creative Learning and Content Officer, Emma works within both marketing, and the company's learning and participation programme.



Cassiel Bonavia
**ADMINISTRATION &
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT**

Cassiel Bonavia is a graduate of BIRD Conservatoire with a QCF Level 6 Diploma in Professional Dance and Musical Theatre. During her studies, she worked as Assistant Choreographer alongside Thomas Ashton and Sam Stanley. She has performed at MOVE IT (2023, 2024, and 2025), the Eurovision Song Contest, and Junior Eurovision, and continues to work as a choreographer. Cassiel joins ŻfinMalta as Production and Administration Assistant, combining her passion for dance with arts administration and production.



US

OUR SEASON SUPPORTERS



COMMISSIONING CIRCLE

ŻfinMalta's Commissioning Circle offers a new hybrid model of engagement and a means for anyone to support dance in Malta. There are two ways to participate: **Members** pledge an annual donation and **Associates** pledge to make project-specific contributions – or Project top-ups. Contact us for an information pack.

Founding Members

Valeria & Jordi Goetstouwers
Dr Joanna Delia
Samantha Rowe-Beddoe & Gregory Nasmyth

ACCOMMODATION PARTNERS

Elisa & Simon Grech
Nigel Baldacchino

Your support for ŻfinMalta 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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Executive Producer

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SEASON COLLABORATORS



Design: Ivan Sciberras

Editor: Nicole Bearman

This programme is presented as part of NAPA 2026/27 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 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 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 Artistic Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alison Micallef White (Chairperson)
Vice-Chair: Andrea Cassar (Vice Chair)
Kathryn de Cesare
Joanne Butterworth
Felix Busuttil
Adrian Mamo

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Chief Executive Officer: Dominic Galea
Director of Administration: Christabel Borg Preca
Artistic Director, ŻfinMalta: Matthew William Robinson
Artistic Director, Teatru Malta: Sean Buhagiar
Principal Conductor, KorMalta: Riccardo Bianchi

THE NAPA TEAM

Chief Executive Officer: Dominic Galea
Director of Administration: Christabel Borg Preca
Executive Producer: Elaine Bugeja
Associate Artist: Brenda Lee Grech
Head of Marketing and Audiences: Roderick Spiteri
Marketing Executives: Zack Borg, Wayne Spiteri
Productions Assistant: Joy Decelis
Senior Administration Officer: Sylvia Attard
Administration Officer / PA: Isabelle Sammut
Support Administrator: Claude Busuttil
Administration Officer: Vesna Matic Karic



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