

CONTEMPORARY

AYBERK ESEN is a Causcasian folk dance-based freelance contemporary dancer who lives and works in Europe since 2009. He obtained his BA from ZZT Köln, additionally to his previous studies in Istanbul and Salzburg, SEAD (2009). He has been working in several projects since 2010 in Austria, Bosnia, Germany, Spain and Holland with Georg Hobmeier (AU), Flow Berger (AU), Haris Pasovic (BH), Edward Clug (RO), Georg Reichl (AU), Jelena Kostic (SRB), Helder Seabra (PT), Karl Schreiner (DE), Sandra Marin Garcia (ES), Maura Morales (CU), Hakan T. Aslan (DE), Michael Schmidt (DE), Reut Shemesh (ISR).

NARENDRA PATIL received training in various dance forms from teachers world wide, and has shown his mettle under the likes of David Zambrano, Susanne Linke, Jozef Linda, Peter Jasko, Laura Aris, Anton Lachky, Nakula Somana and Marin Legat among others. Narendra is the first Indian contemporary dancer who has studied with David Zambrano as part of a 30 day intensive workshop of the *Flying Low and Passing Through* technique in Berlin (2014). He was selected among 489 dancers from around the world. He was selected again for the second edition which took place in Madrid (2016). Having explored numerous movement possibilities and finding inspiration and knowledge at various dance festivals, intensive workshops and creations with renowned teachers, he was inspired to create his own dance vocabulary. Narendra was a principal performer, teacher and assistant choreographer at Terrance Lewis Contemporary Dance Company for 10 years. He is currently working as an independent artist. He has been invited to teach in many professional dance schools, profitrainings and companies in Europe, Russia and India. He performed in an improvisation trio with David Zambrano and Lamprini Gkolia in Athens (2015). Narendra has collaborated with Lamprini, who is Greek, in other projects as well. They performed their duet *Camouflage* in Athens and at Deltebre Dansa Festival in Spain (2015) and gave partnering workshops in Europe and India. Narendra has also collaborated and performed with Axismundi Jaipur and Geneva Project 2016 with Mohamed Toukabri, Rakesh Sukesh, Bolarin Da Costa and art director Pol Sinus. This piece was created during a Pro Helvetia residency in India in 2015. The premiere took place at Théâtre du Galpon in Geneva as part of Artigel Festival in February of 2016. He performed his solo *RESTLESS* at Deltebre Dansa (2016). In 2017 he performed an improvisation duet with Francisco Cordova in St. Petersburg as well as solo improvisations in Moscow, Crimea and Tyumen, Russia.

LAURA WITZLEBEN studied contemporary dance at the Academy of Arts (ArteZ) in Arnhem (NL) from 2004-2008. Then she spent about nine years with contemporary dance ensembles and state theaters in several European countries, including Ballet di Roma, Station Zuid (Tilburg)), Danswerkplaats Amsterdam, Dansateliers Rotterdam, Staatstheater Darmstadt, National Company of Lithuania and the Panta Rei Dance Ensemble in Oslo, Norway. She took part in *The Shape of Water* by Sara Angius which premiered in October 2017 at LOT Theater Braunschweig. She has created several works which have been shown at the Solo/ Duo Festival in Cologne, the Opera in Belgrade, Berlin, Oslo, Vilnius and the solo competition in Gdansk amongst others. Her recent work *Don't smoke under water* won first prize at the Solo/Duo competition in May 2017 and was successfully shown at the Dance in Response Festival in Hamburg, the festival Löwenbräu Lebt! in Zürich, Uferstudios Berlin, the Opera House of Budapest in January 2018, the Opera House of Belgrade in September 2018 and the Swiss festival Tanzfest 2018 in Winterthur. She currently works as a guest dancer at the Würzburg Theater as well as with the choreographer Sara Angius in Braunschweig and Cie Anne-Sophie Fenner in Zürich. She was one of the chosen choreographers to work at STL Theater in Tallinn to create her recent piece *November* in September 2018. Currently she works at the State Theater of Dortmund as a choreographer for theater maker Gordon Kämmerer.

IVAN YAHER is a professional dancer who specializes in contemporary, ballet and acrobatics. He enjoys exploring other stage disciplines such as physical theater and circus, as different ways of expressing himself. In addition to performing, Ivan is also a dedicated acrobatics and handstand teacher. Ivan began giving ballet classes in Mexican schools in 2009. After he graduated there, he taught contemporary dance in China to artists of the renowned Chinese National Troupe. Back in Mexico, Ivan returned to his old school to train professional contemporary dancers. He also teaches for and coaches the circus AcroConvention (dance, creative expression, improvisation) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since 2014 he teaches acrobatics in France and Switzerland.

SIMONE BLASER grew up in Brazil and in Switzerland. She started her dance studies at SEAD in Austria and graduated with a degree in choreography and dance at the Hogeschool voor de Kunsten E.D.D.C. in Arnhem NL in 2003. Since 2007 she is co-director of the company PiccoliProduction, together with Bruno Catalano. As a dancer she has worked amongst others for the company of Stadttheater St. Gallen (Philipp Egli), Cie. Fabienne Berger, K.Ä. laboration, Jessica Huber/A@TEM, Hideto Heshiki, Junges Schauspielhaus Zürich and Philippe Saire. Simone teaches contemporary dance for professional dancers, actors and amateurs in different institutions. In 2014 she received the cultural award of the city of Zürich for her performance in *Nothing To Hide* by PiccoliProduction.

BALLET

DEIRDRE O'NEILL was born in Ireland and completed her professional training at Bush Davies School and Laine Theatre Arts in England. She performed with Night Star Dance Company in Ireland and with PACT Ballet Company in South Africa. She then qualified as a teacher with the RAD specializing in Vocational Teaching. During the last 20 years she has taught professionally in Ireland, Germany and Switzerland. Deirdre's curiosity continues to inform and deepen her understanding of the body with self-study and exploration through the modalities of Feldenkrais, Gyrotonics, Rolfing, Yoga, and breathe work. Deirdre's class is offered as an invitation to each person to connect, observe, adjust, refine and enjoy the sense of movement within and of the body through ballet.

ALEXANDER TEUTSCHER completed his dance education at the Ballettzentrum John Neumeier in Hamburg and at the State Ballet School of Berlin. Numerous engagements have led him, among others, to Staatsballett Berlin under Vladimir Malakov, Stuttgart Ballet under Reid Anderson and the Royal Swedish Ballet at the Royal Opera House in Stockholm. From 2008 to 2015 Alexander was a soloist with the Leipzig Ballet. Tours and festivals have taken him throughout Europe, North and South America and Asia. In 2009 he danced with Edouard Lock's Lalala Human Steps in Montreal. He completed his education for dance pedagogy in Berlin in 2010. Since then he has been giving workshops, master classes, company classes and doing coaching in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Since 2015 he has also been freelancing as a guest dancer.

AGATA LAWNICZAK is a dance teacher, dancer and choreographer for community and educational dance projects. She was born in Poland and grew up in Switzerland. After her graduation from the Heinz Bosl Stiftung - Ballet Academy in Munich in 1999, she has danced in various dance companies such as Staatstheater Braunschweig, Ballet Ireland, Egri Bianco Danza in Torino and Cathy Sharp Dance Ensemble in Basel, as well as working as a freelance artist for various productions in Switzerland and abroad. Currently she is studying for her MA in dance technique pedagogy at the Middle Sex University in London and teaching ballet and contemporary dance in different dance schools in Bern and Thun.

AZUSA NISHIMURA is from Hiroshima, Japan. Her repertoire ranges from classical ballet to contemporary dance. She began her professional career in Europe in 2000. Since then she has been living in Zürich and works throughout Switzerland as a dancer, teacher and choreography assistant. Collaborating with artists from other fields as well, she has performed in operas, dance films, theater performances, music videos, commercial events and photo shoots.