

**CONTEMPORARY**

**JOHANNA HEUSSER** studied contemporary and urban dance in Zürich. After that she went to Vienna to dance for Ismael Ivo in the piece *Biblioteca do Corpo*. Johanna also danced as a member of the Compagnie Neopost Footwa in Geneva. In Spring 2017 she got a degree for teaching Vinyasa Yoga in Rishikesh, India. In July 2017 she had an artist residency at Play Practice Centre for Contemporary Dance in Bangalore. There she created her first piece, *swimming pool*, which was performed in Bangalore, Berlin and Basel. Johanna was invited as a choreographer by the Goethe-Institute in Uganda to lead an artist exchange program in February 2018. The resulting piece was presented at Kampala National Theatre and at Goethe-Institute Kampala. Johanna won an Atelier Mondial scholarship residency in Manipur, India. There she spent four months creating *Lairen Mathek* together with renowned choreographer Surjit Nongmeikapam. The piece is based on Thang Tha, a form of martial arts from the northeastern part of India. It was performed in Imphal, Bangalore and Delhi. She also taught professional contemporary classes in different parts of India including Tiruvannamalai, Auroville, Bangalore and Imphal. Johanna collaborates with the artist Marc Villanova, with whom she created *Schnufe*. The piece premiered at Theater Roxy, Birsfelden in May 2018. She worked as a dancer in the production *Rehearsing Afrofuturism*, in collaboration with the director Patrick Gusset and Theater Roxy. Johanna will choreograph as part of a Goethe-Institute dance/theater exchange project in Ramallah in 2020. She lives in Basel and works in Switzerland and abroad.

*VAYA ART OF HUMAN MOVEMENT* is a project that emerged from the idea of creating bridges between Europe and Central America, using cultural and artistic exchange of the Art of human movement. Since 2015 Tina Halford (Germany) and Raul Martinez (El Salvador) has come together to develop this project using various structures like festivals, workshops and pieces for stage generating small connections and networks between the continents:

**RAUL MARTINEZ** graduated from the Taller Nacional de Danza – Conservatorio El Barco in Costa Rica in 2009. He is founder of the collectives Nana+na, Cla and Los INnato, VAYA as well as the festivals La Machine in Costa Rica and Nómada in El Salvador. He has worked in many projects as a dancer and performer like with the National Dance Company of Costa Rica and ADN Dialect in Switzerland amongst others. As a choreographer he has received residencies in Spain (L' Struch Le petit Mon de Sabadell), Brasil (Primera Residencia Nucleo Vila Dança, Salvador de Bahia) and Mexico. He has created pieces for the National Company of Dance in Costa Rica, the National Company of El Salvador, Núcleo Viladanza in Brasil and the University of Veracruz amongst others. Raul has been awarded various prizes such as the National Prize of Dance from the Costa Rican Government in the category Best Dancer Of The Year 2011. Currently he continues to develop his investigation of human movement through physical training and martial arts while he works at the management and production of projects.

**TINA HALFORD** graduated from the University Amsterdamse Homeschool voor de Kunsten (The Netherlands) with a degree in Modern Theater Dance. She has worked as a dancer and performer with various choreographers and companies like: Anton Lachky, Guy Nader/Maria Campos, Vero Cendoya, Colectivo CLA, Los INnato, Angels Margarit, Quan Bui Ngnoc, Liat T Waysbort and Kompani Hanni amongst others. Since 2013 she has been participating in and producing cultural projects in Central America, generating a link of exchange between Europe and Latin America. Together with Raul Martinez she is co-founder of VAYA Art of Human Movement (based in Freiburg, Germany). With this project they have created pieces for the National Dance Company of El Salvador amongst other projects of creation, investigation and education.

**HOYOUNG IM** is a Korean performer, musician and visualizer. He graduated with a BA of Art from the department of theater and cinema at university in Seoul, South Korea. He was a member of the theater company *Elephant Manbo* and an art director of the art project group *UmZikβi*. Besides working as an actor with Dong-Hyun Kim from Elephant Manbo, Hoyoung has worked with the National Theater Company of Korea and with Evgeny Kozlov from DO Theater. Since 2017 he continues his career in Berlin, Germany. Following his own philosophy, which is about investigating the state of being human and being thrown into this world, Hoyoung makes movement generated from profound thoughts. Currently he aims to collaborate with various other genres to go beyond traditional forms of performance. Hoyoung strives to create a mixture of the analogue and digital, while exploring incisive theatrical questions.

**ZOE GYSSLER** was born in Basel and grew up in Spain. After a long period of gymnastic training, she studied contemporary dance in Barcelona, Spain. Later she studied at the Music and Dance Academy in Jerusalem. She danced with the Repertory Dance Ensemble JADE. With this group she performed pieces by Sharon Egal, Vertigo, Johan Enger and others. Then, in Switzerland, she worked as a freelance dancer with the Cathy Sharp Dance Ensemble, Marcel Leeman and Edan Gorlicki. She also created her own work and worked in the field of dance pedagogy. In 2013 she co-founded the dance collective Buffo Makmal. Shortly after finishing her BA in Anthropology of Cultures and Sport Science in 2015, she joined the Johannes Wieland Dance Company in Kassel. While being a full-time member at the Staatstheater Kassel in Germany, she worked with guest choreographers Maxine Doyle (co-choreographer of Punchdrunk,) Tom Weinberger and Helder Seabra. Simultaneously, she is creating and performing her own work. The short piece *Almost There* was shown in 2016, followed by *Silence is Red* in 2017 in Kassel. In 2018 she made *This is Erol* in collaboration with Victor Rottier.

## **BALLET**

**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. <http://www.azusa.ch>

**EMMA MURRAY** is a New Zealand dancer, performer and choreographer living in Bern. She danced as a soloist with the Royal New Zealand Ballet from the age of 19 before moving to Europe in 1997. She then danced with the Stadt Theater Bern for 8 years, leaving in 2008 to establish herself as a Swiss based choreographer and performer. She was appointed Associated Artist at the Dampfzentrale Bern from 2013-2015 where her work is regularly co-produced. Since 2013, and in recognition of her emerging presence in both national and international settings, she has been the recipient of support from the City of Bern and ProHelvetia Switzerland, to aid in the distribution and artistic development of her work. Her performance work to date includes; My Body is an Island (2008), You Should Have Seen Me (2009), naturalcauses (2010), MADE TO ORDER (2011), This is the Beginning (2012), the way you look tonight (2014), Participation (Footnote NZ Dance Co 2017) and Mother\*Fuckers (2017). As well as performing and producing her own work she continues to teach, act and assist in choreographic and theater projects throughout Switzerland. She currently studies for her MA in Contemporary Art Practice at the Hochschule der Künste in Bern.

**CLARISSA ROCHA** began her dance studies in Brazil at the age of eleven. Seven years later she started to work as a teacher and as a dancer. Throughout her career she has always tried to balance those two professions that she loves, teaching and performing, as she considers them as complementary. In 2005 she moved to Madrid where she carried on with her studies and where she graduated in choreography and interpretation at the Maria de Avila Conservatory. At the same time she was performing with different dance companies of various styles, from aerial dance and outdoor performance to contemporary dance. During the 8 years she lived in Madrid she also worked as ballet, contemporary dance and Pilates teacher. In 2013 Clarissa moved abroad again, this time to London, where she continued with her career as dancer and teacher. There she collaborated in a post graduate dance project at the London Contemporary Dance School and had a permanent role as a teacher at Ballet4life, focusing on ballet for adults and elderly people. In collaboration with Ballet4life's director, she developed a programme especially conceived for people with dementia.

**ALICE BERSCHTY** started dancing in Geneva at the Académie de danse de Geneve and then at Dance Area before attending the English National Ballet School in London. she then worked for three seasons with the Polish National Ballet in Warsaw. Following that she took a break to work as a volunteer with horses. She then came to Basel/Alsace and worked with Maria Guerrero. She also works as a massage therapist, Pilates instructor and freelance dance teacher.

**ANA LOPEZ** began her dance studies at Kindertanztheater Claudia Corti and at the Zürich Opera House Ballet School. She absolved all exams of the Royal Academy of Dancing and received a Migros Stipendium to continue her studies at the Hamburg Opera House Ballet School. In 1989 she was given the chance as a young dancer to perform with the ballet company at Zürich Opera House under the direction of Uwe Scholz. Then she performed as a guest in Bern and in Milan. In 1993 she was a soloist at Braunschweig Theater. In 1998 she was first soloist in the Compañia Nacional de Danza in Madrid. She toured with the company world-wide over the course of 14 years and danced at many international dance festivals, from Lincoln Center in New York to the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow. She worked with renowned choreographers such as Jirí Kylián, Mats Ek, William Forsythe, Wim Vandekeybus, Ohad Naharin, Oscar Araiz, Johan Inger, Uwe Scholz and many more. In 2012 she joined the Basel Ballet. Since 2015 she enjoys working as a dance teacher, choreographer and bodywork practitioner.

**OLIVER DAEHLER** was trained as a dancer at the Royal Ballet School in London. He danced with the Royal Ballet London, the Royal Ballet of Flanders in Antwerp and from 1994 to 1999 for the Bern Ballett under the direction of Martin Schläpfer. In the same theater he worked for three years as a ballet master and choreographer. Oliver has created more than 30 choreographies (commissions including the Mecklenburgisches Staatstheater Schwerin, the Stadttheater Bern and the Lucerne Festival). These include full-length ballets as well as site-specific performances. In 2001 he won a scholarship from the Canton of Bern which enabled him to complete a six-month advanced training course in Modern, Contemporary Dance and Ballett in New York (et al. with David Howard, Zvi Gotheiner, Risa Steinberg, Alan Danielson and Steve Paxton). Oliver is a Certified teacher of RAD and completed the NDS Tanzkultur at the University of Bern in 2007. In 2008 he attended Ohad Naharin's Gaga-Intensive course in Tel Aviv. From 2009 to 2011 Oliver worked as a ballet master and choreographer in residence at the Tanz Luzerner Theater. Since the season 2011/2012 he works as a freelance choreographer, dance teacher and coach. [www.danceproductions.ch](http://www.danceproductions.ch)