











PAOLO MANGIOLA IS
A CHOREOGRAPHER,
DANCE EDUCATOR
AND PERFORMER
WORKING WITHIN
BALLET AND
CONTEMPORARY
DANCE PRACTICES

Operating in the interstices between codified dance and ordinary movement, Paolo is interested in exploring this relationship in the context of our interconnected society, drawing inspiration from various artistic sources, the web, and emerging movements.

As a performer Paolo has collaborated with, and danced for, artists and choreographers including Wayne McGregor, Deborah Hay, Martin Creed, and Mauro Bigonzetti. Paolo has created works for the Royal Ballet, Tanztheater Nürnberg, Aterballetto, Szczecin Opera Ballet and Balletto di Roma. He obtained a Masters in Choreography at The Place, London, and designed the programme for the Contemporary Dance Department, Scuola del Balletto di Roma. Paolo was appointed resident choreographer at Balletto di Roma in 2015, where he remained for three seasons. Since 2017 he has been Artistic Director of ŻfinMalta, Malta's national dance company.





ZFINAL DANCE COMPANY

O1 / PRODUCTIONS

21 DANCES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY / Choreography by Paolo Mangiola

ŻFINMADE / 6 Solos / Choreography by Rochelle Gatt / Julienne Schembri & Deborah Falzon

/ Gaby Davies / Maria Concetta Carielllo / Diane Portelli / Zoe Camilleri

ŻFINDAYS - DOUBLE BILL

SUPERLIKES / Choreography by Núria Guiu

KALYPSO / Choreography by Jacob Piccinino

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM / Choreography by Sergiu Matis

GIRLS & BOYS / Choreography by Roy Assaf

SUNRISE MASS / In collaboration with KorMalta / Choreography by Paolo Mangiola

QUARTETS IN MOTION / In collaboration with Malta International Arts Festival

/ Choreography by Paolo Mangiola

Q2 | REACHING OUT

 $3\mathrm{Ws}$ / A dance roadshow for schools in collaboration with BeSmartOnline!

ŻFINMALTA CREATIVE MOVEMENT RESIDENCY

/ Workshops led by ŻfinMalta company dancers

O3 | EDUCATION

CHRISTMAS INTENSIVE / A workshop teaching ZfinMalta's repertoire and techniques

 \overline{EASTER} $\overline{INTENSIVE}$ / Contemporary dance workshops with Brenda Lee Grech

(Rambert, London) and Leonardo Rodrigues (Theater Heidelberg, Germany)

O4 | PARTICIPATION

 OPEN $\operatorname{CLASSES}$ / $\operatorname{\dot{z}finMalta}$ opens its company classes led by local and international

choreographers and dance artists

MOVIMENTO / Five experts, five perspectives on choreography

O5 | ARTIST DEVELOPMENT / Artist in Residence (AiR) programme





21 DANCES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

DATES & TIME: 9, 10 OCTOBER 2020, 20:00 / 11 OCTOBER 2020, 14:00 & 20:00 **LOCATION:** VALLETTA CAMPUS THEATRE

21 Dances for the 21st Century is Żfinmalta's second full-length performance choreographed by artistic director, Paolo Mangiola, in collaboration with visual artist Kane Cali.

Through the mediums of choreography, video and 3D printing, this visual feast of technology and movement investigates 21 topics, pertinent to our time. Borrowing its structure from the highly acclaimed book 21 Lessons for the 21st Century, by Yuval Noah Harari, 21 Dances for the 21st Century offers reflections, and possible solutions, on pressing issues in our global contemporary culture and the digital age, such as machine learning, Al and the extinction crisis. As this multi-layered dance piece unfolds, chapter by chapter, it traces the spirit of what it means to live now, and the challenges we face.

BOOKINGS: kultura.mt / DURATION: 70mins / AGE: 5+

PRODUCTION TEAM
Choreography:
Paolo Mangiola in
collaboration with the dancers
Visual Artist & Set Design:
Kane Cali
Original Score:
Veronique Vella
Light Design:
Moritz Zavan Stoeckle
Costumes:

Luke Azzopardi

ŻFINMADE

DATES: 26, 27, 28, 29 NOVEMBER 2020 / TIME: 20:00 LOCATION: SPAZJU KREATTIV, VALLETTA

Żfinmade is a new initiative of Żfinmalta, which invites six maltese, emerging choreographers to each create a new solo work with one of the company dancers. the project is an extension of Żfinmalta's artist in residence programme, engaging past and present residents, and is one of the company's annual signature programmes, presented in collaboration with Spazju Kreattiv and Valletta Cultural Agency.

ŻfinMade exemplifies ŻfinMalta's ongoing commitment to cultivating contemporary dance practice in Malta. The project highlights a commitment to fostering and nurturing local artists, and bringing them into contact with the country's leading institutions.

ŻfinMalta provides each of the six choreographers with the resources to develop and create a new work, including mentorship by the company's artistic director and staff, and two high-profile international dance dramaturgs, Merel Heering and Thomas Schaupp. ŻfinMade culminates in four evenings of dance performances showcasing the work and introducing the choreographers and dancers to new audiences.

FEED ME, I'M FULL ZOE CAMILLERI

This solo revolves around the themes of image, self-representation and validation, and the ideas of expectation and reality, in relation to a world of trends, likes and scrolls. Zoe Camilleri takes a critical approach to the vast amounts of information we are exposed to daily and questions how we can keep up with a growing demand for perfection, transferring these concepts into movement and space. Integral to the work is an original score by her brother Zack Camilleri.

NON-LINEAR BODY/IES MARIA CONCETTA CARIELLO

Non-Linear Body/ies sets out to portray the dancer's journey from within the different bodies of human vibrational existence: physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual bodies. It is at once a personal and universal journey, through the exploration of the five elements of somatic practice: breath, vocalisation, contact, movement, and stillness. It is a calling to return to the wisdom of the body and to find authentic and intimate connections with all the aspects of our inner existence.

IT-TRACCA GABY DAVIES

This solo revolves around the concept of vulnerability, as seen from a psychological state. Inspiration is drawn from a dance residency Gaby attended in India, where personal experiences, observations and movement research led her to recognise the sensitivity of emotional states caused by vulnerability and its impact on body language, social interactions and mental wellbeing. The work aims to show an individual's psychological journey through an abstract-narrative contemporary dance piece.

THIS IS NOT A SOLO ROCHELLE GATT

"Once upon a time, before the Nokia 3310 and compulsive finger swiping, we were more porous. We live in a time when we absorb less of what is real and instead the data is absorbing us. I EXPERIENCE, I RECORD, I UPLOAD & I SHARE. These are perhaps the most powerful ways of integrating into the community. Our right foot is bogged in the muddy puddle of 'Dataism', while the left is shaking constantly, to fight for freedom and authenticity. We think that we are our own authors, but data has become the weapon that conducts our choices, not our inner being." Rochelle Gatt.

This Is Not A Solo is a collaboration with the dancer, and with scriptwriter Simone Spiteri.

ME TO ME DIANE PORTELLI

The ways in which we form our personal identities may depend on the stories we create and tell ourselves. Me to Me explores that personal, internal dialogue, which culminates in a range of emotions. Centred around the technique of autobiographical reasoning, used to document one's internal narrative, we witness the dancer's personal journey as he grapples with these voices, and negotiates with them and himself.

HER JULIENNE SCHEMBRI & DEBORAH FALZON

HER seeks to tell the story of one remarkable woman's experience of migration, and to explore the power of dance in the sphere of activism. Through the power of the performance, Schembri and Falzon raise awareness not only of this woman's resilience, strength and bravery, but of all migrants living in our communities. This solo is a continuation of Dance Beyond Borders, supported by a Research Support Grant (Arts Council Malta), and invites collaborators who bring diverse, artistic responses to the story to create a sensorial and provocative experience.

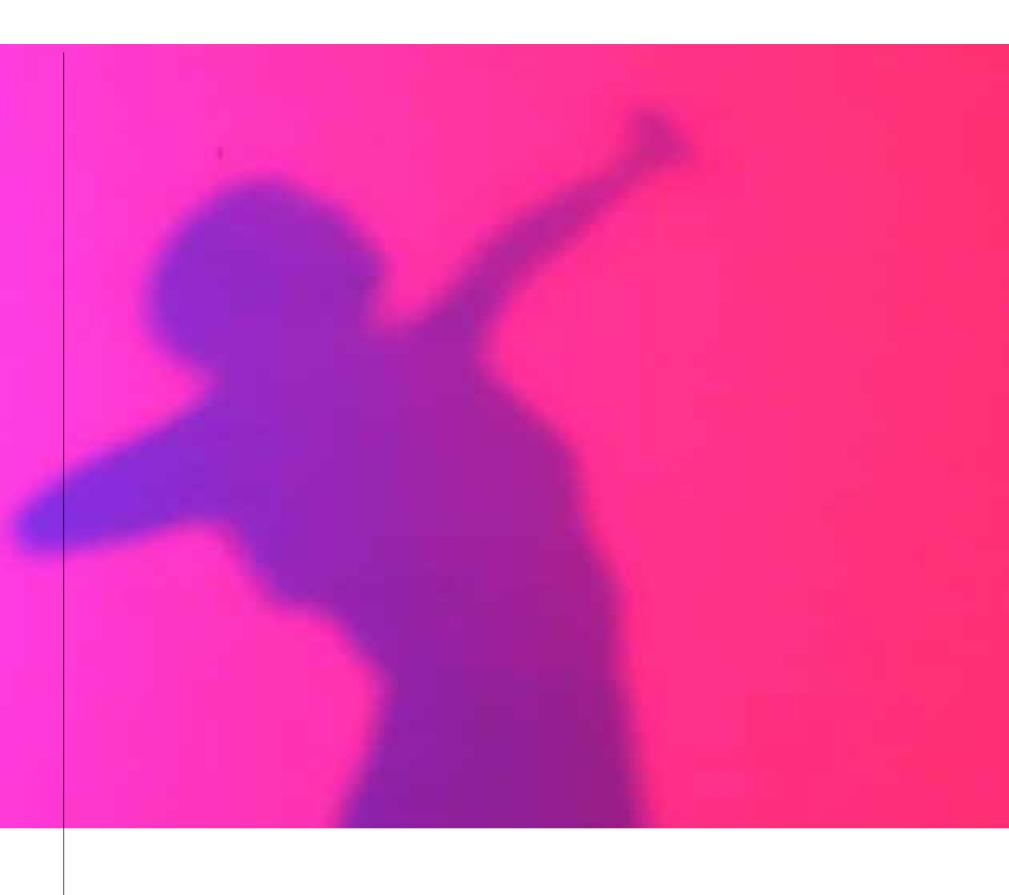
ŻfinMade is a co-production with Spazju Kreattiv, presented in collaboration with Valletta Cultural Agency.

KSPAZJU KREATTIV

PRODUCTION TEAM
Artistic Director:
Paolo Mangiola
Choreographers / Dancer:
Rochelle Gatt / Felix Deepen
Julienne Schembri & Deborah Falzon / Andrea Martin Albert
Gaby Davies / Tara Dalli
Maria Concetta Carielllo / Simon Riccardi Zani
Diane Portelli / Keith Micallef
Zoe Camilleri / Amber Van Veen
Dramaturgs:
Merel Heering & Thomas Schaupp
Light Design:
Moritz Zavan Stoeckle
Costumes:
Julia Boikova







ZFINDAYS - DOUBLE BILL

DATES & TIME: 12, 13 FEBRUARY 2021, 20:00 / 14 FEBRUARY 2021, 14:00 & 20:00 **LOCATION: VALLETTA CAMPUS THEATRE**

SUPERLIKES NÚRIA GUIU

Barcelona-based artist Núria Guiu creates an adaptation of her solo work 'Likes' exclusively for the ŻfinMalta company dancers. Upgraded to 'Superlikes', this work similarly bases itself on the analysis of two popular YouTube phenomena - cover-dance tutorials, and videos on the different techniques of yoga which have spread through social networks in recent years. Guiu approaches her audience from a socio-anthropological perspective and reflects on the social value of a 'like' in our digital culture and society. The work takes a fresh look at the presence of the body in the digital age, through choreography.

Nuria Guiu's education in contemporary dance and anthropology and human evolution coalesce in her choreographic work. As a dancer Núria has worked with some of Europe's most progressive companies including Cullberg Ballet, Gisele Vienne, Carte Blanche Dance Company, and Batsheva Dance Company.

KALYPSO JACOB PICCININO

Kalypso seeks refuge after being exiled by her own people. lost at the sea, the waves bring her adrift to an uncharted peninsula inhabited by mythical dwellers. Her presence becomes a colonizing force on the islet and its inhabitants. She promises fertility in return for their servitude and devotion. Tampering with the harmony of this clan, Kalypso triggers a string of accidents that imperil the fate of this land.

Created by Maltese choreographer, Jacob Piccinino, Kalypso is a performance about human shame and how its associated quilt drives people to act out in unimaginable ways. It is also about compassion (or the lack thereof) between men and women, and the power struggles that can lead to brutal tension within societies.

TICKETS: kultura.mt / DURATION: 1hr with interval / AGE: 5+

PRODUCTION TEAM Choreography: Núria Guiu Visual Artist & Set Design: Tom Van Malderen Music: Pablo Esbert Lilienfeld Light Design: Moritz Zavan Stoeckle Costumes: Núria Guiu

Duration: 30 minutes

Supported by the Embassy of Spain in Malta



Choreography: Jacob Piccinino Original Score: Alex Vella Gregory Sound Design: Edwin Balzan (Duo Blank)

Light Design: Moritz Zavan Stoeckle

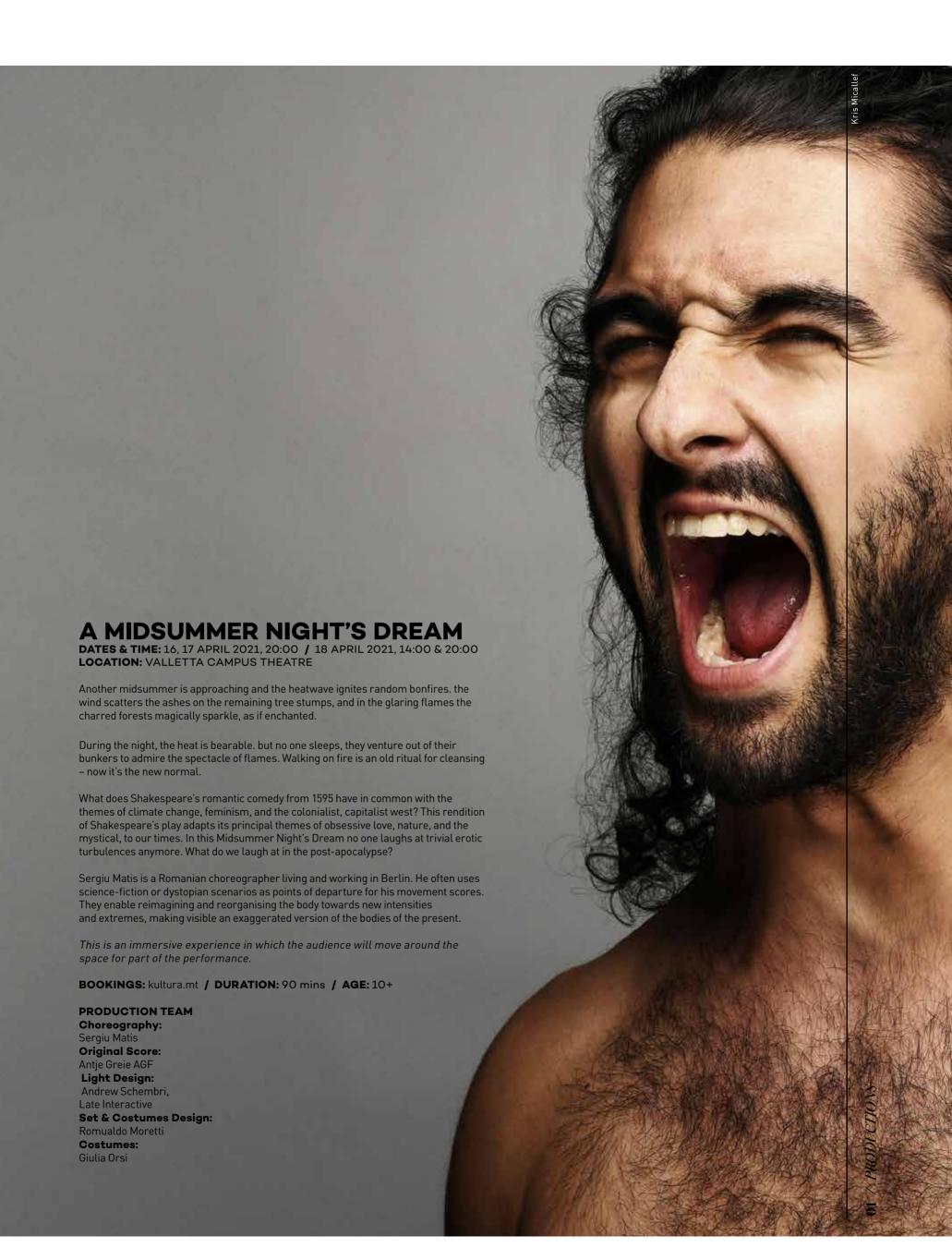
Costumes & Mask Maker:

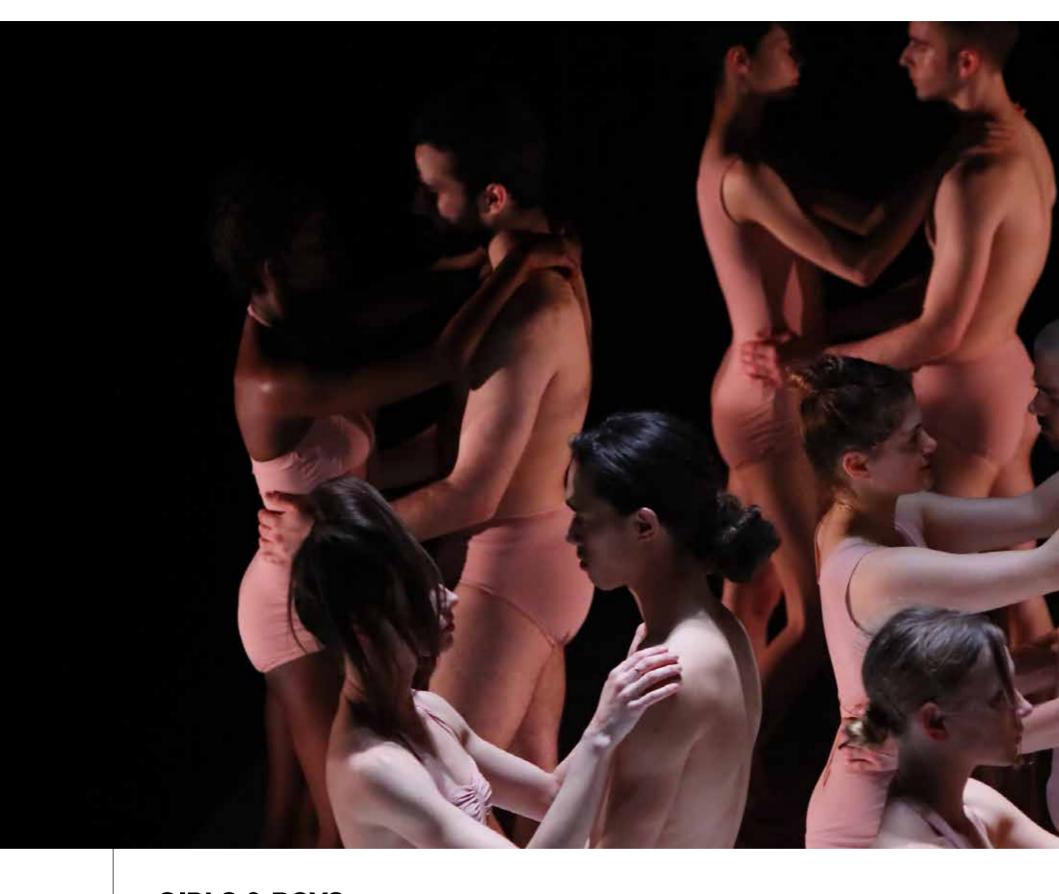
Lucien Cassou **Duration:** 30 minutes

Supported by the Embassy of France in Malta

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE À MALTE







GIRLS & BOYS

DATES: 4, 5, 6 JUNE 2021 / TIME: 20:00 **LOCATION:** PJAZZA TEATRU RJAL, VALLETTA

Overgeneralisation is a human tendency, a tendency which lies at the core of Girls and Boys. Five girls in red, on a narrow white floor, dancing a dance, exposing themselves to stubborn cliches of femininity, which appear at every turn. Voices go up to please, to protest, to pacify. Gestures are minimal, flirtatious, as if taken from the catalogue of male fantasy. Kisses are thrown into the air, legs are spread, tushes rock from side to side – like men love.

Five boys in black, on a narrow white floor, dancing a dance. Exposing themselves, to stubborn cliches. Voices go up to plead, to berate, to pacify. Gestures are temperamental, familiar, as if taken from the cards of human history. Punches are thrown into the air, chests are puffed, legs drilled in a left-right-left march – like men

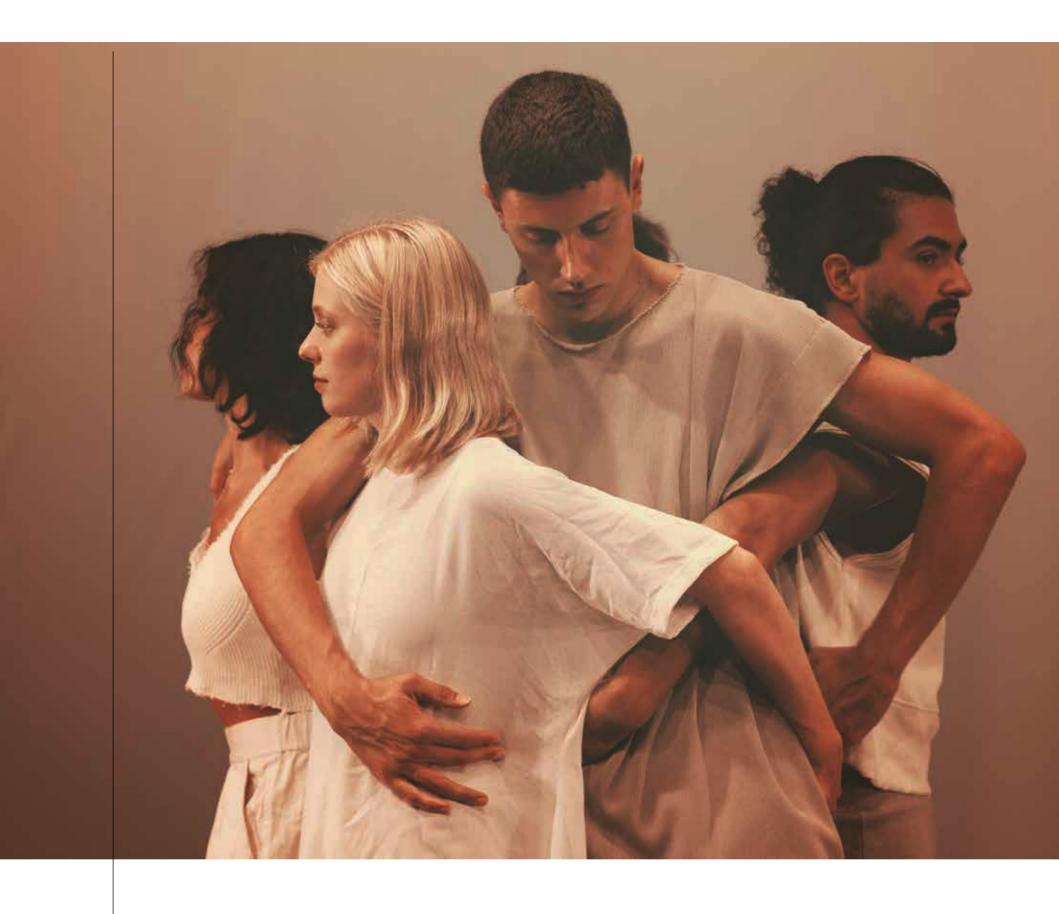
Girls and Boys was not made with the intention of shining a light on the current zeitgeist of gender identity and fluidity. Boys can be boys can be girls can be boys can be both can be neither and all should be respected, regardless. More than a comment on gender stereotypes, Girls and Boys points to the lifelong 'brainwashing' of males and females about how they should think, speak, dress and act.

World premiere: Staatstheater Tanz Braunschweig, Germany, 2014. The adaptation of Girls & Boys was commissioned by the Batsheva Dance Company in 2018.

TICKETS: kultura.mt / DURATION: 55 mins / AGE: 12+

PRODUCTION TEAM Choreography: Roy Assaf Assistants to the choreographer: Ariel Freedman, Avshalom Latucha Music Editing & Arrangement: Reut Yehudai Music: 'Girl from the North Country' by Bob Dylan, 'Trauermarsch' by Uri Caine, 'Rama' by Takagi Masakatsu, 'End of the World' by Arthur Kent and Sylvia Dee, 'Mambo No. 5' by Perez Prado, 'Be My Little Baby' by Jeff Barry, 'Parsifal' by Richard Wagner, 'You Are So Beautiful' by Billy Preston and Bruce Fisher, 'Girls Just Wanna Have Fun' by Robert Hazard, 'Hangover Boogie' by Meade, 'lux' Lewis, Excerpt from 'Yoko Ono's Meltdow' by Reggie Watts, 'Kyllikki' – Three Lyric Pieces for Piano, Op. 41, II. Andantino by Jean Sibelius, 'Du bist die Ruh, song for Voice & Piano, D. 776, Op. 59/3' by Schuber Light Design: Roy Assaf & Moritz Zavan Stoeckle Costume & Stage Design: Roy Assaf





SUNRISE MASS

DATES: 19 & 20 JUNE 2021 / **TIME:** 05:15 **LOCATIONS:** MNAJDRA TEMPLES, QRENDI ĠGANTIJA TEMPLES, XAGĦRA, GOZO

In a first-time collaboration, Żfinmalta, Kormalta, and Heritage Malta come together to create a site-specific work at the Mnadra Temples in Malta, and Ġgantija Temples in Gozo. The work centres around Ola Gjeilo's renowned 'Sunrise Mass', written for a chorus and string orchestra. Choreographic sketches accompany and bring to life this exceptionally light and moving piece of music

Based on the premise that the rising sun is not merely an evocative and romantic image, Sunrise Mass is a deeper reference to the origins of light, and the origins of movement; a kind of archaeology of the senses.

Experience the phenomenon of the alignment of the rising sun's rays with Mnajdra, accompanied by the choir and orchestra. Light and sound manifest in the dance in a metaphorical journey, from starry heaven to earth, and from undifferentiated darkness to solid, warm life, evolving spiritually into human form.

TICKETS: kultura.mt / DURATION: 1hr / AGE: 5+

PRODUCTION TEAM
Choreography:
Paolo Mangiola
Choir Ensemble:
KorMalta, Malta National Choir
Original Score:
Sunrise Mass by Ola Gjeilo
Live musicians:
String Orchestra
& SATB a cappella choir







DATES: JANUARY - MARCH 2021 **VENUE:** SCHOOLS IN MALTA & GOZO

The 3Ws is a roadshow promoting the safe use of the internet, through dance. Presented in three chapters – Uploading, Sending, Connecting – this full-length, dance-theatre performance promotes awareness of certain dangers that have become pervasive in Internet usage today, such as Privacy and the Digital Footprint, Grooming, and Cyber Bullying. Choreographed by Jacob Piccinino with the ŻfinMalta dancers, the 3Ws combines seriousness and comedy to highlight very current cyber situations and threats. It includes an introductory workshop that explains the themes touched upon during the performance.

This roadshow promotes dance as an educational tool, while opening up sensitive discussions about the everyday online world that are often avoided.

DURATION: 70 mins / AGE: 5+

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography: Jacob Piccinino Production Manager: Martina Zammit Music: Dimitri Shostakovich - Waltz no.2, The Blue Danube Waltz - Johann Strauss Jr,

Wake up - FX,

Ilya Alekseevich Shatrov - On the Hills Manchuria,

Offenbach - Can Can Music,

Interstate - Karl-Löwe-St. Groove (ft Birol),

Nto - La Clé Des Champs **Set Design:** Adrian Mamo **Costumes:** Adelina Delia











Illustrations Emma Walker / Photos Giola Cassar

ŻFINMALTA CREATIVE MOVEMENT RESIDENCY

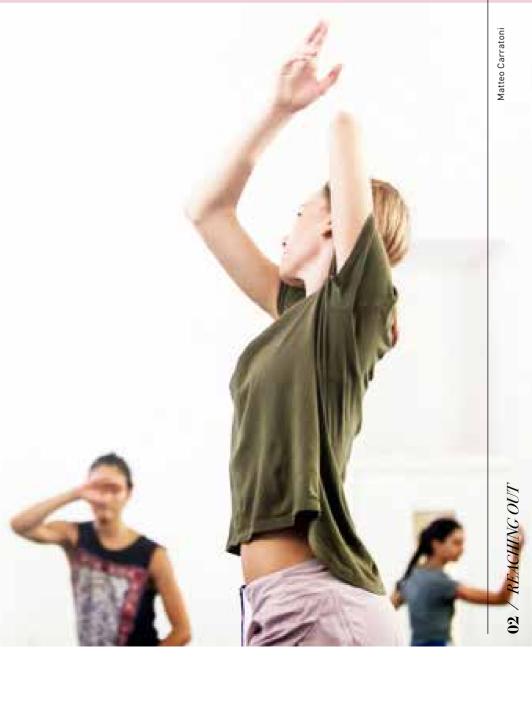
DATES: JANUARY - MARCH 2021 VENUE: SCHOOLS IN MALTA & GOZO

Żfinmalta's education and outreach programme aims to enthuse and motivate children in the classroom, by providing tailor-made, week-long workshops for students of all ages and backgrounds, which draw from the company's current season repertoire and one-off creative movement workshops.

Led by ŻfinMalta's professional, highly-skilled and versatile company dancers, these residencies reflect the National Dance Company's unique approach to the choreographic process and provide a platform to teach the fundamentals of creating movement. Participants also get to experience what it means to work and perform with dance professionals through participation in a final presentation.

Creative Movement Workshops are conducted in schools by ŻfinMalta's Education and Outreach Artist together with the company dancers, under the guidance of Artistic Director Paolo Mangiola.

For further information and to book a performance for your school contact: Martina Zammit, Education & Outreach Artist, Email: martina.zammit@zfinmalta.org







Through programmes targeted at schools, community, and dance as a discipline, our aim is to spread and share the belief that dance is a means by which anyone can experience and explore their creativity and imagination.

CHRISTMAS INTENSIVE

DATES: 1 - 5 DECEMBER 2020 **LOCATION:** ŻFINMALTA STUDIOS

TIME: WEEKDAYS 16:00 ONWARDS, SATURDAY 11:30 ONWARDS

Our third annual Christmas Intensive returns, led by ŻfinMalta's professional company dancers, under the supervision of Artistic Director Paolo Mangiola. This intensive will expose participants to ŻfinMalta's repertoire and techniques such as floor work, release technique, Cunningham-based classes, and ballet classes for warm-up. Spanning a full week, and open to participants over the age of 12, the intensive also offers ŻfinMalta repertoire sessions, which explore different contemporary dance languages. The Christmas Intensive is offered at both intermediate and advanced levels.

LED BY: ŻfinMalta Dancers

BOOKING: kultura.mt / AGE: 12+

EASTER INTENSIVE

DATES: 1 – 3 APRIL 2021

LOCATION: ŻFINMALTA STUDIOS

TIME: 10:00 - 14:00

The Easter Intensive offers contemporary dance sessions with two leading dance artists, Brenda Lee Grech (Rambert, London) and Leonardo Rodrigues (Theater Heidelberg, Germany). Over the course of three days, this intensive offers a total of 11 hours of workshops covering the specific contemporary dance practices of the two visiting artists. The programme is delivered in separate sessions, for young dancers between the ages of 12 and 17, and dance practitioners over the age of 18. Participants can register for the full three-day intensive or at a daily day rate. Drop-ins can also be arranged for those who need to work around fixed schedules.

For further information contact:

Martina Zammit, Education & Outreach Artist, Email: martina.zammit@zfinmalta.org

LED BY: Brenda Lee Grech & Leonardo Rodrigues

BOOKING: kultura.mt / DURATION: 70mins / AGE: 12+



SEE DANCE COME TO LIFE THROUGH THE STORIES OF THESE FIVE DIVERSE THINKERS

MOVIMENTO

DATES / TIME: 18:30 1 OCTOBER 2020, 27 OCTOBER 2020, 17 NOVEMBER 2020 2021 DATES: TO BE ANN

2021 DATES: TO BE ANNOUNCED **LOCATION:** MUŻA, VALLETTA

With a fresh and innovative approach to audience engagement, Żfinmalta in collaboration with Heritage Malta and Muża presents Movimento.

A series of appointments with experts, from Malta and abroad, who share their experiences to demystifying dance and the process of choreography. Join us at MUŻA and see dance come to life through the stories of these diverse artists whose work intersects with movement. Movimento offers a unique experience that delves into its subject and invites the audience to become active spectators. Our Movimento experts will take you on a journey of discovery that reveals how patterns of choreography can be found all around us.

EXPERTS

Michele Tufigno, Merel Heering, Thomas Schaupp, and other experts to be announced

TICKETS: https://shop.heritagemalta.org
PRICES: €10/€8 concession / DURATION: 1hr

PARTNERSHIPS:

NVA



OPEN CLASSES

DATES: 1 week for every month of the season. Stay in touch with ŻfinMalta news and social media for updates **LOCATION:** ŻFINMALTA STUDIOS / **TIME:** 10:00 – 11:15

Żfinmalta opens its company classes to local and international professional dance artists. This is a unique opportunity to join the ŻfinMalta dancers during their morning practice, which is always varied and led by international guest teachers. Classes are also open to students who are following vocational and professional training in dance. The minimum age to participate is 18 years.

LED BY: Guest artists including ŻfinMalta's Artistic Director, Paolo Mangiola, and Rehearsal Director, Anna Nowak

BOOKINGS: kultura.mt / COST: €8



THE COMPANY OFFERS





Pearl Calleja was born in Malta in 2002. She started dance at the age of five and has since trained in classical ballet, contemporary, and spanish dance, under the direction of Marisha Bonnici. She undertook further studies at Dance Arts Faculty in Rome. Pearl has worked with artists including Mauro Astolfi, Michele Merola, Thomas Noone, Roberto Scafati, Francesca Frassinelli, Shirley Esseboom and Emanuele Soavi. She joined ŻfinMalta as an apprentice in 2020.



Mathieu Chabaneix-Amor trained at Rudra Béjart in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he studied Graham technique and ballet. He completed studies in 2017 and was accepted into the Ensemble of the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, touring with the company in Italy and Germany. Mathieu has participated in masterclasses in contemporary techniques such as Cunningham, with L. Viallefond, Gaga and improvisation, with choreographers such as Uri lvgi, Vova Zak, Yaniv Abraham and Eyal Dadon. While based in Paris working on his technique and discovering new ways of moving, he created several short dance movies. Mathieu joined ŻfinMalta in 2020.



Andrea Martin Albert was born in Barcelona in 1998. She started dancing when she was 7 years old under the direction of Eulàlia Blasi, and at the age of 11 started studying at the Conservatori de l>Institut del Teatre, training in classical formation. She received her diploma six years later. In 2016 Andrea joined the young company ITDansa in Barcelona where she spent three years touring around Europe and tearning and performing pieces by Alexander Ekman, Ohad Naharin, Akram Khan, Sidi Larbi, Jirí Kylián, and Rafael Bonachella, among others. Andrea joined ŻfinMalta in 2019.



Keith Micallef was born in 1993. He began his dance training at age 12 under the tuition of Theresa Lungaro Mifsud at The Dance Workshop. He trained in classical ballet in the Cecchetti Method, achieving a Distinction in Advanced 2 level. He also trained in contemporary and flamenco dance styles. Keith joined ŻfinMalta in 2014, and has since performed works by Paolo Mangiola, Jacopo Godani, Jose Agudo and Ivár Pérez Avilés, among others. Prior to joining the company, Keith graduated from the University of Malta with a Degree in Legal Studies.



Tara Dalli was born in 1998. She began gymnastics at the age of three, and trained with the National Gymnastics Team of Malta between the ages of 8 and 13. Tara trained in classical ballet and contemporary dance under the direction of Dorian Mallia. She has participated in numerous projects locally, including '88 Lilies and a Dog' with Cienfuegos Dance Company, as well as productions with Moveo Dance Company. Tara has worked with choreographers Jacopo Godani, Jorge Crecis, Kerry Nicholls, Kristina and Sade Alleyne, Peter Jasko and Oded Ronen. Tara joined ŻfinMalta in 2018.



Félix Deepen was born in Brussels in 1996. He trained in classical ballet and was accepted at the Rudra Béjart School in 2014, where he performed in The Boléro and The 9th Symphony, by Maurice Béjart. In 2016 Felix joined 'Don't Dance Division', based in The Hague, where he danced pieces by the directors Thom Stuart and Rinus Sprong. In 2017, he moved to Barcelona to dance with IT Dansa, under the direction of Catherine Allard, where he performed pieces by Akram Khan, Jiri Kylian, Alexander Ekman, Lorena Nogal, Ohad Naharin, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Rafael Bonachella. Félix joined ZfinMalta in 2019.



Ibai Jimenez Gorostizu-Orkaiztegi was born in 1997. He was introduced to dance through traditional Basque folklore at the age of three. Later on, he started to train in classical and contemporary dance, at the Higher School of Dramatic Arts and Dance of the Basque Country and in Danza 180°, while participating in several productions of Haatik Dantza Konpainia. In 2018, he joined the Ballet Junior de Genève, where he performed pieces choreographed by Hofesh Shechter, Roy Assaf, Olivier Dubois, Rachid Ouramdane and Pierre Pontviane, among others. Ibai joined ŻfinMalta in 2020.



Nicola Micallef (Guest Dancer) was born in Malta in 1999. She began classical ballet aged seven at the Dance Workshop, under the direction of Theresa Lungaro-Mifsud, and contemporary dance at the age of 13. Nicole has attended masterclasses at the Royal Ballet and English National Ballet, and worked with choreographers and dancers including Jacopo Godani, Jorge Crecis, Jose Agudo, Kristina and Sade Alleyne, and Yoshua Cienfuegos. She joined ŻfinMalta as an apprentice in 2017, and continued as a full-time dancer.



Simon Riccardi-Zani was born in 1998 in Nice, France. He started classical dance aged eight, and furthered his studies with programmes at Rosella-Hightower Dance School (Cannes), Princess Grace Academy (Monaco), and Lyon National Conservatoire. Simon began professional classical training at the Opera Ballet School of Paris and later trained in contemporary dance at the Paris National Conservatoire (CNSMDP). He has danced repertoire including Kurt Jooss, Olivier Dubois, Rainer Behr and Pina Baush. Workshops have included Anne Teresa De Keersmaker processes, Gaga techniques, and repertoire by Akram Khan, Angelin Preljocaj, and William Forsythe. Simon joined ŻfinMalta in 2019.



Amber van Veen was born in Amsterdam in 1999. She started her dance education at the **Dutch National Ballet Academy** in Amsterdam and graduated from the Royal Ballet School Antwerp in Belgium in 2018. During a traineeship at the Royal Ballet Flanders she had the opportunity to work with Akram Khan, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Jean-Christophe Maillot and Alexander Ekman. Meanwhile she toured throughout The Netherlands and Belgium as an apprentice of the International Dance Theatre, Amsterdam. Amber joined ŻfinMalta in 2019.



Rachel Vella, Deputy Agency Administrator Rachel was born in Malta in 1987. She holds three degrees from the University of Malta – a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Maltese, a Post Graduate Diploma in Interpreting Studies,

in Maltese, a Post Graduate
Diploma in Interpreting Studies,
and a Masters of Arts in Maltese,
for which her research focus
was on the history of Maltese
Television Drama. Rachel has
several years of experience
working in Malta's Arts, Culture
and Media sectors, including the
Public Broadcasting Services
Ltd, and Arts Council Malta,
before joining ŻfinMalta in
January 2019.



Nicole Bearman, Producer

Nicole is a cultural producer with more than 25 years experience creating programmes, events and publications for contemporary art spaces, museums, universities and festivals, including ZfinMalta, Blitz, Malta Design Week, the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney Design Festival, the Biennale of Sydney, and Australian Design Centre. She has edited and contributed to international art, architecture and design magazines, including Australian Art Collector, Indesign, Monument, and Vogue Living. Nicole holds degrees in Visual Arts and Museum Studies, both from the University of Sydney. She joined ZfinMalta in 2019 as Project Manager of Threaded Fine, by Rosemary Lee, and in 2020 was appointed Producer.



Martina Zammit, **Education & Outreach Artist** Martina was born in Malta in 1987. She first danced with the Olivia Dow School of Russian Ballet in Malta, where she studied the Legat System. Martina completed three degrees at the University of Malta, beginning with a Bachelor degree in English and Archaeology, and followed by a Masters in English, Modern and Contemporary Literature and Criticism. She then undertook a Bachelor of Dance Studies, which is where she was introduced to contemporary dance. Martina joined ŻfinMalta as a company dancer in 2014, and since 2018 has been making the transition

to the role of Education &

Outreach Artist.



Anna Nowak, Rehearsal Director

Anna is a dance artist, educator, re-stager and rehearsal director with over 20 years of professional experience, leading educational and choreographic projects, delivering masterclasses and workshops internationally, as well as creating her own work. She is a former dancer with Wayne McGregor Company, where she performed in Europe, the USA, Canada, Mexico, Australia and Asia, and participated in art installations and films. During her six seasons with the Polish National Ballet, Anna danced solo roles in classical repertory, including Swan Lake, La Bayadere, and Sleeping Beauty, as well as Balanchine, Kylian and others. Anna joined ŻfinMalta in 2020.



Emma Louise Walker, Creative Learning and Archive Officer

was born in the UK. She was accepted as an associate at the Royal Ballet School at the age of ten. She graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Dance and Performance from the Central School of Ballet in London. During this time she participated in 'Blink Margate', working with Wayne McGregor | Random Dance. Emma was selected for the pilot year of Akram Khan's AKX programme, training in ballet, contemporary, improvisation and repertoire, with teachers including Yen-Ching Lin and Andrej Petrovic. In 2018, Emma toured the UK with DeNada Dance theatre's production 'Toro,' by Carlos Pons Guerra. Emma joined ŻfinMalta as an apprentice in 2015, and a full-time dancer in 2018.



Sylvia Attard, Secretary

Sylvia's passion for the company comes through in the vital administrative support she provides across all aspects of programming and activities. Sylvia joined ZfinMalta in 2020.



Moritz Zavan Stoeckle, Production Manager

Moritz Zavan Stoeckle is a dancer and a lighting designer. He began his career in dance in 1995 in Bharatanatyam training with Savitry Nair. In 2007 he started his career in lighting design at Teatro Fondamenta Nuove in Venice. Since 2010 Moritz has been primarily practicing contemporary dance. In 2018 he obtained an MA in Performing Arts, Dance, with a dissertation on multi-genre choreographies that merge Indian classical dance and contemporary dance. Currently he is working as a freelancer with several theatre and dance companies in Malta, Italy and England, both as a dancer and lighting designer, and he also teaches light design at MCAST, Institute for the Creative Arts in Malta.

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Your gift to 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 please contact Nicole Bearman, Producer, on +356 99999520, or email nicole.bearman@zfinmalta.org

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