

**CONTEMPORARY**

**OLIVIA MITTERHUEMER**, based in Salzburg, is a dancer, choreographer and dance teacher with a focus on House Dance and Hip-Hop Freestyle. Her curiosity for African-American dance styles brought her to various dance productions and to stages and festivals such as brut Vienna, ImpulsTanz Vienna, Palace of Fine Arts San Francisco, Dock11 Berlin, DANCENET Sweden or KoresponDance Prague. She has worked with Marinella Senatore, Julia Schwarzbach, Valentin Alfery, Cornelia Böhnisch and more. With her company Potpourri Dance, she has created her own pieces - *Houseward Bound*, *4 A.M.* (in co-production with brut Wien), *Friend.shift* and *PUSH* (with Offensive Tanz Berlin) - since 2019. She deepened her artistic work during residencies in St. Gallen, Dakar, Paris and Vienna. She was able to express her love for teaching at Salzburg Festival, ORFF Institute or Festspielhaus St. Pölten, among others. In addition to her passion for Hip hop and House culture, in recent years she has also immersed herself in the field of interdisciplinary improvisation and "instant composition", which has strengthened her understanding of music, dance, movement and perception. As co-founder of the internationally renowned streetdance festival Flavourama in Salzburg, she also travels throughout Europe as an opinion leader, sharing her experiences as both a female organizer and artist. Collaborations have taken place with La Place Paris, Streetstar Stockholm or Pure House Vilnius. In 2020 Olivia Mitterhuemer was awarded the annual scholarship for performance of the Country of Salzburg, in 2022 the start-up grant for music and performing arts by BMKÖS.

Olivia is specializing in House Dance. In her classes she will focus on concepts and tools to expand the participants' freestyle, and help them to find their own groove and musicality. After rhythm exercises, basic steps and variations, each class will be wrapped up with a short combo.

**DAGMAR OTTMANN**, born in Freiburg in 1990, studied dance at the Palucca University of Dance Dresden and is a freelance dancer, dance teacher and choreographer. In 2021, she founded the duo GLÄNZ with musician and performer Christian Herrmann, with whom she works at the intersection of body music and contemporary dance. They celebrated their last premiere in November 2023 with their interactive performance "Sound of(f)... Movement", a co-production with E-Werk Freiburg. In April 2024, GLÄNZ was included as part of their new interdisciplinary research project "im //-II puls" at the Tanzhaus im Ahrbergviertel Hannover, funded by the Kulturbüro Hannover and Bezirksrat Linden-Limmer. As a dancer, Dagmar has worked with artists and companies such as Avatâra Ayuso, Liron Noa Dinovitz, go plastic company, Quizzical Körper, Zina Vaessen, Laura Heinecke & Company, Ka Dietze, Lucia Peters and others. 2023 Dagmar received the #TakeHeart residency grant in cooperation with the E-Werk Freiburg, funded by the Fonds Darstellende Künste with funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media as part of the NEUSTART KULTUR program. In 2024, Dagmar performed as part of Tanzplattform Deutschland at "Club Unique", a performative party event that she curated in collaboration with Tanznetz Freiburg, Loreto Valenzuela, Kevin Albancando Tuntaquimba and Miriam Cheema. As a dance teacher, Dagmar is active throughout Germany and Switzerland with various workshop and teaching concepts, some of which span different disciplines and generations.

In her contemporary classes, Dagmar uses her keen interest in music to create a heightened awareness of the body in space through different dynamics. Her training guides you to find availability, precision, flow within a structure and strengthening of the muscles while releasing unnecessary tension. From the roots of ballet, Dagmar creates an efficient, defined training in a contemporary style, in which improvisation also finds its place. The training begins with gentle strengthening, and ends in a harmonious balance of working with your own needs while expanding your physical limits as a dancer.

**MICHAEL LANGENECKERT** is a freelance choreographer, teacher and dancer, lives in Freiburg and works internationally at institutions and free houses (including guest professor at the Folkwang University in Essen). Since 2018 he has been working under his new label moving orchestra Freiburg. Under this label, he created several dance projects for the E-Werk Freiburg with the support of the city of Freiburg and the state of Baden-Württemberg, works as a guest choreographer (Theater Luzern, University of Amsterdam, Folkwang Universität Essen etc.) and a Europe-wide guest teacher for contemporary dance at companies (Göteborg Opera Ballett/S, Aterballetto/ IT, Skanes Dansteater Malmö/S, Danish Dance Theater Kopenhagen/DK, Staatstheater Braunschweig, Mainz, Wiesbaden/G, Theater Bern/CH ect.) and in professional education (Codarts Rotterdam, Artez Arnheim, Tanzwerk 101 Zurich ect.) He was a rehearsal director at the Staatstheater Mainz (2015-2018, dir. Honne Dohrmann) and at the Staatstheater Kassel (2008-2012, dir. Johannes Wieland). As a dancer he was engaged at the Luzerner Theater/CH, Staatstheater Oldenburg/G, Oper Kiel/G, Theater Kaiserslautern/G and Theater St. Gallen/CH.

The contemporary class of Michael Langeneckert combines 30 years working as a professional dancer, choreographer and teacher. Research-technic-floorwork, exploring the possibilities of your body, awareness of the body in space. The warm up begins with detailed bodywork and research of elementary movements as a base to work on the understanding of our possibilities in open structures and set phrases. The main goal of the class is the constant flow of movement, working with the weight of the body in various ways, the use of gravity, rebound and momentum. As a result the energy and strength will lead us to a higher movement quality. Each session concludes with several phrases combining all the elements into a short choreographic structure using the entire space.

## CONTEMPORARY & BALLET

**STEFANIE FISCHER** is a dance teacher, assistant and rehearsal director, and is currently studying for a master's degree at the *ZHdK, University of Arts Zürich*, in teaching and coaching professional dancers. She received her diploma in dance from *Tanz Akademie Zürich* in 2006. During her education she won the *Migros Tanz Studien Preis* three years in a row. After graduating, she danced with *Ballet Kiel* in Germany, performed as a freelance dancer in various productions across Europe and co-founded the dance collectives *Bufo Makmal* and the *ConFusionArt Collective*. From 2015 to 2020 she was a solo dancer and training leader at *Tanzkompanie Theater St.Gallen*. As a guest she regularly teaches ballet and contemporary at *Ballett Graz* and at *Profitraining* St. Gallen and Basel. She is currently working as a rehearsal director for *SNOW Productions* in Basel.

Stefanie's contemporary training for professional dancers offers a mixture of working on details with enjoying movement, and is peppered with small challenges. The aim of the class is to strengthen awareness of your body and movement, and to start the day with a warm, supple body. After an extensive warm-up, the lesson builds up to several exercises, from the floor to standing and with an increasing energy curve.

Due to her Vaganova education, Stefanie's ballet class is based on the Russian technique. It is also strongly influenced by her many years of dancing in different places. The class is built with a clear structure and supports the pleasure of moving and dancing. Musicality and challenging combinations are important components in the class. They help to create a playful and positive atmosphere.

## LAB

**DECLAN WHITAKER** is a dancer and choreographer based in Basel. His artistic interest lies with aesthetic conventions and the border between fantasy and reality. Declan is a part of *The Field*, an associated company of *Tanzhaus Zürich*. He has performed in works by Meg Stuart, Isabel Lewis, Ofelia Jarl Ortega, Simone Aughtertony and regularly collaborates with Frédéric Gies/Dance is Ancient. His choreographic work has been shown at ROXY, Tanzhaus Zürich, Tanzplan Ost, PACT Zollverein (DE), Kunsthal Charlottenborg (DK), The Place (UK). Declan holds a Master's degree from London Contemporary Dance School. In 2019 he received the danceWEB scholarship at ImPulsTanz and in 2023, was part of Springback Academy in the frame of Aerowaves. For the season 24/25, Declan is a LAB artist at Kaserne Basel. [www.declanwhitaker.com](http://www.declanwhitaker.com)

In the LAB *Virtually Dancing* we will connect to our sense of fantasy. After a vigorous warm up, we look inward, listening to the body and observing our sensations. Through concrete and imaginative tasks we get into movement. Shifting through different states, we will play with the information we receive - inventing strategies to add texture, ambivalence or even risk to our dancing. These strategies can become tools to enliven and complexify our on-stage presence and performance.

## BALLET

**DIEGO BENITO GUTIÉRREZ** was born in Madrid, Spain. After completing his dance training at the conservatory there, he worked in dance companies in Spain, France and the Netherlands. In 2009 he moved to Switzerland and danced at Ballett Theater Basel for 14 years, as well as doing various projects in the free scene. In 2016 he was Contemporary Coach at the renowned Prix de Lausanne and since 2022 he is artistic director of the project "UKBB Tanzt" of the Children's Hospital in Basel. He is currently working as an artistic advisor at the Pro Ballet School and doing a Master's degree in cultural management at the University of Basel.

After having worked for 20 years as a professional dancer, I have learned how important it is to have a good time in the studio and finish the class with a good feeling. For me as a teacher, it is essential to continually work on ballet technique and mix it with freedom of movement and dynamics.

**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>

Azusa's ballet classes are for everybody, regardless whether they have a background in classic ballet or contemporary dance. She focuses on the individual bodies of the students and believes that each and every one of us is different. Her barre exercises are fairly simple and designed to help students to pay attention to their body and activate their own resources to be able to maximize their potential when we move on to the centre exercises.

**LAETITIA KOHLER** is a contemporary dancer, choreographer and dance teacher from Delémont, Switzerland. She began her dance education at the Basel Dance Academy with Galina Gladkova-Hoffmann. After graduating from the Zürcher Hochschule der Künste with a BA in contemporary dance, she started dancing with various choreographers and companies including Isabelle Beernaert's company in Belgium, T42 Dance Project, Sagi Gross dance company based in Amsterdam and Mainfranken Theater Würzburg with Anna Vita in Germany. She is currently doing research for her own projects, dancing and teaching in private schools and universities.

Laetitia's vision of ballet has been influenced though the years by her practice of contemporary dance. On the one hand, it is about precision, tradition, and lines while on the other hand, it is about releasing, momentum and taking space. After all, it is about expression and being yourself.

**CARLOS KERR JR.** is a Belizean-American artist from Brooklyn, New York. His career spans several international companies, including the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Rubberband Dance Group, Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, Stadttheater Ulm, the Tanz Luzerner Theater, Snorkel Rabbit, and currently, Ballett Basel. He has performed in works and original creations by William Forsythe, Crystal Pite, Hofesh Shechter, Ella Rothschild, Johan Inger, Inbal Pinto, Bryan Arias, Georg Reischl, Marcos Morau, amongst others. As a choreographer, his work has been presented internationally, including at Springboard Danse Montreal, Dance Gallery Festival, and throughout Switzerland in Tanz Fest Schweiz. Along with his choreographic endeavors, Carlos is an active dance teacher, photographer, sound designer, and filmmaker. Carlos holds a Master's in Dance Science with a focus on Health & Performance and is also a Certified Gyrokinesis® trainer.

Ballet can be technically challenging yet equally healing. With a philosophy to move through form rather than to form, Carlos's classes develop coordination of breath, spiral, and spinal torsion. The constant change of direction, coordination of back and arms, and awareness of the pelvic floor foster a playful harmony with music, allowing for effortless movement from barre to center.

**ALICE BERTSCHY** started dancing in Geneva at the Académie de danse de Genève 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.

Trying to bring ballet back into a more intuitive sense of movement, the class focuses highly on musicality, body awareness, intentions and emotions. While still training pure advanced ballet technique, through imagery, physical and emotional cues, everyone will be shown how to improve their own experience with their individual aspirations and present physical abilities. Returning to the source: Ballet is dance and dance is expression, so ballet technique too can become a catalyst to lightness, joy and freedom within!

**BALLET**

**ANDREA TORTOSA VIDAL** was born in 1986 in Alicante, Spain, and received her training at the María de Ávila Dance Studio. During her training, she won awards in Zaragoza (2001, 2003), Torrelavega (2002), and Castellón (2004). She was able to continue her training for a year at NDT 2 in The Hague. Her professional career began in 2004 with Ballett Basel, from where she moved to the Italian company Aterballetto in 2008. In 2012, she returned to Ballett Basel and was named Dancer of the Year in 2016 by the NZZ. She has worked with choreographers such as Richard Wherlock, Jiří Kylián, Hofesh Shechter, Johan Inger, Saburo Teshigawara, Alexander Ekman, Mauro Bigonzetti, Fabrice Mazliah, Edward Clug, Angeline Preljocaj, Bryan Arias, Frank Fannard Pedersen, Itzik Galili, Stijn Celis, Blanca Li, Jorma Elo, Stephan Thoss, Jiří Pokorný, Jérôme Bel, and Henri Oguike, among others. Since the beginning of her career, Andrea Tortosa Vidal has felt a deep curiosity and a fervent desire to find her own physical language. This has led her to explore, alongside her work as a dancer, the world of choreography and the creation of numerous works, both solo and in collaboration with artists from various fields. She also regularly teaches classical and modern dance and has led several educational projects in the city of Basel.

With 25 years of daily ballet experience, I am thrilled to guide dancers through the elegance and discipline of this timeless art form. In the classes, you'll find a supportive and encouraging environment toward discovering your own grace and strength and expand it in time and space. Let's embrace the artistry of ballet together, celebrating progress and positivity in every session. Whether you're here to refine your technique or to keep fit, I look forward to dancing with you!

**ANDREW CHAMPLIN** is a performer, visual artist, and international dance teacher currently based in Berlin. His artistic practice explores the intersection of Western classical dance and contemporary performance, with a focus on interdisciplinary approaches to training and research. Originally from the United States, Champlin studied dance at the School of American Ballet and has collaborated with artists and organizations such as Xavier le Roy, Madeline Hollander, Ryan McNamara, Pam Tanowitz, Miguel Gutierrez, Oregon Ballet Theatre and The Merce Cunningham Trust. He holds a B.A. in Liberal Arts from The New School in New York, an M.A. in Choreography from Stockholm University of the Arts, and is currently a PhD candidate in Artistic Research at the University of Applied Arts Vienna and Zurich University of the Arts. From 2013-2023, Champlin was an assistant and apprentice to the ballet instructor Janet Panetta whose legacy he honors in his teaching and performance practice. He has taught at institutions including Zurich University of the Arts, Stockholm University of the Arts, Cullberg, ImpulsTanz, The Inter-city Center for Dance HZT, The New School, Tanzquartier Vienna, and Landestheater Linz.

My teaching builds on the technique of renowned ballet teacher Janet Panetta (1948-2023, US). In this class, classical ballet technique combines with postmodern dance and performance methods to help release tension in the body. With clear physical instructions and a deconstructive approach to ballet's traditional syllabus, dancers will practice how to move more confidently and efficiently. Class is organized by work at the ballet barre followed by center and across the floor exercises including big jumps. In all areas, dancers learn tools for working with gravity, clarifying skeletal alignments, rhythmic musicality, and direction of line in space. Dancers can expect a mentally, physically and socially engaging studio environment, with a focus on how bodies move, find enjoyment, laugh, strive, and rest. This class is designed for dancers from diverse movement backgrounds and those looking to explore new approaches to classical ballet technique.

**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.

Clarissa's ballet class is designed to be a moment of connection with the body, providing an opportunity to use movement to feel the flow of energy and build up strength. The class is structured following the basic principles of ballet, but respecting the individuality of each dancer's body.