

**CONTEMPORARY**

**KATHARINA LUDWIG** received her training as a contemporary dancer and dance pedagogue at the Iwanson School of Contemporary Dance in Munich and she obtained her Master's Degree in Movement Research from the Anton Bruckner University in Linz. Based in Bern, she currently works as a freelance artist in Switzerland and internationally. Katharina has danced in engagements with Joshua Monten, Wim Vandekeybus, Simone Elliot, Emese Nagy, Sade Mamedova, Emi Miyoshi, Nunzio Impellizeri and Karolin Stächele. As a choreographer, Katharina created several short pieces which have been performed internationally. Her teaching is deeply influenced by her extensive experience as a dancer and her own choreographic interests.

The training combines fixed movement phrases with improvisational exercises that build on contemporary technique and floorwork. The class is highly physical with an emphasis put on play, groove and joy, inviting the participants to experiment with their technique and own movement language. A central focus is the dancer's connection to music, sharpening rhythmical and musical precision, and improvisation across different musical genres. Additionally, tools from physical theatre are integrated. These encourage the participants to explore their expressive potential and enhance their performance qualities. The curriculum offers a diverse range of material, from contemporary movement explorations to choreographic work, enabling dancers to deepen both their technical abilities and artistic versatility.

**JOCHEN HECKMANN** is a German dancer, dance teacher, choreographer and author. He has danced in various ensembles and productions in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. He works as a choreographer and training director for numerous international ensembles, opera houses, theatres and festivals. In 1995 he founded his own ensemble LOOPING c.d.c. in Zurich and was ballet director and chief choreographer at the Staatstheater Augsburg from 1999-2007. He has received numerous international awards for his dance work. From 2012-2024 he was artistic director of the Higher Technical School for Contemporary and Urban Stage Dance and of the BA of Urban and Contemporary Dance (in collab with University of Westlondon) in Zurich. Since 2005, he has dedicated himself to literary writing and has published essays, short stories in various anthologies, programme booklets and text collections. He has been awarded the Mannheim Literature Prize (2008) and the Audience Award for Easy Language in Berlin (2022) among others. His debut novel 'tanzen fallen fliegen' was published by Beliner Querverlag in September 2024.

This training is based on the traditional approaches of fall / recovery, contraction / release, release techniques and various floor basics of New Dance, as well as elements of classical training. Focus is put on the aspects of breathing, organicity and economy of movement. There is intensive examination of the topics of dynamics, rhythm and musicality. The lesson builds towards a short choreographic dance sequence which challenges the dancers and provides them with the opportunity for the expression of their individual personalities and qualities.

**ROLAND GÉCZY** I am a contemporary dance artist with a strong hiphop background. Since 2015 I have been developing my physical performing skills and personal style. In Hungary I completed a contemporary dance educational program, called Gangaray Artistic Program, which is for dedicated young dancers who want to be part of a professional workflow in creative and open minded national and international groups. After finishing this education and having had working experience in Hungary, I left Hungary to continue honing my technique and artistic statement at the SEAD undergraduate program for experimental contemporary dance in Salzburg. I am presently researching to combine knowledge from the worlds of contemporary and hip-hop, thereby exploring new dynamics, different rhythms and new connections to music. I am also interested in folk and tribal references. I believe in the collective power of a group as well as in individual vulnerability. Two of my creations are Vegmah and Dunajna. The latter was invited to several dance festivals including Ozora festival in Hungary, Opera Prima Festival in Italy and Tanzplattform Bern, Switzerland where I received the Münster prize from Lillian Stillwell.

In this class we step into a universe where hip-hop beats blend effortlessly with the expressive freedom of contemporary dance. This class celebrates creativity, self-expression and diverse influences of hip-hop styles. We explore the core elements of hip-hop through improvisation, through which dancers nurture their own unique styles while mastering fundamental movements. We embrace spontaneity and personal connection to the music, allowing creativity to shine. We experience the freedom of movement beyond boundaries and discover the versatility and fluidity of the body from head to toe. We break free from convention and let creativity flow through every muscle. We dive into skill-building exercises and dynamic floorwork to expand our repertoire and enhance our technique. We delve into choreographies that seamlessly fuse contemporary aesthetics with hip-hop's energy, providing a canvas for personal storytelling through movement. We discover the synergy between movement and music, learning to interpret diverse genres through dance.

**LAB**

**MANEL SALAS** began his artistic career as a teacher, dancer and choreographer of hip-hop in Barcelona, Spain after having studied physical education. He has worked in various fields including TV commercials, choreographing his own pieces and dancing with dance companies including Metros of Ramon Oller and the Flamenco company Color. He graduated from Codarts, Conservatory of the Rotterdam Dance Academy in Holland, in 2008. Before having graduated, he began to dance professionally and tour internationally with companies including that of Amy Raymond and Cobosmika Dance Company (Olga Coobs/ Peter Mika.) Since then, he continues dancing and teaching in different countries. He also studied mime, theater, improvisation, Butoh and acrobatics. These studies helped him to work at several theaters and in several dance companies worldwide, among others with the Chinese theater company Paper Tiger, Julyen Hamilton, Angels Margarit, David Zambrano, Edith Braun Company, Arno Schuitmaker, Vloeistof, Jasmine Morand and Oliver Dähler. Since 2014 he is based in Spain, Switzerland and Holland. He teaches and presents his own work internationally in China, Russia, Holland, Spain, France and Switzerland. He co-creates pieces with European artists and takes part in international productions. Manuel enjoys sharing his knowledge while pursuing his interests and addressing his concerns, as part of a continual process of transformation.

The work will focus on connecting with the pleasure of exploring and creating unique physicalities and choreographic material. It's about finding the space where the body naturally wants to expand and be open to discovery. I will propose various setups and devices to inspire movement variety, leading towards making a small composition. Of course we will start with a thorough physical and mental warm-up to prepare both body and mind. Throughout the session we'll delve into both individual and group dynamics, fostering creativity and connection. Let's embrace the joy of movement—dance, sweat, and have real fun!

**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!

**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 Tanz!" 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.

**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.

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. They help to create a playful and positive atmosphere.

**BALLET**

**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 Schlöpfer. 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 2011/2012 he works as a freelance choreographer, dance teacher and coach. <http://danceproductions.ch>

Oliver's ballet class focuses on correct body placement, fluidity in breath and movement qualities as well as musicality. Enjoy dancing with "minimum effort and a maximum result".

**LINDA MAGNIFICO** completed her dance education in Italy and received her first engagement with the Croatian National Ballet in Zagreb, where she danced as a soloist. Later she was a soloist with the Compagnia Zappalà Danza and assistant to Roberto Zappalà. In 2004 Linda moved to Switzerland. She danced for cie. Anna Huber and at the Lucerne Theatre under the direction of Verena Weiss. In 2007 she founded the company „dysoundbo“ together with the composer Sasha Shlain. As ballet mistress and choreographic assistant, she worked for the Theater St. Gallen and Staatstheater Darmstadt and as rehearsal director for the dance company Konzert Theater Bern. Since 2021 she is president of IG Tanz Zentralschweiz, founder and curator of Profitraining & Workshops Zentralschweiz, artistic director of Tanzfest Zentralschweiz and director and coordinator of various other projects. Linda is also active as a guest teacher nationally and internationally.

In her teaching, Linda uses elements of different styles with which she became familiar during her career. The class focuses on preparing the body for rehearsals or performances. Basics that are important in her class are placement, fluidity, density in movement, change of body weight and direction, movement through space. Emphasis is on musicality, clarity and dynamics of movement.

**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!

**AYAKO NAKANO** was born in Japan and began her training at age 5 in Tokyo. During her training she won the Tokyo Ballet Competition as well as the Asia Pacific Ballet Competition. At the 1992 Prix de Lausanne ballet competition, she won the Prix de Lausanne scholarship Prize which took her to the Royal Ballet School in London. In 1994 she became a soloist with the Ballet of Zurich Opera company. She also danced at the Köln Opera, Staatstheater Saarbrücken and Komische Opera Berlin. Since 2001 she has been with the Ballet Theater Basel. During this time she has performed many principle soloist roles, mainly in the works of Richard Wherlock. She also has danced in works by choreographers such as Jiri Kylian, William Forsyth, Mats Ek, Hans Van Manen, Ohad Naharin, Nacho Duato, Jorma Elo, Johan Inger and Alexander Ekman among others. In 2013 she was a coach at the Prix de Lausanne. She has also taken part in many festivals.

Ayako wants you to enjoy dancing to beautiful music, with no pressure. She just wants you to focus on feeling great while doing the body work and get as much as possible out of her class.

**GENNADI MEDVED** was born in Minsk (Belarus), where he graduated from the State Ballet School. As a soloist he worked at theaters such as the Bolshoi Theater in Minsk, the Polish National Ballet in Warsaw, the Polish Dance Theater in Poznan, the Dresden State Operetta, the Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin, and the German Show Ballet Berlin. In 2013 Gennadi Medved obtained his teaching degree from the Royal Academy of Dance in Berlin.

Gennadi teaches according to the Vaganova method as well as RAD technique.