Lithuanian Dance Scene 2015

LITHUANIAN DANCE INFORMATION CENTRE

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Klymaxless

AURA Dance Theatre

Duration 45

Direction and choreography Liza Baliasnaja (Belgium/Lithuania) | Dance Niels Claes (Belgium), Oksana Griaznova, Love Hellgren (Sweden), Paulius Prievelis | Sound design Andrius Stakelė

In Klimaxless we are not dealing with newness
In Klimaxless we are not dealing with expression
In Klimaxless we are not dealing with the object
In Klimaxless we are not dealing with movement
In Klimaxless we are not dealing with meaning
In Klimaxless we are not dealing with the body
In Klimaxless we are dealing with newness
In Klimaxless we are dealing with expression
In Klimaxless we are dealing with the object
In Klimaxless we are dealing with movement
In Klimaxless we are dealing with meaning
In Klimaxless we are dealing with the body

In **Klymaxless**, the director and choreographer makes an attempt to create a space where the familiar might be objectified and questioned through recognizable forms. The symbols present in the work are being decontextualized, for "new" combinations to develop. However, the newness is not the aim; the aim is to open for the spectators different entrances into well-known domains that contain meanings we tend to ignore.

Liza Baliasnaja: "The creativity in this process is not in developing spectacular and unseen materials, but rather in the appropriation of existing ones and in figuring out the possible combinations that together form a "new" expression, hopefully full of possible interpretations. The way pop culture has influenced our ways of thinking is fascinating and scary. I am very curious what does one think about and how does one judge this piece of work, since it is constituted of shapes and forms that we (social beings), for some reason, never question."

Liza Baliasnaja, is a former dancer at AURA Dance Theatre in Kaunas, Lithuania. For the last 3 years, she has been a student of P.A.R.T.S, a dance school in Belgium.

AURA Dance Theatre is the oldest and the only professional municipal contemporary dance theatre in Lithuania. It was established in 1982 by the current artistic director of the company, Biruté Lietukaité. Since 1991, AURA has been collaborating with foreign choreographers and teachers; it has also been taking part in joint projects with sound and visual artists.

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AURA

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White on White

AURA Dance Theatre

Duration 60

Choreography Hygin Delimat (Poland) | Dance Alejandro Flores Mora, Anna Karen Gonzalez Huesca, Francesco Dalmasso, Gabrielle Emily Aidulis, Kyrie Oda, Siri Elmqvist | Music Ramūnas Jaras, Extrawelt, Austrian Apparel, Tomaso Giovanni Albinoni, Motion Trio | Costumes Eglé Sakalaité | Light design Mantas Bartusevičius

It is a surreal dance performance, inspired by the ideas of Cubism and Supremacism. Why Cubism ideas in the 21'st century?

The inspiration source of the choreography – people obsessed with personal revolutions in and through art; cubists, futurists, expressionists and modernists, all united by the same thing – personal revolutions.

The man of the 21st century is looking at the reality from one perspective, while Cubism is trying to observe the reality from different angles at the same time. The performance **White on White** invites the audience to look at dance from the perspective of visual arts or to look at the visual arts from the perspective of dance. It is kind of a transfer or a translation of ideas from one source to another.

Hygin Delimat: "There are no more revolutions in the 21st century. All that we do is just the pale mix. Today's reality is lacking the wind of radical movements. So, at least, what we can do, is to download the spirit of the overturn through dance."

Hygin Delimat (Poland) is a dance artist. He received a BA in Contemporary Dance and Dance Pedagogy from the Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität in Linz. In 2013, he received the DanceWEB scholarship. Since 2011 he has been creating his own choreographies in various European countries. His work is inspired by street forms of expression (break-dance, hip-hop, electronic music) and somatic approaches (yoga, Feldenkrais). His methodology is based on deep research into movement and on the implementation of original artistic practices.

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Pneu Pneu Pneu

AURA Dance Theatre

Duration 60'

Choreography Kenzo Kusuda (Japan/Netherlands) | Dance Ema Nedobežkina, Gintarė Marija Ščavinskaitė, Haruka Suzuki (Japan), Kyrie Oda (Japan), Laura Witzleben (Germany), Love Hellgren (Sweden), Niels Claes (Belgium), Oksana Griaznova, Omer Lavie (Israel), Paulius Prievelis | Music Patris Židelevičius | Costumes Kenzo Kusuda, Židrija Janušaitė | Project partner Historical Presidential Palace of the Republic of Lithuania in Kaunas

Today we are here with you, bridging the past, the present and the emerging future while cherishing and celebrating our vibrant presence all together here and now. Take one deep breath, take your shoes off, cross the doorstep and feel at home...

Like an invisible umbilical cord, we are all intrinsically connected with each other through our breathing. It is, as if never ending tidal waves, the unmistakable sign of life, the anima - the vibrant essence of life force that animate us from within, stay floating in the air for a while, until it gets taken in again as someone else's new in-breath. It is the new life energy that easily infiltrates the boundary of every skin, transcending even beyond time and history, beyond our collective memories and long forgotten legacies which we have shared and inherited from our ancestors.

Kenzo Kusuda was studying Economics and Business Management and working part-time at the fish market in Tokyo when he accidentally discovered dance. It soon became his form of expression. Kenzo gained almost immediate recognition with his very personal and intense movement language. Since 1999 he has been working in the Netherlands, where he has been creating a series of unique and personal choreographies, profiling him as one of the most poetic choreographer in Dutch dance. Kenzo Kusuda has created a lot of pieces working with KORZO Production in The Hague.

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Monster

AURA Dance Theatre

Duration 50

Choreography Samuel Mathieu (France) | Dance (Premier list) Alejandro Flores Mora, Anna Karen Gonzalez Huesca, Haruka Suzuki, Gintarė Marija Ščavinskaitė, Laura Witzleben, Lionel Bègue, Love Hellgren, Marie Urvoy, Paulius Prievelis | Dance Ema Nedobežkina, Gintarė Marija Ščavinskaitė, Haruka Suzuki (Japan), Laura Witzleben (Germany), Love Hellgren (Sweden), Niels Claes (Belgium), Oksana Griaznova, Omer Lavie (Israel), Paulius Prievelis | Music Maxime Denuc (France) | Costumes Eglė Sakalaitė | Light design Samuel Mathieu, Vladimiras Šerstabojevas

"He, who fights with monsters, should see to it that he himself does not become a monster. And when you gaze long into an abyss the abyss also gazes into you." Friedrich Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil.

Elsewhere, abroad, where changes take place, where people move and revolt, where words, bodies and images prepare to cope. There does dissidence, there does movement begin. The matter lies in the hearts of men, in the hearts of women, victims or witnesses, rebels or torturers. The testimonies, behaviours, and positions of bodies, all together, converge towards a mark, a sort of a scar, towards the memory of an impregnation, of an immersion in the heart of a population. The research is fuelled by impressions, opinions and feelings, sharpened by the hardship of a life governed or squashed by the oppressor. It is an observation of the duration of collective memory, marking the perception of a people throughout time.

Then come the acts of vacating, emptying, wrecking. The mass moves on stage from left to right, swaying every time one side towards fear. Time goes by, stomachs are in knots, upside down, and

then, everything subsides again and slowly slips into oblivion. It is a gradual amnesia of societies, which arouses cruelty and has, throughout our history, recurrently allowed us to pour out on others the horrors that only we, monsters, are capable of.

"One can always find terror in himself. One only needs to look deep enough". André Malraux, Man's Fate...

Sameul Mathieu: "A physical, energetic piece, tinged with unisons, discrepancies and contrasts, fuelled by the anecdotes of some and the memories of others, loaded with everyone's experience, and which shall, I hope, resist time, passion and emotion and delay the awakening of the monster that lies dormant".

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Colourful Games

Birutė Banevičiūtė | Dansema Dance Theatre

Duration 40

Choreography Birutė Banevičiūtė | Dance Giedrė Subotinaitė | Costume Rūta Biliūnaitė Light design Aurelijus Davidavičius

Colourful Games – is an interactive dance performance for children of 0–3 years.

Games are more than just a pleasant activity for babies and toddlers; it's the main occupation of humans in the first years of their lives By playing, children get to know themselves and the world around them; they explore and learn to sit and crawl, climb and jump, grasp and drop, catch and kick, smile and frown, share and make friends, think and enjoy. The dance performance Colourful Games is full of unexpected colourful things that motivate young audience together with the dancer to explore and discover a lot of new about themselves and the environment.

Since 1993, the choreographer, educator and doctor of social sciences (PHD in the field of dance education) **Birutė Banevičiūtė** has been creating dance performances, as well as choreography for drama theatre and operas. She is the initiator of dance performances for

young audience in Lithuania. Her dance performances for children had toured in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Palestine, Ukraine, US, UK and China. She was the head of the Contemporary Dance Association between 2007 and 2014. Birutė gives lectures, seminars and workshops for children, dancers, choreographers, dance teachers in Lithuania and abroad (Sweden, Latvia, Ukraine, Belgium, France, Palestine and US). Currently she works as an artistic director and choreographer at **Dansema Dance Theatre** and as a professor at the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences.

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Thanks God I'm Not an Artist

Marija Baranauskaitė, Giedrė Malūkaite, Sara Cheu

ARTS PRINTING HOUSE / YOUNG STAGE ARTISTS' PROGRAMME OPEN SPACE'15

Duration 40' Creative team Marija Baranauskaitė, Giedrė Malūkaite, Sara Cheu | Mentor Mårten Spångberg

- 1. Don't create. Art is for nothing.
- 2. Don't be someone. To avoid it just start to be nobody.
- 3. If you want your life to be full of nothing, do nothing enough and use the emptiness of the cup, but not the cup.
- 4. Try out nothing. Live up in your dream trees and never come down to harvest your ideas.
- 5. Dive into nothing here and now.
- 6. Repeat: Zero! Zero! OM! OM! OM! Vacuum! Vacuum! Vacuum!
- 7. Stop moving. Stand absolutely still.
- 8. Avoid emotions. Love starts from nothing.
- 9. Do nothing as much as possible. You need nothing to be happy.
- 10. Don't believe in something. Believe in Nothing! Just stop believing!

Thanks God I'm Not an Artist is a performance balancing between performance art, contemporary dance and theater. Like in a puzzle game, everyone has an opportunity to compose and decompose. It was inspired by the contemporary society where there is 'too much of everything. It was also influenced by the consumption discourse. The piece is a trial to stop creating and producing new, stop increasing marketing and just recycle what already exists. Because all is amazing.

In 2013, Marija Baranauskaitė (1990) graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. 2 years earlier she participated in the Erasmus exchange programme at the Danish National School of Theatre and Contemporary dance. Since 2012 she has been working as a doctor clown in International Red Noses Organisation. In 2015, Marija started deepening her knowledge in clowning at the International Theatre School LASSAAD, in Brussels.

In 2015, **Giedrė Malūkaitė** (1990) received her Masters of Contemporary Philosophy from the Vilnius University in Lithuania. She studied Philosophy of Art during an Erasmus exchange programme at the Fribourg University in Switzerland in 2011 and at the Charles University in Czech Republic in 2014. From 2012 until 2016, she worked in different positions at the Arts Printing House, a performing arts centre in Vilnius, Lithuania. Recently, she started working at the Embassy of Lithuania in Germany.

Sara Chéu (1988) studied performing arts at Chapitô followed by a training course for dancers at the Academy of Contemporary Dance in Setúbal. Currently she is studying Masters in Performing Arts at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa. Sara has worked on a co-creation with Ângelo Cid Neto, entitled Octávio de Olhos Fixos, at Festival Materiais Diversos. She has also been working on creations with Inestética Companhia Teatral.

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6th Finger

Rūta Butkus | comma8 Dance Theatre

Duration 60

Idea Rūta Butkus | Music Artūras Bumsteinas | Video Gerda le Fou | Light design Vilius Vilutis | Costume Dovile Cibulskaitė | Set design Sigita Šimkūnaitė | Choir Irena Juskienė, Zita Staveckienė, Janina Gidrienė, Adeliia Mickuvienė | Photo Redijus Anikanovas

...About the Sacrament of Baptism. When I started living in an incubator, after the artificial insemination...

Choreographer, actress and dancer **Rūta Butkus** graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre in 2007. She gained a remarkable professional experience working with Lithuanian choreographers Aira Naginevičiūtė and Vytis Jankauskas, as well as the acclaimed Lithuanian theatre director Oskaras Koršunovas, Norwegian director Per-Olav Sorensen and Polish director Mariusz Treliński.

At the age of five, Rūta was into Lithuanian folk dance; later she switched to contemporary dance and focused on improving her acting skills and the Suzuki technique, developing her style into essential dance theatre aesthetics. She draws inspiration from various arts, nature and human life using the sense of absurdity and irony to search for existential truth.

In 2011 she directed a contemporary haiku opera, **Snow**, (composed by Jonas Sakalauskas), drawing attention by its minimalistic style and an impressive play of an unusual syntax and movement aesthetics. In 2012, she took part in the Lithuanian-Dutch dance collaboration project (Arts Printing House, Fish Eye Artists Group, and Korzo Producties) and directed a dance theatre performance, **Lost eyes**. The same year, she directed a dance theatre performance, **5 g of Hope**.

In 2013, Rūta directed a dance theatre performance, **new N fairy tale** and an opera performance, **Julio Cesare** by Handel. Rūta's latest works, a dance movie, **In search of white rabbit**, and **MA – the performance of sound and movement**, are the first pieces in the repertoire of **comma8 Dance Theatre**, which was established by her in 2013.

Rūta Butkus: "I'd say, in some other dimension, theatre always wanders around. Now it'd come to me, and I have accepted it."

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Female

Ugnė Dievaitytė

Duration 15'

Choreography, interpretation Ugnė Dievaitytė | Music composition Vidal | Voice Rosa Miranda Light design Pablo Seoane | Costume Austė Kuliešiūtė | Production Artscape

I spin around, breathe and get lost in the spin, in the absurd vortex of repetition, in the repetition of life that overcomes me and makes me collapse. I show up dressed in red, as a circus woman of infinite legs, with high-heeled shoes that harm me, feeling uncomfortable and labelled. Jaded and wore out, I dazzle in a nude simplicity, my real home...

Female is a contemporary dance piece in which the body of a woman is the core of the choreography and the dramatic composition. The work evolved by investigating physical, corporal guidelines that reflected different feminine identities and their development. Conceiving and elaborating the idea of Female, the costume was useful to construct an archetype of a woman. As the prolongation of feminine attributes, the skirt and the high-heeled shoes have emphasized various aspects of the feminine gender that is constructed by the society. The female body becomes a desirable, exquisite and symbolic object; it dismembers in order to finally liberate itself from the conventional and appear with a complete identity.

Female is a corporal reflection about the limitations and the power of the different facets of the roles that we play in our lives.

Ugnė Dievaitytė is a Lithuanian choreographer and dancer based in Madrid. She has been studying contemporary dance and dance improvisation with teachers from Europe and the United States. She has been also exploring dance therapy with Alexander Girshon. So far, Ugnė has collaborated with diverse companies and artists from Lithuania, the United Kingdom and Spain.

Her choreography work, **Es como ver nubes** (2012), co-created with Poliana Lima, has got three awards at Madrid Choreography Competition XXVI. It has also been awarded with the II Prize at the contest DeUnaPieza (Madrid, 2013) and with the I Prize at the festival Dansa Breu (Vila-real, 2014).

Uninvited presence (2013) was presented at Korzo Theater (Netherlands) and at numerous festivals in Spain and Lithuania.

In 2014, a new piece, **Flesh**, was awarded with the I Prize at Feedback'14 (Madrid).

At the end of 2014, Ugnė presented her work Alkis in Arts Printing House, in Lithuania, This performance was created in collaboration with the soprano singer Rosa Miranda.

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Blind Spot

Vytis Jankauskas | Vytis Jankauskas Dance Company

Duration 45

Choreography Vytis Jankauskas | Performance Giedrė Kirkilytė, Rūta Butkus | Video projection Le Fou Costumes Jolanda Imbrasienė | Light design Povilas Laurinaitis | Music Raime, Tindersticks, G.H., Colin Stetson & Sarah Neufeld

"Blind spot" is a medical term used to describe a spot in human eye which makes a certain area in our sight invisible, but our imagination fills it in unconsciously by using the details of the surroundings.

The creators of the performance are wondering how we create spots, that form our view and understanding of the reality. They also tackle the subject of selective vision that eliminates every unwanted aspect of life and the impact of it on human interpersonal relations.

Vytis Jankauskas: "It's the twelfth play of our theatre. It is different because the main ideas are communicated not only through dancers' physical interaction, but also by a collision of their points of views. This is done using visualisations that re-transmit whatever dancers see at real time."

Thanks to a personal research that lasted for more than twenty years, the dancer, choreographer and teacher Vytis Jankauskas has developed a unique, purified and expressive body language. In 1997, Vytis established Vytis Jankauskas Dance Company. It took the Company 18 years to become a distinctive phenomenon in the Lithuanian contemporary dance scene; in 2008, the Company was given the status of a professional dance theatre. The performances offered by the Company are a consistent exploration of accurate, clean and expressive language of movement. As a result, it has received two Golden Stage Cross awards: the dance performance, The Drowned Valley, was awarded for the best choreography of 2003, and second Lithuanian highest award for theatre excellence went to Vytis Jankauskas as the best choreographer for his work Vigil in 2008.

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The Club

Petras Lisauskas | Padi Dapi Fish Dance Theatre

Duration 60

Idea and choreography Petras Lisauskas | Choreography and performance Agnija Šeiko, Justina Jukonytė, Laura Geraščenko, Dovilė Binkauskaitė | Music Jurgita Mieželytė | Costumes Dovilė Cibulskaitė, Ana Romanova Set design Sigita Šimkūnaitė | Light design Ville Aunola

The Club is a performance about the woman, her dreams and wishes, wins and breakdowns; it is a performance about the goddess in her. Nowadays we live in a world, where people are figuring out what the woman should be like and what are her responsibilities. This performance is questioning the powers influencing the process of shaping the women role in our community. It is also analysing the connection between men and women and the real "me" in every one of us. **The Club** also highlights the main stereotypes, which shall be broken or kept, to encourage us, humans, to dream, seek our goals and shape our identity.

Petras Lisauskas is a Lithuanian dancer, actor, choreographer, contemporary dance creator and director. He is also a member of both the Padi Dapi Fish Dance Theatre and the Fish Eye Artists Group. Petras has been awarded with a Silver Crane and the Young Creator Award of the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture. He was also nominated twice, in 2012 and 2013, for a Golden Stage Cross. Since 2015, Petras has been working as an Art Director at the Alytus Municipality Theatre. Petras graduated from The Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (BA in Acting and Contemporary Dance; the course was led by Aira Naginevičiūtė).

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Glass Gardens

Aira Naginevičiūtė | AIROS Dance Theatre

Duration 60

Direction and choreography Aira Naginevičiūtė | Dance Greta Grinevičiūtė, Gytis Ivanauskas, Goda Laurinavičiūtė, Telman Ragimov, Erika Vizbaraitė | Music cutthroats, Anna Maria Hefele, Ludwig van Beethoven | Set design Arūnas Adomaitis | Costumes Laura Darbutaitė | Light design Vilius Vilutis

"The garden is a concrete connection to life and death. You could even say there is a religion of garden, for it teaches profound psychological and spiritual lessons. Whatever can happen to a garden can happen to a soul and psyche—too much water, too little water, infestations, heat, storm, flood, invasion, miracles, dying back, coming back, boon, healing, blossoming, bounty, beauty (...) In the garden we practice letting thoughts, ideas, preferences, desires, even loves, both live and die. We plant, we pull, we bury. We dry seed, sow it, moisten it, support it and harvest. The garden is a meditation practice, that of seeing when it is time for something to die. In the garden one can see the time coming for both fruition and for dying back. In the garden one is moving with rather than against the inhalations and the exhalations of greater wild Nature." Clarissa Pinkola Estes.

Glass Gardens is a performance created as a sequence of moving images and focusing on our fragile and, at the same time, resilient existence, which is unravelling in a never-ending cycle of life. The performance exposes two different worlds, that of heaven and earth, life and eternity, which co-exist and enhance each other. The worlds are divided by an invisible yet perceptible border. It exposes and protects, allows us to see through and separates.

According to Naginevičiūtė, "The concept of glass allows us to perceive what it means to be in this world and outside of it simultaneously. When we say good-bye to someone and see that person on the other side of the window, he or she is still here and vet at the same time, already somewhere else." Glass Gardens is a world that exists on the border between here and there; it is a life inspired by dead matter, and dead matter, which results from life. Glass is fragile and breakable, but at the same time it may not disintegrate for thousands of years and it may be recycled into new forms.

The choreographer and director Aira Naginevičiūtė is labelled as a choreographer in a constant quest for new experimental forms. She entered the professional theatre stage in 1989 and became one of the originators of modern dance in Lithuania. Aira's uniqueness lays in her visual, innovative, and meditational performances, seemingly visions-like, full of metaphors and links to philosophical truths, filled with sound architecture. In 2003, Aira Naginevičiūtė received the most important theatre award in Lithuania – the Golden Stage Cross (for the performance Processus, 2002). In 2013, she established AIROS Dance Theatre.

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Reconstruct

Migle Praniauskaite | ARTS PRINTING HOUSE / YOUNG STAGE ARTISTS' PROGRAMME OPEN SPACE'15

Duration 40'

Idea and choreography Miglė Praniauskaitė | Dance Miglė Praniauskaitė, Karolina Indrė Žvinytė, Vincenta Gurauskaitė | Light design Povilas Laurinaitis | Costumes Eglė Ališauskienė

Reconstruct is a contemporary dance piece about a previous world order, which gradually goes out of tune, distracts and takes the attention away from the individual by focusing on today's mechanical lifestyle. It is easier to be off balance, when one is not focused. We are more and more taken into consciously organized activities, we want to take in everything and everywhere leave a bit of ourselves. Maybe instead of having everything deconstructed we should start thinking of putting everything into its place.

Miglė Praniauskaitė is a contemporary dancer and choreographer with a MA in Dance Education. She is also one of the founders of **šok/šok Dance Studio** and a frequent participant and choreographer in various TV shows, performances and dance festivals.

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Take Over

Agnė Ramanauskaitė, Mantas Stabačinskas, Paulius Tamolė, Dominykas Vaitiekūnas | Stage Strangers Company

Duration 50°

Idea and performance Agnė Ramanauskaitė, Mantas Stabačinskas, Paulius Tamolė and Dominykas Vaitiekūnas Dramaturgy Vlada Kalpokaitė | Light design Povilas Laurinaitis

This time, dance and acting professionals **Agné Ramanauskaité**, **Mantas Stabačinskas** and **Paulius Tamolé** are getting into... Weddings. Why is that? Because it feels that everything related to this inevitably exaggerated event (the celebration, the ritual, the nightmare) "takes over" the everyday life and confuses us, including the blushing uncle wearing a bride's veil and the mustachioed aunt, who took over the newlyweds seats...

Take Over is a performance about those, who had already survived the Big Day once or more; it is also about those, who are still dreaming about it Dreams are influenced by the society — they are shaped, colored, deformed and sometimes just blocked. This performance is about "taking over" those, for whom a wedding costume is a work uniform, those living in the kaleidoscope of toasts and fish batter, wishes and fashion, tears and poems, rubbing shoes and balloons-pigeons, guests and relatives, tablecloths and limousines...

The performance is told by the first person and is created from personal and social experiences, memories, imaginations and dreams.

Creative group gathered for their first collective dance performance **Contemporary?**, later called the "Phenomenon of the Year", understood that they do not want to be remembered just for the one super hit show and that the Golden Stage Cross is not yet the lifetime achievement award.

The applauses in Lithuania and abroad for their first performance makes them happy, but Agnė, Mantas and Paulius wants to move forward - and move there together, from now on calling themselves **Strange Strangers**. Moving forward with the actor, musician and TV personality **Dominykas Vaitiekūnas** will be more interesting and colorful. (Still) without a director nor a choreographer, the group continues exploring collective work methods.

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Everywhere We Weren't

Martynas Rimeikis | Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre

Duration 30

Choreography Martynas Rimeikis | Dance Jonas Laucius, Eligijus Butkus, Rūta Juodzevičiūtė, Miquel Lozano, Haruka Ohno, Marta Rueda, Igoris Zaripovas, Andrius Žužalkinas | Music Max Richter | Set design Marijus Jacovskis | Costumes Lauryna Liepaitė | Light design Levas Kleinas

Martynas Rimeikis discovered his abilities to create choreography during the Creative Impulse project, which has been an important creative initiative of the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre since 2012. In 2014, his miniature, Waiting for Godot, was part of the artistic programme of Tanzmesse NRW.

Everywhere We Weren't is his first full-length one-act ballet, which marks his debut as a choreographer.

As a ballet dancer Martynas performed in Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre's productions Don Quixote, Red Giselle, Zorba the Greek, Desdemona, Swan Lake, Giselle and The Blue Da**nube**. He has also performed in Anželika Cholina Theatre and Vilnius Ballet. Throughout his career, Martynas has performed in many European countries, the United States, and China. He has also worked with Ramutis Rimeikis in Juozas Miltinis Drama Theatre and with the choreographer Kiril Simonov in Petrozavodsk Musical Theatre.

He received two Švyturiai Awards: for the Ballet Hope of the year and for the Ballet Dancer of the year. In 2013, Martynas was nominated as The Best Dancer for the Golden Stage Cross.

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Travelling Churches. Klaipeda/Memel

Agnija Šeiko | Padi Dapi Fish Dance Theatre

Duration 90

Idea, directing, choreography Agnija Šeiko | Performance, choreography Laura Geraščenko, Dovilė Binkauskaitė, Aušra Krasauskaitė, Inga Kuznecova, Darius Berulis | Participants Padi Dapi Fish Dance Theatre, Aušra Krasauskaitė ballet studio, Laura Geraščenko dance studio, Inga Kuznecova contemporary dance studio Sound Kristijonas Lučinskas | Text Sondra Simanaitienė | Historical consultant archaeologist Raimonda Nabažaitė Route Piliavietė, Teatro aikštė, Turgaus gatvė, Tiltų gatvė, Senasis turgus.

Travelling Churches. Klaipeda/Memel is a dance and sound performance-tour through the sites of 7 old churches in Klaipeda churches. It questions loss and memory and their effect on the identity of citizens. This tour is a new, unexpected experience of the city, during which participants will learn more about the first churches in town and the inhabitants of Market Street.

During the performance-tour, each participant has the opportunity to hear a historic / artistic text, music and sound compositions; to watch and interact with different interpretations of contemporary dance in public. It is an attempt to invite participants to personally experience history, public spaces and expand their limits of understanding the city.

Agnija Šeiko gained her BA in choreography at Klaipėda University in 2001. Five years later, she completed her studies of choreography at the Rotterdam Dance Academy (the Netherlands). In collaboration with different artists, Agnija creates interdisciplinary projects employing original music, sculptural installations and video projections.

Agnija is the initiator of **Fish Eye Artists Group** and the head of **Padi Dapi Fish Dance Theatre**. In 2012, for her performance **No Space at The Parking Lot**, she was awarded with the Golden Stage Cross for her work promoting contemporary dance. Besides this, she was named the Artist of the Year by Klaipėda City.

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2015





) Mindaugas Riauka

The King December

Agnija Šeiko

The united project of Klaipeda Concert Hall and Padi Dapi Fish Dance Theatre

Duration 45

Choreography, directing Agnija Šeiko | Art director Mindaugas Bačkus | Actor, dancer Marius Pinigis Actor Paulius Pinigis | Set design, directing Artūras Šimonis | Visual artist Rimas Sakalauskas Music Peter Michael Hamel piece 'The Arrow of Time'

Childhood sometimes happens in the end of life. If you don't believe it, ask King December. By the way, you can ask him anything. You can lie in the balcony, look at the stars and talk about immortality. You can name clouds. You can study King's dream boxes. Or you can go out and see something you have never seen before...

Every day Jovani, the office worker, goes to work on the same path, does mountains of paperwork, feels bored and sad, because his dream of flying a plane has never come true. But suddenly King December appears and the adventures begin.

The book of German author Axel Hacke and illustrator Michael Sowa The Little King December talks about not being able to see your fantasy world and a long way towards one's imagination. This book inspired the creators of the performance **The King December** to talk about the importance of imagination and fantasies and invite children and their parents to find little kings within themselves.

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CC_SPIRIT

Austėja Vilkaitytė

Duration 40'

Choreography, dance Austėja Vilkaitytė | Set design Grégoire Blunt, Marija Puipaitė | Costume Sandra Bučiūtė Music Dovilė Stalioraitytė, Ieva Sriebaliūtė, The Field (Remix of Sally Shapiro), Lentoliskot. | 3D Text Eglė Kulbokaitė, Grégoire Blunt

...Imagine you're being seduced by a South African lap dance... Hovering gently, so close to you... Pleasurable and stimulating

...Imagine sensing (my) skin and the touch of (my) hair, (my) walk...
...Imagine (you) all are snakes and serpents tonight... Being cursed by
Mandragora's flesh and hypnotized by Seetha's blue eyes — (so I can
finally kiss you)...

...Imagine you're being healed by the softest touch of dance in the form of Béjart's modern gaze, Tatjana's warm caress – morphing milky moves... Wrapping around you... Your heartbeat slowing down...

...Imagine those tingling sensations... The smell of Lancôme's liquid treat, a gentle chameleon's whisper... Embracing this night of dance. Then we celebrate: with a magic fountain of liqueur, role-playing, listening to The Field, laughing...

CC_SPIRIT, where CC stands for complex chameleon-ism, is a ritualistic dance performance, a morphing choreographic narrative consisting of 5 parts: (opening), charming, hypnotizing, cursing and healing. 5 stages are morphing from one to another, from movement to move-

ment with inherent logic, leading the viewer to total fullness and celebration. The performance's movements present a fusion of historical choreography, Youtube tutorials, dance school rituals, film, animation and improvisation.

Austėja Vilkaitytė is a choreographer and dancer living and working between Vilnius, Lithuania and Berlin, Germany. She has a B.A. in Contemporary Dance from the Iceland Academy of Arts (2010), did her Erasmus exchange in TEAK — Theatre Academy Helsinki. She has also completed a foundational degree at SEAD — Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance. Before she attended placement program of the national dance company AURA in Lithuania between 2004 and 2007. In 2014 she won ImpulsTanz DanceWeB scholarship in Vienna. In 2012 she won the Open Space program scholarship for Young Stage Artist hosted by the Arts Printing House and thereby performed a solo dance performance entitled Dear Lithuania which was later presented at the New Baltic Dance 12' festival, media festival ENTER and VDU Theatre. In Lithuania she collaborates with the Contemporary Art Centre on numerous projects.

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austejavilko@gmail.com | www.stellasalonen.in

Violeta Salonen. External Sensations

Austėja Vilkaitytė

Duration 60'

Idea, choreography Austėja Vilkaitytė | Choreographic fragment Agnietė Lisičkinaitė Technical assistance Antanas Dombrovskis, Vsevolodas Kovalevskis | Curator Monika Lipšic

Violeta Sallonen, the alter ego of dancer Austėja Vilkaitytė, began as a character of a woman, who dances alone, wears a purple nightgown and shares the heirloom, memories and promises of her life in Fabijoniškės and Justiniškės, Vilnius sleeping-districts. She carries out rituals of de-substantiation. A ritual of de-substantiation reveals an object's essence through other, non-material means. In the process of telepathic dance, Austėja Vilkaitytė extracts the meanings of objects typical to life and households in urban districts – she dances textures, flower bouquets, a hair straightener – through their external sensations, dance movement and her own telepathic connection with objects and the audience.

Violeta Sallonen. External Sensations is a new dance performance by Austėja Vilkaitytė, created in the CAC Cinema Hall.

Austėja Vilkaitytė is a choreographer and dancer living and working between Vilnius, Lithuania and Berlin, Germany. She has a B.A. in Contemporary Dance from the Iceland Academy of Arts (2010), did her Erasmus exchange in TEAK – Theatre Academy Helsinki. She has

also completed a foundational degree at SEAD – Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance. Before she attended placement program of the national dance company AURA in Lithuania between 2004 and 2007.

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padidapifish@gmail.com | www.padidapifish.lt

The Rite of Spring

Laurynas Žakevičius, Airida Gudaitė | Low Air Urban Dance Theatre

Duration 45

Idea and choreography Laurynas Žakevičius and Airida Gudaitė | Performance Laurynas Žakevičius, Airida Gudaitė, Agnė Ramanauskaitė, Mantas Stabačinskas, Brigida Gruodytė, Lukas Karvelis | Outside eye Vidas Bareikis | Live music Piano ensemble Ina-Marija Ubaitė, Aušra Vaitkutė, Roberta Mikučionytė and Lukrecija Petkutė-Dailidienė | Set design Šarūnė Pečiukonytė | Composer Lukrecija Pektutė-Dailidienė | Sound director Tadas Dailyda | Costumes Dovilė Gudaitė | Light design Vilius Vilutis

After more than a century, Low Air Urban Dance Theatre is seeking to resurrect the famous ballet The Rite of Spring to carry it through the urban choreography, an especially created music and the latest technical audio and video broadcasting capabilities. The performance aims at exposing the strong link between the music of Igor Stravinsky and Lithuanian Folk music. It also hopes to modernise the ballet and present it in new forms to the audience.

The Rite of Spring is the third work by Low Air Urban Dance Theatre presented on the stage of professional theatre. It combines contemporary and street dance, live music and a modern interpretation of classical ballet.

In 2012, choreographers, dancers and teachers Laurynas Žakevičius and Airida Gudaitė established Low Air Urban Dance Theatre. In 2013, they received the most important theatre award in Lithuania – the Golden Stage Cross for their dance performance Home Trip.

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info@lowair.lt | www.lowair.lt

Supported by the Lithuanian Council for Culture

Festivals

AURA | International Dance Festival

AURA is a contemporary dance festival taking place every autumn in Kaunas. In 1989, the choreographer and the leader of AURA Dance Theatre, Birute Letukaite, organised the first modern dance festival in Lithuania which has become a tradition and the event representing the city of Kaunas. Here, the outstanding foreign choreographers' and groups' works are introduced. In their performances, they make a fusion of traditions, new art forms, and techniques. Introducing the newest trends of contemporary dance and inviting to accept challenges, this festival educates the audience and develops an understanding of contemporary dance. The dance festival has already introduced such famous choreographers and companies as: Johannes Wieland, Compagnie Drift, Yossi Berg & Oded Graf Dance Theatre, Virpi Pahkinen, Compagnie Thor, Ingun Bjørnsgaard Prosjekt, Niv Sheinfeld & Oren Laor, Moving Borders and many others. The performances are often accompanied with workshops held by famous masters and open to all the participants of the festival.

AURA DANCE THEATRE | M. Daukšos 30 A, 44282 Kaunas E info@aura.lt | www.dancefestival.lt

Apian Jamboree / Bičių sąskrydis | Contemporary Dance Festival

Apian Jamboree is a 2-3 days dance festival in Vilnius that takes place each November since 2007. The festival is a platform, where emerging and well-established dance artists meet. It is open both for works created by young dance artists or future professionals, as well as for performances, sketches or excerpts made by already well-known dancers and choreographers. In addition to this, series of dance seminars and workshops, led by professional dancers and choreographers from Lithuania and foreign choreographers, are organised.

ARTOPIA

E info@biciusaskrydis.lt | www.biciusaskrydis.lt

Different Theatre for Children | International Independent Festival for Young Audience

Different Theatre for Children is an international theatre festival for children and teenagers. It takes place every January, since 2011, in the Arts Printing House in Vilnius. Not only all kinds of theatre shows, but also dance performances are very present in the programme of the festival. The aim of the festival is to become a platform offering performances and workshops for every age group. Every year, the festival programme focuses on important themes such as sustainability, ecology, friendship, and love. The chosen theme is expressed through acting, dance, and circus. After the performances the theme is discussed: children are very welcomed to stay for the workshops,

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where they act, dance or just play with professional actors. During Different Theatre for Children Festival, Arts Printing House presents events for the very little ones (0-3years old), as well as for teenagers.

ARTS PRINTING HOUSE / MENŲ SPAUSTUVĖ | Šiltadaržio 6, 01124 Vilnius | E info@menuspaustuve.lt | www.menuspaustuve.lt

New Baltic Dance | International Contemporary Dance Festival

During the 18 years of its existence, the International Contemporary Dance Festival, New Baltic Dance, has grown up into one of the main and most prestigious dance festivals in the Baltic Sea Region. It is organised by the Lithuanian Dance Information Centre and Vilnius Festivals. It takes place each early May in different venues in Vilnius. For the first event in 1997, Audronis Imbrasas, the artistic director, gathered participants mostly from the post-Soviet countries, where contemporary dance had been only starting. Since then, the number of guest countries increased significantly: the festival has presented companies from all the Nordic and Baltic countries, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Israel, Canada, Slovenia, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Poland, Switzerland, and Senegal. All in all, more than 170 companies from 25 countries have been programmed for this festival. The programme of the New Baltic Dance consists of well-established companies (La La La Human Steps, Cullberg Ballet, Provincialnye Tancy, Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, Random Dance Company, Russell Maliphant, Ariadone/Carlotta Ikeda, Granhøj Dans, cie.toula limnaios etc.) with famous productions and

Festivals

new, young companies/choreographers presenting experimental works. One of the guidelines of the festival is to present the latest productions, thus the event is open for premieres, post-premieres, and pre-premieres. The festival also provides the possibility for Lithuanian choreographers to present their recent works.

LITHUANIAN DANCE INFORMATION CENTRE | Šiltadaržio 6, 01124 Vilnius | E info@dance.lt | www.dance.lt

Plartforma | International Contemporary Arts Festival

The main idea of the festival Plartforma is to present various forms of visual and performing arts, as well as artists from Lithuania and foreign countries in one cultural platform. Organised by Fish Eye Artists Group since 2005, the festival offers a possibility to uncover new cultural areas in Klaipėda, while inhabiting former urban and industrial territories with creative projects every late August/September. The main concept of the festival is related to the geographical and metaphysical interpretations of boundary zones. This idea is already embodied in the character of Plartforma, where ignoring traditional boundaries of art interacts with different genres, expressions, and ideas. Such a synthesis of art unfolds in a programme of contemporary dance, theatre, music and visual art. The festival is a continuation of the international art festival SEAS that was co-organised with the Swedish Cultural Institution, Intercult, and held in Klaipėda in 2004.

FISH EYE ARTISTS GROUP | Kretingos 43-7, 92303 Klaipėda E festivalis.plartforma@gmail.com | www.plartforma.lt

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International Residency Programme

International residency at Arts Printing House / Menų spaustuvė

Arts Printing House/ Menų spaustuvė is a non-profit artist-run space based in the old town of Vilnius. It offers a residency to professional international artists in contemporary performing arts fields: contemporary circus, theatre, and dance. The residency is also open for the administrators of performing arts: art directors, festival programmers, and project managers.

ARTS PRINTING HOUSE / MENŲSPAUSTUVĖ | Šiltadaržio 6, 01124 Vilnius | E info@menuspaustuve.lt | www.menuspaustuve.lt

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Organizations, Companies, Venues

A|CH Dance Theatre

The choreographer Anželika Cholina and Greta Cholina, the current director of the theatre, founded A|CH Dance Theatre in 2000. Since then, the A|CH theatre has shown performances in Latvia, Poland, Russia, Great Britain, Luxembourg, Turkey, China, Denmark, and Hungary. Andželika Cholina was invited to create performances for Vakhtangov State Academic Theatre in Moscow, Russia. The theatre is well known for its passionate and visual dance performances, which are a mix of classical ballet, modern dance, and drama. A|CH has a small troupe of dancers, but it is open to new challenges, which means permanent collaborations with artists and performers — dancers, actors, choreographers — from Lithuania and abroad. It is also open to talented choreographers; they can materialise their creative ideas within the A|CH troupe.

A|CH DANCE THEATRE E teatras@ach.lt |www.ach.lt

AIROS Dance Theatre

Aira Naginevičiūtė is a choreographer and director, who entered the professional theatre stage in 1989 and became one of the originators of modern dance in Lithuania. She established AIROS Dance Theatre in 2013. Aira's uniqueness lays in her visual, innovative, and meditational performances, seemingly visions-like, full of metaphors and links to philosophical truths, filled with sound architecture. In 2003, Aira Naginevičūtė received the most important theatre award in Lithuania, the Golden Stage Cross (for the performance 'Processus', 2002). Two years later, she was also nominated for the Golden Stage Cross for the performance 'Pregnant Silence' (2004).

AIROS DANCE THEATRE
E aira@airos.lt |www.airos.lt

Artscape Arts Agency

Artscape Arts Agency was established believing that giving artists the opportunity to implement their creative ideas is an important contribution to the social, economic and political transformation of the society. Artscape focuses on direct work with artists and artistic organisations, providing assistance and information on funding, professional development, and project implementation. In addition to this, Artscape also aims to enhance the overall creative potential of the society, therefore, they are actively involved in educational, publishing and networking activities.

ARTSCAPE ARTS AGENCY
E artscape@artscape.lt | www.artscape.lt

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Arts Printing House / Menų spaustuvė

Arts Printing House / Menu spaustuvė (APH) is a unique creative phenomenon in Lithuania. It is a vibrating performing arts venue and a meeting place for artistic souls. Established in a former printing house dating back to 1585, nowadays it deals with performing arts layouts and linotypes, which help to develop a new perception of creativity within modern society. From the start of its activities in 2002, APH was involved in harbouring and promoting contemporary dance in Lithuania. Since then, hundreds of theatre, contemporary dance, and new circus, interdisciplinary and educational projects take place annually in the building. It has been home for many contemporary dance professionals who otherwise had no space to rehearse and present their works. Since 2003, APH runs one of its largest programmes. Open Space, dedicated to young performance arts professionals. Within the framework of this programme, many young contemporary dance artists debuted on the professional stage. Some of them, like Lora Juodkaitė and Petras Lisauskas, used the programme as a launch pad to access international audiences. Since 2011, APH is organising a stage art festival for young audiences, Different Theatre for Children, where dance pieces are staged among other kinds of performances. Since 2006, APH runs an international contemporary circus festival, New Circus Weekend. Besides other projects, since 2010 APH is also running an international residency programme.

ARTS PRINTING HOUSE / MENŲ SPAUSTUVĖ | Šiltadaržio 6, 01124 Vilnius | E info@menuspaustuve.lt | www.menuspaustuve.lt

AURA Dance Theatre

AURA Dance Theatre is the oldest and the only professional municipal contemporary dance theatre in Lithuania. The artistic director of the company, Birutė Letukaitė, has established it in 1982. During its existence, AURA has shown dozens of performances in Lithuania and in more than twenty-five foreign countries. Since 1991, AURA has been collaborating with foreign choreographers and teachers. Besides this, it takes part in joint projects with sound and visual artists. AURA is not just a theatre; it is also the cradle of contemporary dance performers; some of the country's best dancers have studied at the studio of the company. Furthermore, since 1989, AURA has been organising the International Dance Festival AURA (former International Festival of Modern Dance in Kaunas).

AURA DANCE THEATRE | M. Daukšos 30 A, 44282 Kaunas E info@aura.lt | www.aura.lt

Baltic Ballet Theatre

The Baltic Ballet Theatre (BBT) is a dance company, which appeared in Vilnius in 2010, when choreographer Marija S. Šimulynaitė brought together 14 young professional dancers who studied abroad, yet wanted to work and create in their home country. The main dance style of the troupe is neoclassical ballet. Unusual pieces of music, set design, as well as lighting, are chosen to create non-traditional expressions and find dynamic ways to exhibit challenging dance ideas while being accessible to the audience.

BALTIC BALLET THEATRE | E marysimona@gmail.com | www.balticballet.com

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comma8 Dance Theatre

comma8 Dance theatre was established in 2013 by the choreographer, actress and dancer Rūta Butkus. Rūta graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre in 2007. She gained a remarkable professional experience working with Lithuanian choreographers Aira Naginevičiūtė and Vytis Jankauskas, as well as the acclaimed Lithuanian theatre director Oskaras Koršunovas, Norwegian director Per-Olav Sorensen and Polish director Mariusz Treliński. At the age of five, Rūta was into Lithuanian folk dance; later she switched to contemporary dance and focused on improving her acting skills and the Suzuki technique, developing her style into essential dance theatre aesthetics. She draws inspiration from various arts, nature and human life using the sense of absurdity and irony to search for existential truth. In 2011 she directed a contemporary haiku opera, 'Snow', (composed by Jonas Sakalauskas), drawing attention by its minimalistic style and an impressive play of an unusual syntax and movement aesthetics. In 2012, she took part in the Lithuanian-Dutch dance collaboration project (Arts Printing House, Fish Eye Artists Group, and Korzo Producties) and directed a dance theatre performance, 'Lost eyes'. The same year, she directed a dance theatre performance, '5 q of Hope'.

In 2013, Rūta directed a dance theatre performance, 'new N fairy tale' and an opera performance, Julio Cesare by Handel. Rūta's latest works, a dance movie, 'In search of white rabbit', and 'MA – the performance of sound and movement', are the first pieces in the repertoire of comma8 Dance Theatre.

COMMA8 DANCE THEATRE | E ruta@comma8.lt | www.comma8.lt

Contemporary Dance Association

The Contemporary Dance Association was established in 2007 by Lithuanian contemporary dancers and choreographers, who felt the need to organise themselves in order to represent the contemporary dance community and to defend their social and artistic interests. The mission of the association is to influence cultural policy, thus to ensure and improve working conditions for professional dancers and choreographers, as well as promote contemporary dance in Lithuania. One of the main goals of the Contemporary Dance Association is to collaborate with international cultural institutions, dance organisations, and artists. Since 2008, with the support of the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture; it organises professional dancers' trainings, dance workshops, as well as member visits to dance seminars and workshops abroad.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE ASSOCIATION | Šiltadaržio 6, 01124 Vilnius | E info@lcda.lt | www.lcda.lt

Dansema Dance Theatre

Aiming to promote contemporary dance culture, Dansema Dance Theatre was the first to produce professional dance performances for young audiences in Lithuania. After two years from its establishment in 2007, it became a member of ASSITEJ, the International Organization for Theatre for Children and Youth.

During the last years, Dansema Dance Theatre has been actively touring both in Lithuania and abroad (US, UK, China, Belgium,

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Germany, Palestine and other) with performances 'Puzzle' (for 0-3 year-old children) and 'Creation of the World' (for of 5-11 year old children).

DANSEMA DANCE THEATRE | Šiltadaržio 6, 01124 Vilnius E info@dansema.lt | www.dansema.lt

Fish Eye Artists Group / PADI DAPI FISH Dance Theatre

The Association Fish Eye Artists Group was established in 2002 in Klaipėda. Since then, it gathers young artists with performance and visual arts backgrounds. During the last five years, it is working actively in order to foster contemporary dance on regional, national and international levels. Since 2002, Fish Eye has created more than 20 different dance performances. Dance performances are created by a professional team of choreographers and dancers, such as the choreographer Agnija Šeiko, as well as dancers and choreographers Petras Lisauskas and Inga Kuznecova.

In the fall of 2012, a professional dance theatre, named PADI DAPI FISH was established, based on the activities and the experience of the Association. In addition to this, the Association organises the annual Contemporary Art Festival Plartforma (since 2005) and Keðja Klaipėda Encounter (since 2013).

FISH EYE ARTISTS GROUP | Kretingos 43-7, 92303 Klaipėda E padidapifish@gmail.com | www.zuviesakis.lt

Organizations, Companies, Venues

Gytis Ivanauskas Theatre

The Gytis Ivanauskas Theatre was established in 2005 by the director, actor and choreographer Gytis Ivanauskas, who entered the professional theatre stage in 2000 and became famous thanks to his works in performances of well-known theatre directors Oskaras Koršunovas and Gintaras Varnas, and choreographers, such as Aira Naginevičiūtė, Andželika Cholina, and Jurijus Smoriginas. The Credo of Gytis Ivanauskas is a completely new attitude towards artists and professional performing arts, where the synthesis of totally different creative forms is possible. The performers of the theatre are professional dancers, actors, even singers, enriching the performances with their unique share. For the debut performance 'Hallmark' (2005), the magazine Pravda has recognized the theatre as the Best New Theatre of the Year.

GYTIS IVANAUSKAS THEATRE | Šiltadaržio 6, 01124 Vilnius E info@giteatras.lt | www.giteatras.lt

Lithuanian Dance Information Centre

The Lithuanian Dance Information Centre (LDIC) is a non-governmental organisation established in 1995 thanks to a private initiative. It is a unique institution in Lithuania entirely dedicated to dance. The main task of LDIC is to disseminate information about dance in all possible ways in Lithuania and abroad. During its existence, LDIC has organised more than thirty modern dance and ballet workshops and other training programmes, as well as guest performances from France, USA, United Kingdom, Italy, Switzerland and Germany. Since

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1997, LDIC organises the annual International Contemporary Dance Festival, New Baltic Dance. 'Šokis žodžiu –ne[w]kritika' (Dance Through Word – Not[new]criticism) is a project devoted to development of dance criticism, that was established in 2011 and has been running during the biggest dance events in the country since then. Since 2000, it has been the main organiser of the Summer Dance School for both professionals and beginners. Since 2006, LDIC releases an annual DVD and a brochure entitled Lithuanian Dance Scene, which presents premiers of professional Lithuanian contemporary dance, staged during the recent year. In 2014, LDIC together with Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Germany organised a third edition of Lithuanian Dance Platform in Berlin, Litauen tanzt contemporary. In addition to this, LDIC focuses on advocacy and lobbying, working with and on behalf of the dance world to rise up the profile of dance and ultimately to increase investment in all sectors of the dance field.

LITHUANIAN DANCE INFORMATION CENTRE | Šiltadaržio 6, 01124 Vilnius | E info@dance.lt | www.dance.lt

Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre

The Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre (LNOBT) operates as a national institution founded by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania. One of its aims is to capacitate young talented and recognised artists and performers. In June 2012, the first choreographic workshop, Creative Impulse, was organised, where LNOBT ballet dancers had the opportunity to create and show short contemporary ballet and contemporary dance miniatures. Some of the dancers were cooperating with contemporary dance choreographers; the

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others had their choreographic debut. The idea of this project is to blow new winds of creativity into national ballet, thus it would become more up to date, would dear more. The project continued in 2013-2015.

LITHUANIAN NATIONAL OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE |
A. Vienuolio 1, 01104 Vilnius | E info@opera.lt | www.opera.lt

Lora Juodkaitė Dance Theatre

Lora Juodkaitė Dance Theatre was founded in 2013 by the dancer and choreographer Loreta Juodkaite. The first performance of a newly established theatre is 'Memory'. Loreta debuted on the professional Lithuanian stage in 2006 and since then she has been widely acclaimed by audiences and critics. Juodkaite's performances (among others 'Trimatrix. Three Motions' (2007), 'Sibyl' (2008), 'Prayer in the Sand' (2009)) were presented in several Lithuanian cities as well as in Armenia, France, Germany, Israel, Russia, the United Kingdom, Turkey, and Ukraine. In addition to her solo performances, she also cooperates and performs with companies, other choreographers and directors. 'Salamandra's Dream. Picture' (2006, Arts Printing House) was created with Valentinas Masalskis, a theatre director, and was awarded with two national theatre prizes: the Golden Stage Cross for the Debut of the year and for the Best Music of the Performance. Lora started working with the dancer and choreographer Ziya Azazi in January 2012. As a result, two performances were born: 'Icons' and 'Energy'. In 2012, Lora, together with the dancer and choreographer Kenzo Kusuda, presented a dance performance entitled 'Mirage'.

LORA JUODKAITĖ DANCE THEATER | E lorajuod@yahoo.com

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Low Air Urban Dance Theatre

In 2012, two young dancers and choreographers: Airida Gudaitė and Laurynas Žakevičius established the first urban dance theatre in Lithuania, Low Air, in order to uncover the artistic potential of street dance and introduce it to theatre lovers across the country. Both known from street dance contests and festivals as winners of several awards, the two dancers created the first urban dance performance in Lithuania entitled 'Feel Link' (in 2011). In 2012, the performance was nominated for the Golden Stage Cross Award. In 2014, Airida and Laurynas won the Golden Stage Cross Award as Best Choreographers of 2013 for the performance 'Home Trip'. In 2014, they established the Low Air Dance School in Vilnius.

LOW AIR URBAN DANCE THEATRE | Gedimino 2A, Vilnius E info@lowair.lt | www.lowair.lt

Stage Strangers Company

Stage Strangers – group of dance and acting professionals, who use elements of theatre, dance, music, text, ethnical tradition and other pieces of communication during performances. In 2013, group was awarded with the Golden Stage Cross for their first collective dance performance 'Contemporary?', later called the "Phenomenon of the Year". Today Stage Strangers continues exploring collective work methods, (still) working without a director nor a choreographer.

STAGE STRANGERS | E hello@stagestrangers.lt

Organizations, Companies, Venues

Vytis Jankauskas Dance Company

The dancer, choreographer, and pedagogue Vytis Jankauskas established his own dance company in 1997. In 2008, the company was given the status of a professional dance theatre. During seventeen years of its development, the company has become a distinctive phenomenon of contemporary dance in Lithuania thanks to its purified and expressive performances. The company has performed in international dance festivals in Sweden, Poland, Estonia, Germany, Belarus, Russia, and Egypt. The several past years have been the years of maturity both for the choreographer and the company, whose input in the development of the contemporary Lithuanian dance was marked by two Golden Stage Cross Awards (for the performances 'Drowned Valley', 2003 and 'Vigil', 2008). Besides this, the company organises various educational dance projects in Lithuania and abroad in collaboration with other NGO's. Furthermore, in 1995, the company opened a dance studio, where Vytis Jankauskas and other teachers give contemporary dance classes.

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