

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

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

**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.

**JULIAN NICOSIA** is a choreographer and dancer, born in Saint-Etienne, France in 1989. He studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et Danse de Lyon from 2006 to 2010. As a dancer he began his career at the Ballet de l'Opéra de Lyon in 2010 under the artistic direction of Yorgos Loukos. During five years in the company, Julian performed in and co-created works with notable choreographers including William Forsythe, Jirí Kylián, Mats EK, Trisha Brown, Merce Cunningham, Ohad Naharin, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Maguy Marin and Benjamin Millepied among others. In 2015 he began to dance for renowned choreographer Jacopo Godani in Frankfurt am Main. Two years later he began working as his choreographic assistant and has reset his pieces in prestigious companies. As a choreographer, Julian created « How long is now » for the Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company in 2017. Julian was also invited to film his work "LESLI " at the Fondation BEYELER in Basel, Switzerland. In 2020 / 2021 Julian will create multiple works such as: a « pas de deux » for Maria Kochetkova and Sebastian Kloborg as well as a new creation for the Ensemble Chorégraphique du Conservatoire de Paris, a full evening creation in Mexico and a « pas de deux » for Ines Mcintosh and Gasztowtt from Paris Opera 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>

**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.

## BALLET & CONTEMPORARY

**EVAN SCWHARZ** is a Swiss/Austrian/American freelance dancer, choreographer, and teacher. He received his early training from the *Los Angeles County High School for the Arts*, and later trained at *The Juilliard School*, in New York City, graduating in 2014. Upon graduating from Juilliard, Evan began working with *Ballet Bern* in Switzerland, and thereafter with *National Dance Company Wales* in the UK. Evan has had the pleasure to dance repertoire and new creations by Pina Bausch, Ohad Naharin, Marcos Morau, Maxine Doyle, Roy Assaf, Twyla Tharp, Guy Weizman & Roni Haver amongst others. Throughout his career, Evan has danced across the United States, Europe, Asia and the Middle East, including with various international companies as a guest artist. He also has worked on various commercial jobs and has won prestigious awards. Recently he joined the *fabien prioville dance company* (DE). Evan continues to freelance internationally with his base in the Netherlands.

## CONTEMPORARY

**ANGIE LAU** was born in Basel, where her passion for dance started at the age of six. At the age of 16 Angie won first prize at the prestigious Euroscene Festival in Leipzig for a solo she made and danced. Afterwards she attended well-known dance academies including North Carolina School of the Arts (USA), Rotterdam Dance Academy (NL), Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker's P.A.R.T.S. in Brussels (B) and Mathilde Monnier's ex.e.r.ce in Montpellier (FR). Besides working with *anoukvandijk dc* since 2005, she has been collaborating with different international dance makers and artists such as Amanda Pina and Anna Huber among others, and has performed her own work in Switzerland, Holland and France. In 2007 she began teaching and became a certified Countertechnique teacher. Besides teaching and training professional dancers in Europe and the U.S., she has remained dedicated to *anoukvandijk dc* and is still dancing in pieces which are collaborations between Anouk van Dijk and theater maker Falk Richter in Berlin. She also works in her own Rolwing practice (Structural Integration) in Basel.

**ANDREA THOMPSON** was born in the United States. During her career at Hubbard Street 2 in Chicago, Andrea began teaching ballet, repertoire, and improvisation. She continued as a part of the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance faculty for five years, during which time she danced with Shen Wei Dance Arts, Nicole Von Arx and Guests, and Loni Landon Dance Projects in New York. From 2017-2021 Andrea danced with Tanz Luzerner Theater (TLT) under the direction of Kathleen McNurney. In 2021 she transitioned to teaching full-time and is completing the MAS in Dance Science at the University of Bern. Alongside teaching ballet and contemporary for schools in Luzern, Andrea has been a guest teacher for TLT (and now Tanz Luzern) and Profitraining classes in Winterthur, St. Gallen, Basel, and Luzern.

**SONIA RODRÍGUEZ** was born in Las Palmas de Gran Canarias (Spain) in 1974. Her professional career began as an interpreter and dancer for the Cia Provisional Dance, then continued with Cia Charleroi Danses, Cia En-Knap and Cia Gisela Rocha. After working in different projects and companies, she joined Cia Rui Horta where besides being a dancer, she was also an assistant of choreography. She took part in creating pieces for different companies like Scottish Dance Theater and Cia Norrdans. In 2002 she was awarded best dancer of the Certamen Coreográfico de Madrid which gave her the chance to participate in the American Dance Festival in 2002. That year she worked with Cia H2dance and was assistant of choreography and interpreter of the Cia Lanonima Imperial; Cia Lior Lev; Cía Cobosmika and Cía La Baraka. During the years since she joined other companies such as Cie Yann Lheureux, Cie Dysoundbo, and Hausgemacht Company. In 2013 she was invited to perform at the Beijing Dance Festival. Attakalari Centre for Movement Arts in collaboration with Goethe Institut Bangalore invited her to be artist in residence to choreograph the piece *Absence / Presence* in 2014. In 2016 she had a residency at the Choreographische Residenz CC Heidelberg with the piece "Mabel". In 2017 she collaborated with Marion Sparber, performing in the piece *Impromptu* at Alps Move Festival and 18. Kemptener Tanzherbst. Since 2002 she has her own Company, Cía. Sonia Rodríguez. Her first solo, *Caos*, was awarded third best performer prize at the 8th International Solo Dance event at Stuttgart and won the prize for best choreography at Danza Calviá Festival 2005. Since 2013 Sonia is based in Berlin.