

contset
CONTEMPORARY DANCE FESTIVAL

12th edition: Breathing Ground

Caino e Abele #1 (Corpo a Corpo)
Compagnia Zappalà Danza

Esplanade Theatre Studio
24 & 25 June 2022 | 8pm





Message from Festival Director **Kuik Swee Boon**


Breathing Ground –

In a forest in Sacre-Coeur, Quebec, Canada, there were reports of a seemingly “breathing ground”. Of course, it was not really the ground breathing, but a combination of strong winds and loosened soil that caused the trees to sway back and forth, tugging at their web of roots and lifting the forest floor. This was what caused the ground to appear to be “breathing” with life. However, did you know that there is indeed a real phenomenon in the biological world called “soil respiration”? Tiny microbes living underground chow down on decaying leaves and plant litter, releasing carbon dioxide back into the air. Due to climate change and warming temperatures in the last 20 years, this phenomenon is becoming more apparent.

The forest breathes, the soil breathes, and we breathe, even with viruses in the air. An exhale, an inhale; a cycle forms. One small breath after another becomes the breath of the places we live in, our society, our country, our planet. If we were really living in a digital world, would we still need to breathe?

This year’s Festival has been officially renamed *cont·act Contemporary Dance Festival* (signifying continuity, perseverance, and a tenacity towards, despite, new changes). With the refreshed Festival identity also comes some exciting developments. In March, the Festival welcomed its sister platform, *Stre@m – An Asian Digital Dance Platform*, co-hosted with Seoul International Dance Festival as a pertinent response to our changing times; this June, we present a rousing, emphatic finale of live performances as a farewell to the old era of traditional modes of performance.

The world is undergoing radical change. Whether material or intangible, minute or colossal, all seem to begin to converge. Whether for better or worse, our relational existence seems near yet far, and distant yet near. I hope we can all still feel the force of life in the space between each exhale... inhale...

A man with dark hair and glasses is shown in profile, looking down. He is wearing a dark t-shirt. The background is a solid, muted brown color.

艺术总监感言 郭瑞文

呼吸的大地 –

加拿大魁北克地区 Sacre-Coeur 的一个森林里曾出现过一种叫“呼吸的大地”的现象。当然，不是大地真的呼吸，而是强烈的风与宽松的植被导致树木来回摇摆，拉动它们的根网，使周围的土壤松动，让地面看起来有生命似的“呼吸”。但是你知道生物界真的有一种现象叫“土壤的呼吸”吗？这现象主要由生活在土壤中的微生物进食与释放二氧化碳回空气中的过程而造成，也只有在近二十年因气候变化而使这种现象变得更多，更明显。

森林会呼吸，土壤会呼吸，空气中即使有病毒我们也要呼吸。一呼，一吸，形成一个循环。一个又一个小小的呼吸变成我们所居住的地方，社会，国家，地球的呼吸。。。如果真的住在了数码世界中，我们还会需要呼吸吗？

今年的觸·当代舞蹈节除了英文名正式改为 cont·act Contemporary Dance Festival（用意是承先启后，坚持不懈同时敢于迎接新的变化），也会有意想不到的惊喜。首先是在三月份迎来了具有时代意义，和首尔国际舞蹈节（Seoul International Dance Festival）共创的姐妹节《溪流》– 亚洲数码舞蹈平台；其次是这次六月份的节目将强调“只有现场演出”的形式，以此来送别一个旧的时代。

世界正经历着剧烈的改变。宏观与微观的物质与抽象世界似乎开始接轨交融；不管是好是坏，我们的存在关系似近又远，似远又近。我希望大家还能够好好地感受着一呼一吸之间的生命力。

Caino e Abele #1 (Corpo a Corpo)

by Compagnia Zappalà Danza

Caino e Abele #1 (Corpo a Corpo) explores the violence that bodies experiment and express from their first breath. It sets out to consider the theme of violence, of good and evil and humanity's plight since the story of Cain and Abel.

Caino e Abele #1 (Corpo a Corpo) represents the original fight, original evil, first fratricide and first martyrdom; the first consequence of the distancing between God and humanity. This distancing was so tragic and permanent that it created evil. Robert Zappalà's production with its unique medium of dance and bodily movement tracks the original fight as a warning and admonishment against contemporary conflicts.

It represents another addition to the series entitled *Transiti Humanitatis (Human Passageways)* with references that hark back to, and reinforce, the possibility of a new dawn, a theme also explored in *Oratorio per Eva (Oratory for Eva)*.

Idea: Nello Calabrò and Roberto Zappalà
Choreography and Direction: Roberto Zappalà

Music: Johannes Brahms, Nick Cave
Dancers: Fernando Roldan Ferrer, Joel Walsham

With the participation of: Miguel Miranda, Mohammed Narish Bin Mohamed Noh

Technical Manager: Sammy Torrisi

Set and Lights: Roberto Zappalà

Costumes: Veronica Cornacchini and Roberto Zappalà

Caino e Abele #1 (Corpo a Corpo) is a co-production by Scenario Pubblico/ Compagnia Zappalà Danza – Centro Nazionale di Produzione della Danza & Bolzano Danza/Tanz Bozen.

In collaboration with KORZO (Den Haag, NL) and MilanOltre Festival.

With the support of MIC Ministero della Cultura and Regione Siciliana Ass.to del Turismo, Sport e Spettacolo.

CAINO / CAIN

Io sono il cattivo
I am the bad

Io sono l'assassino
I am the murderer

Io sono il fraticida
I am the fratricide

Io sono l'ingrato
I am the ungrateful

Io sono l'invidioso
I am the envious

Io sono il maschio
I am the male

Io sono il l'agricoltore
I am the farmer

Io sono lo stanziale
I am the settled

Io sono la radice
I am the root

Io sono il ribelle
I am the rebel

Io sono il negletto
I am the neglected

Io sono il male
I am the evil

Io non sentivo niente
I felt nothing

Io tendo all'immobilità, sto fermo
I tend to stillness, I stand still

Il mio nome è diventato un aggettivo
My name has become an adjective

Nessuno si chiama più come me
No one is called like me

Io vado verso il centro
I go toward the centre

Il cattivo è sempre più interessante
The villain is always more interesting

ABELE / ABEL

Io sono il buono
I am the good

Io sono la vittima
I am the victim

Io sono il giusto
I am the righteous

Io sono il virtuoso
I am the virtuous

Io sono l'amato
I am the beloved

Io sono la femminuccia
I am the effeminate

Io sono il pastore
I am the shepherd

Io sono il nomade
I am the nomad

Io sono il respiro
I am the breath

Io sono l'ubbidiente
I am the obedient

Io sono il preferito
I am the favourite

Io sono il bene
I am the good

Io sentivo la sua voce
I heard his voice

Io tendo al movimento, mi muovo
I tend to movement, I move

Il mio nome no
My name has not

Ancora qualcuno si chiama come me
Still, someone is named like me

Io fuggo dal centro
I flee from the centre

Solo nelle storie, nella realtà è al
contrario

Only in stories – in reality it is backwards

Compagnia Zappalà Danza

For over 30 years, Compagnia Zappalà Danza has been a leading company on the Italian contemporary dance scene. Bearing the artistic traces of Founder and Choreographer Roberto Zappalà, the company is distinguished by a wide and articulated repertoire resulting from the synergy between Roberto, his dramaturg Nello Calabrò and the dancers who have enabled the realisation of more than 80 various productions over the years, hosted all over the world by theatres and prestigious international festivals. Characteristic of the creations is also a rigorous work on the movement language built up over time, "MoDem". Awards received include the Danza&Danza Prize for *A.semù tutti devoti tutti?* and *LA NONA*.

Since 2002, Compagnia Zappalà Danza has taken residence at Scenario Pubblico in Catania, Italy, which has allowed the company and choreographer to broaden and deepen their choreographic research work, and to be immersed in the culture and history of the Sicilian city. In 2015, Scenario Pubblico obtained recognition as a National Centre of Dance Production from the Ministry of Culture, Italy.

For the years 2022 – 2024, the company is associated with MILANoLTRE Festival (Milan), Palcoscenico Danza /TPE (Turin), and Futuro Festival (Rome).



Photo by Serena Nicoletti

Roberto Zappalà

Roberto Zappalà founded Compagnia Zappalà Danza in 1990, with which he has realised over 80 creations hosted all over the world by internationally renowned theatres and festivals. Characteristic of his creations is a rigorous work on the movement language built together with his dancers over time, called "MoDem".

He has also had several collaborations with other companies: Balletto di Toscana, the Ballet School of the Teatro alla Scala in Milan (Italy), Norrdans (Sweden), ArtEZ Arnhem (Netherlands), the Theaterwerkplaats General Oost Foundation (Netherlands), and Goteborg Ballet/Opera di Goteborg (Sweden), among others.

Other notable projects include choreographing for the opening ceremony of the Fencing World Cup in 2011, and curating *Insieme - Parata Urbana* for the Torinodanza Festival and for the Défilée of the Lyon Biennale in 2016.

For his works, Roberto Zappalà received the annual award from Italy's national association of theatre critics in 2013, and the Danzuso Prize in 2019.

Roberto Zappalà also led the conception and restoration of Scenario Pubblico in Catania, now residence to Compagnia Zappalà Danza. Launched in 2002, Scenario Pubblico is one of the few choreographic centres in Italy, and was recognised as a National Centre for Dance Production in 2015.



Fernando Roldan Ferrer



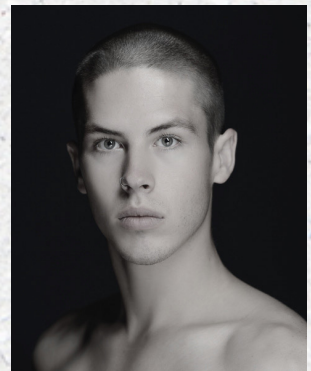
Fernando Roldan Ferrer (b. 1984, Spain) studied Flamenco and Spanish dance at the Conservatorio de Musica y Danza in Almeria, Spain, and received a scholarship to attend contemporary dance classes and workshops at the C.A.D in Seville, Spain, in 2002. In 2006 he was selected to participate in the specialised training course, "MoDem Studio Atelier", by Compagnia Zappalà Danza. Since then, he began working with the company as a dancer and assistant for all productions. He started his choreographic experimentation in 2011, and began collaborating with artist Alessandro Sollima in 2016.

In the last 6 years, Fernando has worked with Roberto Zappalà as an assistant and teacher of the "MoDem" movement language – Compagnia Zappalà Danza's movement language – and is now also the director of the "MoDem Atelier" programme.

Joel Walsham, born 1995 in New Zealand, is a dancer currently living in Catania. He graduated from Alonzo King LINES Ballet with a BFA in Dance (Hons) in 2017, awarded by the Dominican University of California. He is also an alumni of Springboard Danse Montréal and the School at Jacob's Pillow, where he was the recipient of the 2015 Professional Advancement Award, and was a company member in Visceral Dance Chicago until 2018.

In 2020, Joel became a member of CZD2 at Compagnia Zappalà Danza after being selected from the 2019 "MoDem PRO" programme. Since then, he has been working as a dancer with Compagnia Zappalà Danza for the new creation by Roberto Zappalà, *Rifare Bach*, and in the creations of the company repertoire.

Joel Walsham



Acknowledgements

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You may be interested in:

"MoDem" Movement Language workshop

(Intermediate/Advanced)

Conducted by Roberto Zappalà and dance artists of
Compagnia Zappalà Danza

26 June

9am – 12nn

T.H.E Dance Company's studio,
Goodman Arts Centre



Original Photo by Serena Nicoletti

Upcoming Shows

Dance at Dusk

Free, family-friendly outdoor performances by T.H.E Second Company.

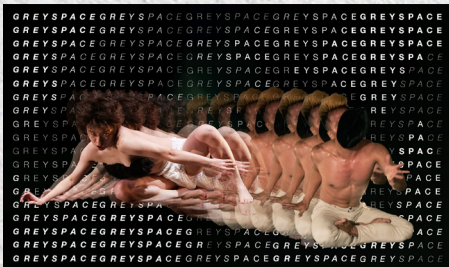


Kawayan by Klievert Jon Mendoza
Original Photo by Bernie Ng

24 – 26 June | 7pm & 8:30pm
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre

GreySpace

Work-in-progress presentations by 5 exciting international artists, created over these past 2 weeks.



Presentation #1:
27 June | 8pm
Dance Nucleus' studio,
Goodman Arts Centre

Presentation #2:
1 July | 8pm
T.H.E Dance Company's studio,
Goodman Arts Centre

Upcoming Classes

Signals and Mysterious Perceptive Instruments (Advanced)

by Annamaria Ajmone (Italy)

25 June | 9:30 – 11am | Dance Nucleus' studio

Limitations (Open)

by Moh Hariyanto (Indonesia)

26 June | 1 – 2:30pm | T.H.E Dance Company's studio

Interpreting the "Human" Creature (Open)

by Reisa Shimojima (Japan)

26 June | 2:45 – 4:15pm | T.H.E Dance Company's studio

Floorplay (All)

by Chew Shaw En (Singapore)

26 June | 4:30 – 6pm | T.H.E Dance Company's studio

Network of Attention (Open)

by Pat Toh (Singapore)

2 July | 9:30 – 11am | T.H.E Dance Company's studio

Affect Movement (All)

by Nah Jieying (Singapore)

2 July | 11:15am – 12:45pm | T.H.E Dance Company's studio

The Body's Voice (Intermediate/Advanced)

by Albert Tiong (Malaysia/Singapore)

2 July | 2:45 – 4:15pm | T.H.E Dance Company's studio

Strength in Fluidity (Intermediate/Advanced)

by Klievert Jon Mendoza (Philippines/Singapore)

2 July | 4:30 – 6pm | T.H.E Dance Company's studio

Creating from the Body as Archive (Open)

by Sonia Kwek (Singapore)

2 July | 6:15 – 7:45pm | T.H.E Dance Company's studio

We need your help to keep the arts alive!

Help us to continue making waves, nurturing artists, and inspiring generations. By making a donation, you are helping us to develop an annual contemporary dance festival in Singapore that:

- inspires and creates meaningful conversations with our festival-goers
- provides opportunities for emerging local dance artists to create and share contemporary dance work
- exposes both the amateur and professional dancer to a range of classes, workshops, and approaches to movement
- platforms pertinent artistic responses in relation to the realities of today's world,
- responds to the realities of today's world through programming unique, diverse and pertinent artistic voices and expressions of the body.

Ways to donate –

PayLah! or PayNow: Give via our Unique Entity Number (UEN): 200818017E

Cash: Visit our front-of-house desk at any of our Festival's events and let us know that you'd like to make a cash donation.

Giving.sg:



Cheque: made payable to "T.H.E Dance Company Ltd." Mail to: contact Contemporary Dance Festival 2022, T.H.E Dance Company Ltd. 90 Goodman Road, Goodman Arts Centre Block M, #01-51, Singapore 439053. Alternatively, you can hand your cheque to us at our front-of-house desk during any of our Festival's events from 13 June to 3 July 2022.

contact Contemporary Dance Festival is organised and presented by T.H.E Dance Company. As a non-profit organisation, T.H.E Dance Company relies on your generous support to sustain and grow our festival programmes. All donations till 31 December 2023 are entitled to 250% tax deduction because of our charity's IPC status.

Please write to us at info@the-dancecompany.com if you would like a tax-deductible receipt for your donation.

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**Thank you for joining us at *Caino e Abele #1 (Corpo a Corpo)*.
We hope you enjoyed it!**

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