

## TEACHERS TEAM



**Joan van der Mast** ( BA / CMA) is an internationally recognized teacher, choreographer, coach and consultant in Contemporary Dance and Laban Movement Analysis. She graduated at Rotterdam Dance Academy / Codarts University of the Arts, Rotterdam/ NL (BA) (1979-1983); Laban Movement Analyst / LIMBS, New York/ USA (CMA) (1988-1989); Choreology Trinidad Laban, London/ UK (Post Graduate) (1997-1998) and Stott Pilates instructor, The Hague/ NL (Certified Mat and Reformer instructor all levels) (2011-2014). Joan van der Mast is a free-lance choreographer and she is a specialist in developing dance curricula for teachers' and choreographers' programs in contemporary dance. She developed a special methodology for teaching contemporary dance based on Laban Movement Analysis and New Learning Principles. Joan works as Founder, General and Art Director of Ex Nunc Centre of Modern Dance, The Hague, NL (1995-2012); Artistic Director of Festival Colouring Senses & DaCi conference 2006 (in collaboration with Holland Dance Festival & General/Financial Director Martine van Dijk), The Hague, NL (2003-2006); Founder and Leader of Education Department of Netherlands Dance Theatre (NDT) The Hague, NL, (2000-2003); Artistic Manager of DansPlan, Segbroek College, The Hague, NL (2006-2016); and from 2013-present Artistic & General Director New Dance Centre, The Hague, NL; from 2016-present Artistic & General director of New Dance Young Talent, The Hague, NL. She is the founder and artistic director of the New Dance Center and the New Dance Young Talent Foundation in The Hague, NL. In 1983 Joan became a faculty member of Codarts, Rotterdam Dance Academy, where she has been teaching Modern Dance Technique, Improvisation and Composition, Movement Analysis and Didactics of Modern Dance till 2010. She currently works as a staff member at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague and Zagreb Dance Academy (ADU) in Croatia. From 1985-present Joan has been working as a guest teacher & lecturer in international context in the field of modern dance, improvisation & composition, Choreology, Laban Movement Analysis, Didactics & Methodology in Dance at Skopje Dance Academy, Goce Delcev University & Skopje Dance Theater (North Macedonia); Fronta Festival (Slovenia); Laban Atelier

Bratislava (Slovakia); Dance Lab Russia (Moscow & Chelyabinsk); University of Cape town (South Africa); Utah Dance Company (USA); Schott Acting Studio Berlin (Germany); Palucca Schule (Germany); Polish Dance Theatre Poznan (Poland); JSKD Ljubljana (Slovenia); University of Alma Mater (Dance Department) in Ljubljana; University of Dance in Bratislava (Slovakia); Fontys Dance Academy, Ana Maletic School in Zagreb (Croatia); Conservatoire du Bamako (Mali); Le Grand Cru, Africa, Irivuga Art Company Burundi; Borderline Danza in Salerno, Italy. She created many choreographies for different dance companies as New Dance Center, New Dance Young Talent, Codarts, Royal Conservatory, Cadance Festival, Skopje Dance Theater, Borderline Danza. She has recently been elected as Advisory Board member-at-large of DaCi-International.



**Risima Risimkin** is one of the leading Macedonian choreographers and artistic director of Dance Fest Skopje, Skopje Dance Theater and full-time professor PhD, at the State University "Goce Delchev" in Shtip, N.Macedonia, where she founded and become Dean of The Contemporary Dance Department. She received her PhD in the University of "St. Cyril and Methodius" in Skopje, Macedonia on the thesis: "Contemporary dance styles in 20 century - Europe" and holds a master's degree from the University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, at the Academy for Music and Dance Art (AMTI) in the field of Choreography, Ballet Directing and Pedagogy and was awarded the title ballet master. Risimkin is founder of the Interart Centre for Culture (1996), whose activities have helped the development of the Macedonian contemporary dance scene. In the season 2012/2013, she was working as Head choreographer of the State Ballet of Antalya, Turkey. Risimkin is one of the most prolific contemporary Macedonian choreographers - an avant-garde representative in contemporary art. She actively represents Macedonia on the international stage for contemporary dance with her performances, which receive excellent reviews both in the country and abroad. Risimkin has won several awards, including the award for outstanding contribution to the development of culture in the Republic of Macedonia. In 2011 she was awarded as one of the Top Ten Women Managers in Macedonia. With her work, Risimkin is in constant motion towards the development of contemporary

dance in Macedonia. Risimkin has made around forty authorial projects, which established her as one of the most fruitful Macedonian creators in the contemporary dance area. Risimkin has represented Macedonia as a choreographer in New York, USA; Beijing, Hangzhou & Quanzhou, China; The Hague, Amsterdam & Rotterdam, Netherlands; Aarhus, Denmark; Dusseldorf, Leipzig & Cologne, Germany; Belgrade, Serbia; Burgas, Bulgaria; Podgorica, Monte Negro; Thessaloniki, Greece – European Capitol of culture; Lisbon, Portugal – EXPO – National Day of Macedonia; Niamey, Niger; Ljubljana, Slovenia etc. In 2010 she was guest choreographer in the National Ballet of Ljubljana, Slovenia; in 2012 she participated in the Culture Olympiad in London with the choreography for the play Henri, VI of National Theater Bitola, Macedonia, for the “Globe to Globe” program of Globe Theater. Her performance “Hope” made with National Ballet of Antalya, Turkey has excellent review in Dance Europe magazine. In 2015 and 2016 she was a part of the First & Second International Chinese Summer Camp for contemporary dance and has two different guest performance on “Meet in Beijing” festival in Beijing, China with Skopje Dance Theater. In 2016 Risimkin has premiere “R.E.M. – A dream section” with Nine Contemporary Dance Company in Beijing, China. The same performance was on European tour in April 2017: in Dance Fest Skopje, Macedonia; Exodos Festival in Ljubljana, Slovenia and De Nieuwe Regentes Theater in The Hague Netherlands. In 2018 Risimkin has premiere of her new creation “Orlandina” for Slovenian contemporary dancer Rosana Hribar, at Ljubljana Dance Theater in Slovenia. Her choreography “Cauldron” with Skopje Dance Theater was presented in Maritime Silk Road festival in Quanzhou, China in December 2017, in the program of Holland Dance Festival in February 2018 and on the Closing ceremony on Battery Dance Festival in New York on 18 August 2018. Her piece “Existence - We are the Fancy people” was presented on international evening of the Festival of Beijing Dance Academy in Beijing in October 2018. Her performance “Identities - History of an extended dream” was present in “National theater de Chaillot” in Paris, France in March 2022. She is the first choreographer from the entire region whose performance was performed in the repertoire of this prestigious theater, and for the performance in Paris, Risimkin received excellent review: “Identities - History of an extended dream is a creation that brilliantly demonstrates how much this avant-garde choreographer questions with talent and invention the choreographic gesture, movement and its expressiveness.”( Denis Sanglard for Un fauteuil pour l'orchestre,, Paris, France 22.03.2022). In 2023 Risimkin's project “Lady Magbeth” was presented at the Verona Shakespeare Fringe Festival, where it is rated as an outstanding authentic work. As a teacher Risimkin was teaching at Beijing Dance Academy – China, Beijing Dance Forum, Beijing; Anton Bruckner University, Linz, Austria; Minzu University, Beijing China; Battery Dance festival, New York, USA; Holland Dance Festival, Hague, Netherlands; Share festival, Bratislava, Slovakia. Risimkin is actively engaged in research-scientific work, her paper “Development of computer software for creating choreography” was presented at the scientific conference for technology ETIMA 2021; and at Dance Forum at Beijing Dance Academy, China; she also participate at conference for Digital Transformation in Science, Education & Arts “All About People 2021”, Alma Mater Europaea Dance Academy. Risimkin works as a mentor with the students of the University of Goce Delcev in the first and second cycle of studies in contemporary dance, choreography and dance pedagogy.



**Giorgia D'Amico** is a contemporary dancer, dance teacher & choreographer. She finished Bachelor Contemporary Dance Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). In the moment she is freelance dancer. Originally from Italy, she began her dance training in Catania, Sicily. In 2015 she moved to Switzerland to attend the Bachelor Contemporary Dance at the ZHdK. Giorgia was awarded the prize for the best Bachelor Project of the dance program in 2018. As part of her Bachelor's degree, she worked with choreographers such as Emanuel Gat, Dor Mamalia and Dariusz Seweryn Nowak, Luca Signoretti, Lorand Zachar, Joshua Monten, Neel Verdoorn, Teresa Rotemberg, Regina Van Berkel and James Cousins. She currently works as a dance teacher, choreographer and a freelance performer in various projects and companies, including the Zürich Opera House and Momentum Contemporary Dance. In 2023 she completed the Mat BASI® Pilates certificate. Giorgia teaches Contemporary (floorwork, improvisation, composition, partnering) and Modern techniques (Graham, Horton, Cunningham). Her classes help to develop self-confidence and her enthusiasm motivates and inspires people to go beyond what we normally consider our limits, keeping the freshness and joy in each and every class. As a professional dancer Gorgia participate in "Pixels" children's production by Momentum dance theatre (2023); "Trascendance" opening of Beta Stage Festival with Emma Murray and Giuliana Beta Dridi (2023); "Zwischenmenschlich" by BewegGrund (2023); "Die Zauberflöte" at the Opernhaus Zürich (2019 - 2023); "Duo Zephyr mit Danse!" concert by the Festival der Stille, das Musikfestival am Rhein (2022); "Mission Spion" children's production by Momentum dance theatre (2021 - 2022); "Crossing Bridges" opening of Beta Stage Festival with Vanessa Cook (2022); "Angst und Vertrauen" concert by TrioRe (2021); "Räume" a site specific fashion event choreography by Denise Lampart (2019); "Mirror mirrOr" from the experimental project with new technologies "Happy Robots", choreography by Luca Signoretti (2018).

For her work Gorgia is awarded with those Dance choreographies awards: "You" Top 12 Small Ensemble YAGP Semifinals Barcelona (2023); "Too much to say" 1st place EBCP competition and 2nd place in YAGP International Virtual Competition, Finals in Tampa Florida (2022); "Error 404" 2nd place Grand Jete Dance Awards and 3rd place EBCP competition (2022); "Terra mia" 2nd place in YAGP Europe Virtual Competition (2021).