

SPRING Academy Trajectories — 2026

Performances,
Topic Talks,
Masterclasses
Reading groups,
& more

SPRING Academy



SPRING Academy

At SPRING Academy 2026, we present six thematic trajectories: educational programmes designed to offer participants a deeper and richer experience of the festival. Schools, as well as individual students and participants, can choose from these trajectories. Each one is carefully curated and focuses on current and relevant issues connected to the performances of SPRING 2026.

Each trajectory is guided by an artist presenting their work at SPRING 2026 and includes an opening session and a reflection session with them. Trajectories also feature a selection of performances, a masterclass with an invited artist, topic talks, after talks, and other events. Lunch is provided on selected days, and each trajectory concludes with a free drink to encourage informal exchange.

You're welcome to join one or more trajectories. You can sign up with a passe-partout, giving you access to all performances across the full ten days of the SPRING Festival. Or, if you prefer, you can sign up to attend only the performances within

your selected trajectory and then purchase individual tickets for any additional/optional shows.

Academy participants receive a special discount on the passe-partout:
€ 95 instead of the regular € 150.

We strongly encourage participants to follow a trajectory in its entirety, as they are designed as a complete experience and to create meaningful opportunities for exchange and collaboration among participants from diverse backgrounds and disciplines.

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For more information about each performance, please consult the festival programme available on the website www.springutrecht.nl/en/spring-academy

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at springacademy@springutrecht.nl

Six thematic trajectories



May 14 - 17

1. Political Future Imagination

hosted by Khadija El Kharraz Alami



May 14 - 17

2. Physicality & Embodiment

hosted by Harald Beharie



May 15 - 17

3. Performing (Public) Spaces

hosted by orangcosong



May 20 - 22

4. Sound & Text in Motion

hosted by Nahuel Cano



May 20 - 22

5. Posthumanist Perspectives: Beyond the Human Body

hosted by Ainhoa Hernández Escudero



May 20 - 23

6. Decolonial Dramaturgies: Reclaiming the Body

hosted by Choy Ka Fai

SPRING Academy

1.

Political Future Imagination

Hosted by Khadija El Kharraz Alami



Political Future Imagination

This trajectory invites participants to explore theatre as a site for political speculation and social imagination. Theatre is often understood primarily as a space of representation; but what happens when it is approached instead as a laboratory for collective exploration and critical thinking? How does fictionalising the past, the present, or the future on stage become a political act? Can theatre function as a space of rehearsal for possible futures—and if so, what kinds of futures might those be?

Khadija El Kharraz Alami (1987, Amsterdam) is an actress, theatre maker and performance artist. She also works as a dramaturg, co-researcher and director. In 2014 she graduated from the HKU, University of the Arts Utrecht, after which she became an actress at theatre companies including HNT, NNT, Thalia Theater, Theatre Nationale de Strasbourg and Grande Loge. Simultaneously, she set up her own creative practice working in both Belgium and the Netherlands from 2015 onwards.

Political Future Imagination - Hosted by Khadija El Kharraz Alami

* Optional events require registration through our website (also for participants holding a passe-partout)

Thursday May 14th



18:00 - 20:00

Wait to be Seated

She She Pop & Sandbox Collective
Stadsschouwburg, Blauwe zaal,

20:00 - 21:40

Optional

TiNTiY & Everything Falls Dramatic

Sung Im Her
Stadsschouwburg, Grote zaal

20:00 - onwards

Optional

Opening night After Party

Theater Kikker

Friday May 15th

10.00 - 12.00

Opening session

Khadija El Kharraz Alami
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

12.00 - 13.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

13.00 - 17.00

What will we do without exile?

Basel Zaraa + After talk - 15.00
Theater Kikker, Kleine Zaal - In combination with:

Home Bound

Luke George and Daniel Kok
de Neude

17.30 - 18.30

Optional

Reading group

Khadija El Kharraz Alami
De Utrechtse Boekenbar

20.00 - 21.30

KLEI

Schweigman&
Steck

21.00 - 22.00

SWEAT (Anthem)

Milla Koistinen + After talk
Stadsschouwburg, Grote zaal

Saturday May 16th

9.30 - 12.00

Masterclass

She She Pop & Sandbox Collective
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

12.00 - 13.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

13.00 - 20.30

asses.masses

Patrick Blenkarn & Milton Lim + After talk
BAK

17.00

Optional

Topic Talk

Resisting Bodies
Stadsschouwburg

19.00

Optional

Sweet Spot

Harald Beharie + After talk
Theater Kikker, Theaterzaal

20.30 - 4.00

Optional

Club Night

EKKO

Sunday May 17th

11:00 - 13.00

Reflection session

with Khadija El Kharraz Alami
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

13.00 - 14.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

14.30 - 15.30

The Meeting

Maarten Heijns

16.30 - 17.30

Topic Talk

Performing Spaces
Stadsschouwburg, Hekmanfoyer

19:30 -21.00

SHRINE

Khadija El Kharraz Alami
Stadsschouwburg, Grote Zaal

21.00

Bar talk

Theater Kikker

Festival
opening

Included performances - Political Future Imagination

Wait to be seated

She She Pop & Sandbox Collective



A theatrical collaboration by two feminist collectives from Bangalore and Berlin. In the piece we explore hospitality, using diplomatic protocol as a template – following it diligently as well as purposely infringing some of its rules. In our exchange, the groups appear as hosts and guests for each other, who turn out to be challenges as well as promises and burdens.

What will we do without exile?

Basel Zaraa



What Will We Do Without Exile? is an immersive, multi-sensory installation that transforms the interior of a refugee tent into a lush world, inviting the audience to imagine a life beyond occupation. While generations of Palestinian bodies have been confined to tents, their imagination has never ceased reaching toward liberation.

asses.masses

Patrick Blenkarn & Milton Lim



A custom video game designed to be played from beginning to end by a live audience, one person at a time. It's the 7+ hour epic story of a herd of unemployed donkeys trying to get their jobs back, all while navigating the perils of a post-Industrial society in which they've been made redundant.

Home Bound

Luke George & Daniel Kok



In Home Bound, diverse rope materials and practices are woven together to create a massive social tapestry. Members of different communities who do not typically share the same space collaborate to build a giant rope installation.

The Meeting

Maarten Heijns



A performative installation that explores the space between 2 people. When, why and how do we experience the feeling of closeness and distance between one another? The work invites you to blur the boundaries between yourself and the other, watching and being watched and public and private.

SHRINE

Khadija El Kharraz Alami



“Women reclaim power in this sacred space of rage and grief”

For her immersive theatre performance SHRINE, the Dutch-Moroccan artist Khadija El Kharraz Alami draws inspiration both from the work of feminist activist Silvia Federici, and from Alceste in Molière's *Le Misanthrope*. Here, Alceste is the daughter of a mother, a woman who was brutally murdered by the systems in power. Alceste has been fighting in vain for years for a fair trial, but her frustration and sadness radicalise her. The injustice that has taken root in her body transforms into fury, empowering her to create chaos and disrupt the economy. She becomes an inspiration for women all over the world. They find solace in their sanctuary, their ‘shrine’, where they remember, pray, sing, make offerings, and celebrate.



Prices

Price including passe-partout: 150 euros
Excl. passe-partout: 142 euros

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2.

Physicality & Embodiment,
hosted by Harald Beharrie



Physicality & Embodiment

Everything that happens around us has an impact on our bodies, producing physiological effects to which we cannot remain immune. The body as a site of resistance and endurance, but also as a space of hope and radical vitality against fatigue and exhaustion. Closely connected to this year's overarching theme, Extended Bodies, Expanded Minds, this trajectory explores the body in constant relation to its context, and as a force that thinks, transforms, and generates meaning through dance, movement, and practice.

Harald Beharie (he/they) is a Norwegian-Jamaican performer and choreographer based in Oslo, Norway. Beharie's practice and choreographies often emerge in the tension between the everyday and the extreme, the banal and the sacred, playing with transformation as a continuous principle, for both the body and the spaces they move through. At the core lies a desire to challenge how we sense, understand, and organize reality. Their works explore how queerness and the body can act as a medium and a site for revolt, ecstasy, and dissolution.

Physicality & Embodiment – Hosted by Harald Beharie

* Optional events require registration through our website (also for participants holding a passe-partout)

Thursday May 14th



20:00 – 21:40
TiNTiY & Everything Falls Dramatic

Sung Im Her
Stadsschouwburg, Grote zaal

Festival opening

22.00 – onwards **Optional**

Opening night After Party

Theater Kikker

Friday May 15th

9.00 – 12.00

Masterclass

With Sung Im Her
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

12.00 – 13.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

13:00 – 15:00

Opening session

With Harald Beharie
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

15.30 – 16.30

Home Bound

Luke George & Daniel Kok
de Neude

18:30 – 20.00 **Optional**

Wait to be Seated

She She Pop & Sandbox Collective + After talk
Stadsschouwburg, Blauwe zaal

21.00 – 22.00

SWEAT (Anthem)

Milla Koistinen + After talk
Stadsschouwburg, Grote zaal

Saturday May 16th

13.00 – 15.00 **Optional**

Engeki Quest

15.30 – 16.30

The Meeting

Maarten Heijns
Utrecht Centraal

17.00-18.30

Topic Talk

Resisting Bodies
Stadsschouwburg, Hekmanfoyer

19.00 -20.15

Sweet Spot

Harald Beharie + After talk
Theater Kikker

21.30 -22.15

Radio Vinci Park

Francois Chaignaud
Werkspoorkathedraal

20.30 – 4.00 **Optional**

Club Night

EKKO

Sunday May 17th

11.00 – 13.00

Reflection session

With Harald Baharie
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

12.00 – 13.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

15.00 – 15.55

RIDDEN

Leu Wijee & Mio Ishida + After talk
Stadsschouwburg, Grote zaal



16.30 – 17.30

Topic Talk

Performing Spaces
Stadsschouwburg, Hekmanfoyer

17.30 – onwards

Bar talk

Theater Kikker

Included Performances – Physicality & Embodiment

Double bill: Everything falls dramatic & TiNTiY

SUNG IM HER



Everything falls dramatic explores the various forms of decay, fading and loss to which all of us are continuously exposed. Every day again, each of us is confronted anew with people and things disappearing from one's life, either slowly or quickly, either expectedly or unexpectedly. But loss does not end there: convicted to the eternal present, we are also forced to witness the fading of our memories of what has been lost already, making us slowly lose what we cherish once more. Yet, as dramatic as this might 'feel', this continuous presence of fading and loss is also the driver behind all sense of value and direction in our lives. Everything feels dramatic, but in the end, that might be a good thing.



Tomorrowisnowtodayisyesterday (TiNTiY) looks at the impact of (social) media on society as it focuses on oversharing, oversaturation and the bombardment of information, reflecting the physiological effects of this on the physical body. The work plays with the fun aspects of challenges, memes, skits and all manner of 'entertaining content' that is shared on these platforms, but counters this with the realities behind the facade. These darker undertones include an unending multitude of opinions, alternative truths and conspiracy theories, which help create confusion, anxiety and perpetuate the unease and precarity faced in society.

SWEAT (Anthem)

Milla Koistinen



SWEAT (anthem) moves through the terrains of resilience and endurance where determination and persistence become a quiet form of protest. Endurance is not only stamina and sustained effort, it is also a radical gesture to stay alive, alert and hopeful amidst fatigue, fracture and exhaustion. Between tension, release and play, the performance celebrates the courage to keep dancing and turn exhaustion into a collective rhythm; an anthem of defiance and joy.

The Meeting

Maarten Heijns



A performative installation that explores the space between 2 people. When, why and how do we experience the feeling of closeness and distance between one another? The work invites you to blur the boundaries between yourself and the other, watching and being watched and public and private.

Radio Vinci Park

Francois Chaignaud



An industrial hall at night. A stranger clad in black leather astride a motorcycle. An alien creature teetering on high heels. A mysterious woman at the harpsichord. To the music of Mozart, Handel, and Purcell, a strange ritual unfolds, oscillating between queer desire and subtle humor. The stage becomes an arena where humans and machines engage in a courtship dance, which is at one moment a duel, the next an act of love.

Sweet Spot

Harald Beharie



Sweet Spot is a tempting and seductive hellmouth filled with mischief and tender allure, a hellish pit dancing and kneading itself back and forth between intertwining epochs. Dwelling in the abyss, Sweet Spot conjures a distorted dance macabre in a hypnotic landscape gathering six ecstatic figures

Ridden

Leu Wijee & Mio Ishida



The title Ridden is translated as ‘ditunggangi’ in Indonesian and ‘Hyoui’ in Japanese. It is a word associated with spirits or ghosts—invisible but a felt present, when one returns from an unknown territory and their shoulders are ridden by a foreign energy/spirit. In Ridden (2024) choreographer Leu Wijee reflects on his long-term research project since 2018 about humans and the environment in relation to post-natural disasters. Using personal and collective traces as a starting point, Ridden is a sensory performance displaying and discussing the “conditions” between destruction and renewal; constraint and restoration; resilience and recovery; revolting and whispering, readiness and coercion, cleansing and repression; and preparedness and hope; or simply what Wijee calls “between disaster and dance”.

Prices

Price including passe-partout: 145 euros

Excl. passe-partout: 167 euros

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3.

Performing (Public) Spaces
Hosted by orangcosong



Performing (Public) Spaces

This trajectory invites participants to explore how public space can be questioned, redefined, and reclaimed through artistic practice, both as artists and as people connected to the city — even if only for a few days. It examines how shared spaces can be activated and transformed, engaging with the proposition that public space may emerge through acts of gathering and performance.

It brings together works that take place in public spaces with others that unfold inside the theatre, approaching the theatre as one site among others for gathering, discussion, and collective reflection on social, public, and political lifethrough different formats.

orangcosong is an artist collective founded by Minori SUMIYOSHIYAMA and Chikara FUJIWARA, who are based in Yokohama (Japan) and have worked in various cities in Asia, Europe, and Africa. While based on their experience in the performing arts, they have mainly conducted art projects outside theatres. Especially after covid-19 disaster, they have been trying to create 'spaces for dialogue, exploration, exchange' both on-site and online where people can meet safely and develop their trust.

Performing (Public) Spaces hosted by orangcosong

Friday May 15th

10.00 - 12.00

Opening session

With orangcosong
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

12.00 - 13.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

13:00 - 17:00

Engeki Quest launch moment & Performance

orangcosong
de Neude

17.00 - 18.00

The Meeting

Maarten Heijns
Utrecht Centraal

18.30 - 20.00

Wait to be Seated

She She Pop & Sandbox Collective + After talk
Stadsschouwburg, Blauwe zaal

Saturday May 16th

9:00 - 12:00

Masterclass

with Daniel Kok and Luke George of Home Bound
de Neude

12.15 - 13.00

Collective lunch

BAK

13.00 - 20.30

asses.masses

Patrick Blenkarn & Milton Lim + After talk
BAK



20.30 - 4.00

Optional

Club Night

EKKO

Sunday May 17th

10.00 - 12.00

Reflection session

with orangcosong
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

12.00 - 13.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

13.00 onwards

What will we do without exile?

Basel Zaraa + After talk
Theater Kikker, Kleine zaal - In combination with

Home Bound

Luke George and Daniel Kok
de Neude

16.30 - 17.30

Topic Talk

Performing Spaces
Stadsschouwburg, Hekmanfoyer

17.30 - onwards

Bar talk

Theater Kikker

18.00 - 19:15

Optional

Sweet Spot

Harald Beharie
Theater Kikker, Theaterzaal

* Optional events require registration through our website (also for participants holding a passe-partout)



Included performances - Performing (Public) Spaces

Engeki Quest

orangcosong



Engeki Quest is a flaneur-style walking project to explore a city. The participants wander the city alone, relying on the instructions written in the “Adventure Book”. It has been created in Yokohama, Kinokuniya, Manila, Düsseldorf, Ansan, Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Bangkok. This project, which is not only a game but also an art, will bring a new perspective to the participants and try to drill holes in “invisible walls” which divide people.

Wait to be seated

She She Pop & Sandbox Collective



Wait To Be Seated is a theatrical collaboration by two feminist collectives from Bangalore and Berlin. In the piece we explore hospitality, using diplomatic protocol as a template – following it diligently as well as purposely infringing some of its rules. In our exchange, the groups appear as hosts and guests for each other, who turn out to be challenges as well as promises and burdens.

asses.masses

Patrick Blenkarn & Milton Lim



asses.masses is a custom video game designed to be played from beginning to end by a live audience, one person at a time. It's the 7+ hour epic story of a herd of unemployed donkeys trying to get their jobs back, all while navigating the perils of a post-Industrial society in which they've been made redundant.

What will we do without exile?

Basel Zaraa



What Will We Do Without Exile? is an immersive, multi-sensory installation that transforms the interior of a refugee tent into a lush world, inviting the audience to imagine a life beyond occupation. While generations of Palestinian bodies have been confined to tents, their imagination has never ceased reaching toward liberation.

Home Bound

Luke George & Daniel Kok



In Home Bound, diverse rope materials and practices are woven together to create a massive social tapestry. Members of different communities who do not typically share the same space collaborate to build a giant rope installation.

The Meeting

Maarten Heijns



A performative installation that explores the space between 2 people. When, why and how do we experience the feeling of closeness and distance between one another? The work invites you to blur the boundaries between yourself and the other, watching and being watched and public and private.



Prices

Price including passe-partout: 140 euros

Excl. passe-partout: 129 euros

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4.

Sound & Text in Motion
Hosted by Nahuel Cano



Sound & Text in Motion

This trajectory introduces participants to performances in which text, movement, and sound operate as interrelated and formative elements. Particular attention is given to how meaning arises through their interaction: how sound structures spatial experience, how language and sonic textures influence perception, and how performance shapes embodied awareness.

By approaching text, movement, and sound as equally significant components, the program engages with how contemporary performing arts construct experience through relational constellations of performative elements. Participants are invited to participate through attentive observation and listening, creating space for reflection on perception, presence, and ways of experiencing performance.

Nahuel Cano was born in Neuquén, Argentina in 1982. Currently he lives and works in the Netherlands. He is a performer, theater-maker, and music composer. His field of artistic action is mobile, exploring the possibilities of performance, music, cinema, and theater. In 2020 he graduated from the DAS Theater Master program in Amsterdam. I'm a performer and sound experimenter. My work focuses on the relationship between ecological collapse, grief, and colonization. I use sound, film, storytelling, songs, and poems as materials to create performances that put the transformative power of listening at the core.

Sound & Text in Motion Hosted by Nahuel Cano

Wednesday May 20th

11.00 - 13.00

Opening session

With Nahuel Cano
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

13.00 - 14.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

15:00 - 17:00

Optional

Engeki Quest Performance

orangcosong
Theater Kikker - Reading Corner

17.00 - 18.00

Home Bound

Luke George & Daniel Kok
de Neude

19.00 - 20.30

Work Body

Michael Turinsky
Theater Kikker, Theaterzaal

21.00 - 22.00

DELTA’S

Nahuel Cano
Paardenkathedraal

Thursday May 21th

10.00 - 13.00

Masterclass

by Ingrid Berger Myhre
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

13.00 - 14.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

17.30 - 18.30

Optional

Reading group

by Michael Turinsky
De Utrechtse Boekenbar

19.00 - 20.00

The Quiet

Anthony van Gog
Theater Kikker, Kleine zaal

20.30 - 21.20

Giselle A summary

by Toshiki Okada + After Talk
Stadsschouwburg, Grote zaal

Friday May 22nd

12.00 - 14.00

Reflection session

with Nahuel Cano
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

14.00 - 15.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

15.00 - 16.00

Optional

LILITH.AEON

Aoi + Esteban
BAK

17.00 - 18.15

Topic Talk

Title TBC
Stadsschouwburg, Hekmanfoyer

19.00 - 20.05

The Bench

ashleyho+domeniknaue + After Talk
Stadsschouwburg, Blauwe zaal

20.30

Bar talk

Theater Kikker

* Optional events require registration through our website (also for participants holding a passe-partout)



Included performances - Sound & Text in Motion

Work Body

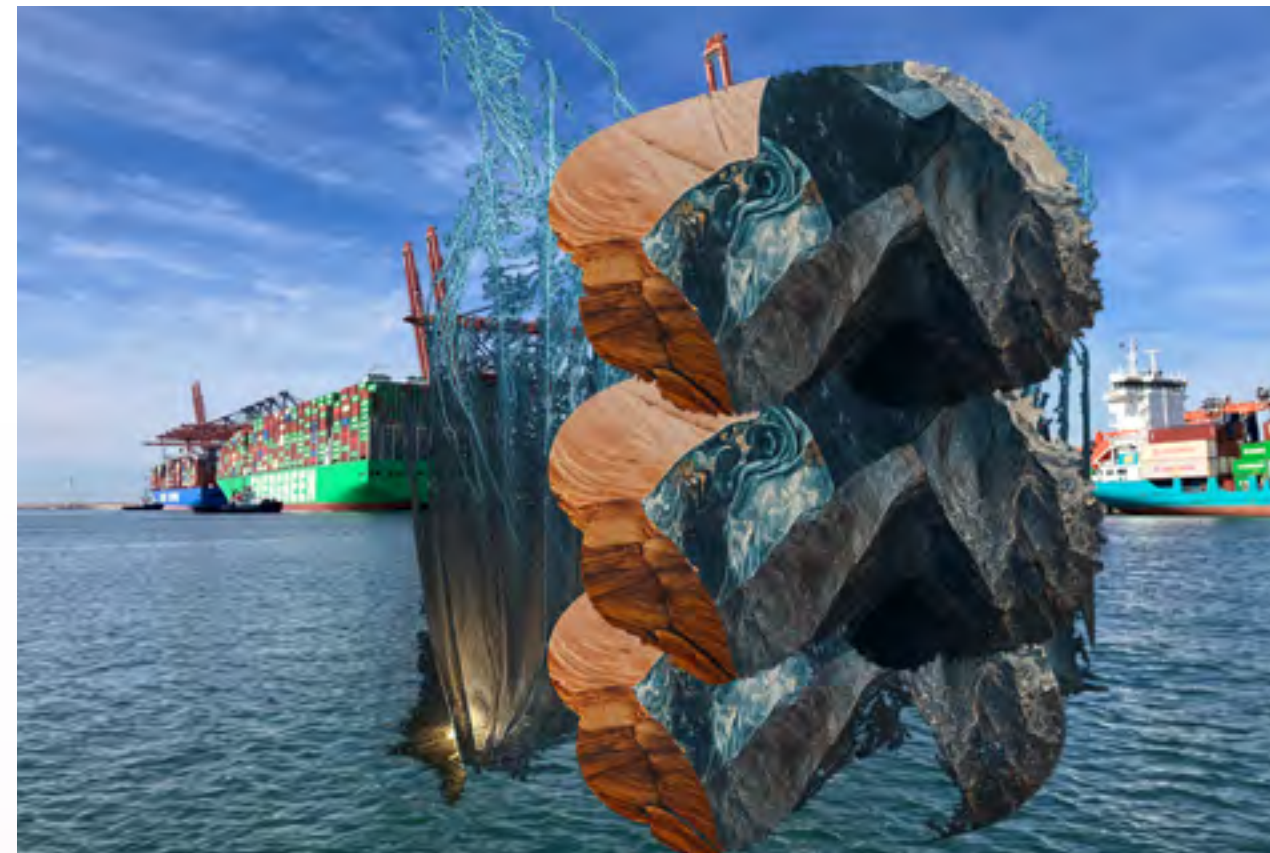
Michael Turinsky



Work Body is inspired by the poem 'Le ceneri di Gramsci' (The Ashes of Gramsci), which Pier Pasolini dedicated to Antonio Gramsci, the co-founder of the Italian Communist Party, who was also physically disabled. Turinsky uses Pasolini's sensual and intellectual homage to the Marxist thinker to find in Work Body an answer to the general shift to the right in the working-class milieu, which is permeated by fantasies of masculinity. Building, singing, speaking, dancing, transverse to the capitalistically organised division of labour, Turinsky not only subverts the separation of mental and manual labour, but also the boundaries between choreographic intervention, concert and political agitation. Work Body creates a space for resonances between the 'disabled' and 'working' body. Turinsky thus shifts the physicalities that are pushed to the margins of representation to the centre of our attention.

DELTA'S

Nahuel Cano



DELTA'S is an interdisciplinary music theatre performance by composer and performance maker Nahuel Cano in collaboration with musical ensemble Modelo62 and filmmaker Juan Fernández Gebauer. The work combines live music, film and storytelling to connect personal and ecological losses through the lens of grief while following the course of two rivers: The Paraná in Argentina and the Rhine in the Netherlands. These rivers are amongst the most heavily engineered and degraded ecosystems in their regions. They have been reshaped by centuries of extraction trade and management turning wetlands into profit. DELTA'S aims to translate personal grief and ecological concerns into a musical and narrative experience by unfolding an emotional journey: Currents, breaths, sediments, blood, erosion, infections and flooding become perceptible through rhythms, songs and images of landscapes

Home Bound

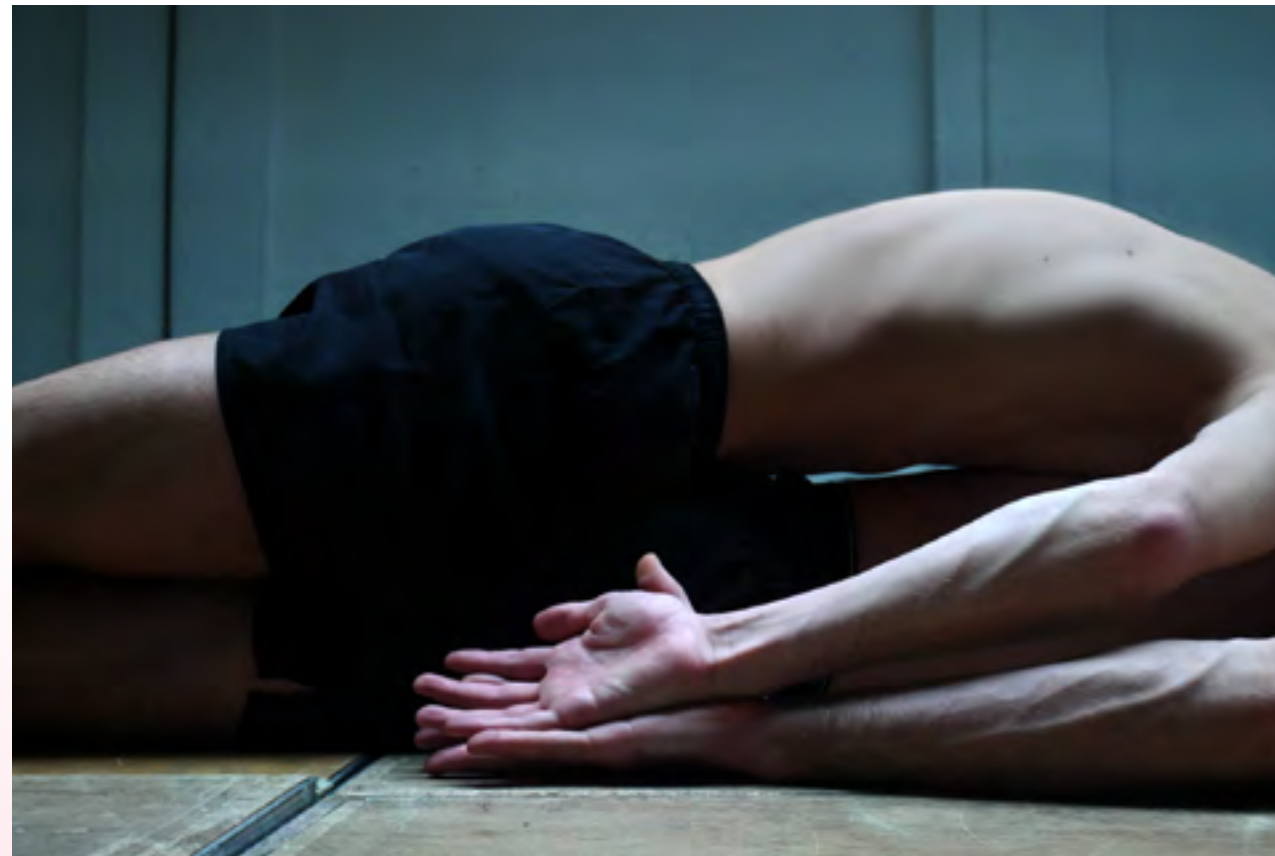
Luke George & Daniel Kok



In Home Bound, diverse rope materials and practices are woven together to create a massive social tapestry. Members of different communities who do not typically share the same space collaborate to build a giant rope installation.

The Quiet

Anthony van Gog



What happens when we no longer force the body to perform, but simply let it be? At *The Quiet* the smallest movements of sleeping, dreaming or dying bodies are magnified into a sensory experience. Three performers lie on a raised platform. They breathe, shake, tremble. Their muscles tighten and release. Sometimes they seem to be suffering. Sometimes as if they are ecstatic. Are they sick, asleep, in transition or just intensely present?

Giselle. A Summary

Toshiki Okada



Renowned theater director and author Toshiki Okada collaborates with former prima ballerina Hana Sakai to explore the world of classical ballet in Japan. Sakai tells the story of *Giselle*, a masterpiece of romantic ballet, in a YouTube seminar. Sakai has performed the lead role of *Giselle* countless times. Now she encounters this role herself as a solo performer. With subtle humor, she provides insight into her familiarity with this role, but also into the distance she has taken from it over the course of her career. One moment she performs a perfect pirouette, the next she parodies a YouTube advertisement for an English conversation course. The boundary between reality and fiction becomes permeable, opening up a world to the audience that appears increasingly complex and beguiling.

The Bench

ashleyho+domeniknaue



The world is absurd, and it is time to accept that the only way to meet it honestly is to delve into its absurdity. This performance follows a to-do list: a sequence of directions, a way of moving from A to B without knowing exactly where we are going. In something like a waiting room, a fish swims in its own puddle. A clock loses track of time. Two performers make a series of promises around the phrase “I’m going to—”. Within this choreographic and linguistic game, they become disoriented. Voices turn into calls. Gradually, the work evokes the deep sea as a space of resonance, ecological grief, and collective listening. At its core, *The Bench* ruminates on loneliness and isolation within urban societies obsessed with productivity and progress. Rather than offering solutions, the performance proposes something else: slowing down, getting lost, resting, and listening as forms of resistance. Following their autobiographical performance-installation *Last Portrait* (2025), ashleyho+domeniknaue return to SPRING with this premiere. Artistically, the work emerges at the intersection of choreography, writing, sound, graphic, and object design.



Prices

Price including passe-partout: 140 euros

Excl. passe-partout: 148 euros

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5.

Posthumanist perspectives:

Beyond the Human body

Hosted by Ainhua Hernández Escudero



Posthumanist perspectives: Beyond the Human body

This trajectory invites participants to explore posthumanist perspectives in the performing arts that challenge anthropocentric approaches. Rather than placing the human body at the centre, we will examine how bodies are extended and re-configured through technologies, theatrical devices, and material relations with non-human elements. From AI and light to earth and fire, these forces shape the performances we will be in touch with during the trajectory, prompting reflection on the interactions between human and nonhuman actors. Through this journey, we will question established ideas of agency, embodiment, and humanity.

Ainhoa Hernandez Escudero is a multidisciplinary artist and cultural worker from Carabanchel, Madrid, currently based in Amsterdam. Their work braids together drag, dance, theatre, and technologies—reimagining belonging and grieving inherited structures. They are a member of the drag king House of Lostbøis. Trained in theatre, dance, circus, and philosophy, with an MA from DAS Theatre, Ainhoa approaches performance as a site where embodied and speculative knowledge intersect. Their work has been presented internationally at venues including SPRING Festival, Grec Festival, Tanzquartier, Frascati, Bâtard Festival, Gessnerallee, CPR NY, and Museo del Chopo.

Posthumanist perspectives: Beyond the human body - Hosted by Ainhoa Hernández Escudero

Wednesday May 20th

11.00 - 13.00

Opening session

with Ainhoa Hernández Escudero
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

13.00 - 14.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

14.00 - 17.00

Masterclass

with Bosse Provoost & Ezra Veldhuis
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

17.30 - 18.30

Home Bound

Luke George & Daniel kok
de Neude



20.00 - 21.30

KLEI

Schweigman&
STECK

Thursday May 21st

11.00 - 13.00 Optional

Engeki Quest

orangcosong

13.00 - 14.00

LILITH.AEON

Aoi + Estaban
BAK

14.30 - 15.30

LILITH.AEON Lecture

Aoi + Estaban
Foyer of BAK

17.30 - 18.30 Optional

Reading group

by Michael Turinsky
De Utrechtse Boekenbar

19.00 - 20.00

The Quiet

Anthony van Gog
Theater Kikker, Kleine Zaal

20.30 - 21:20 Optional

Giselle A summary

Toshiki Okada + After Talk
Stadsschouwburg, Grote zaal

Friday May 22nd

10.00 - 12.00

Reflection session

with Ainhoa Hernández Escudero
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

13.00 - 14.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

16.00 - 17.15

campfire

Ezra Veldhuis & Bosse Provoost
Theater Utrecht, Theaterzaal

19.00 - 20.20

No Man's Land

alaa minawi + After Talk
Theater Kikker, Theaterzaal

21.00 - 22.25

SoftMachine: The Return

Choy Ka Fai + After Talk
Stadsschouwburg, Grote Zaal

22.30 - onwards

Bar talk

Theater Kikker

* Optional events require registration through our website (also for participants holding a passe-partout)



Included performances: Posthumanist perspectives: Beyond the Human body

Home Bound

Luke George & Daniel Kok



In Home Bound, diverse rope materials and practices are woven together to create a massive social tapestry. Members of different communities who do not typically share the same space collaborate to build a giant rope installation.

KLEI

Schweigman&



Outside is a big wonderful bal. Within, ten tons of clay and 500 liter water. Welcome to Clay, a new performance by Schweigman& in collaboration with visual artist Zoro Feigl and percussion group HIIIT. For Clay, Zoro Feigl created an earthly and unpredictable clay landscape. Within performers of Schweigman& give into the rhythm, the sizzling, the weight and the transience of the clay. At times the bodies and the clay melt together, and the clay feels trustworthy and secure. At other times it becomes a struggle. The large forces of the landscape seem to take over. Percussionists of HIIIT play ceramic instruments made by Gemma Luz Bosch, through which a sonic world is created of clay and water.

LILITH.AEON

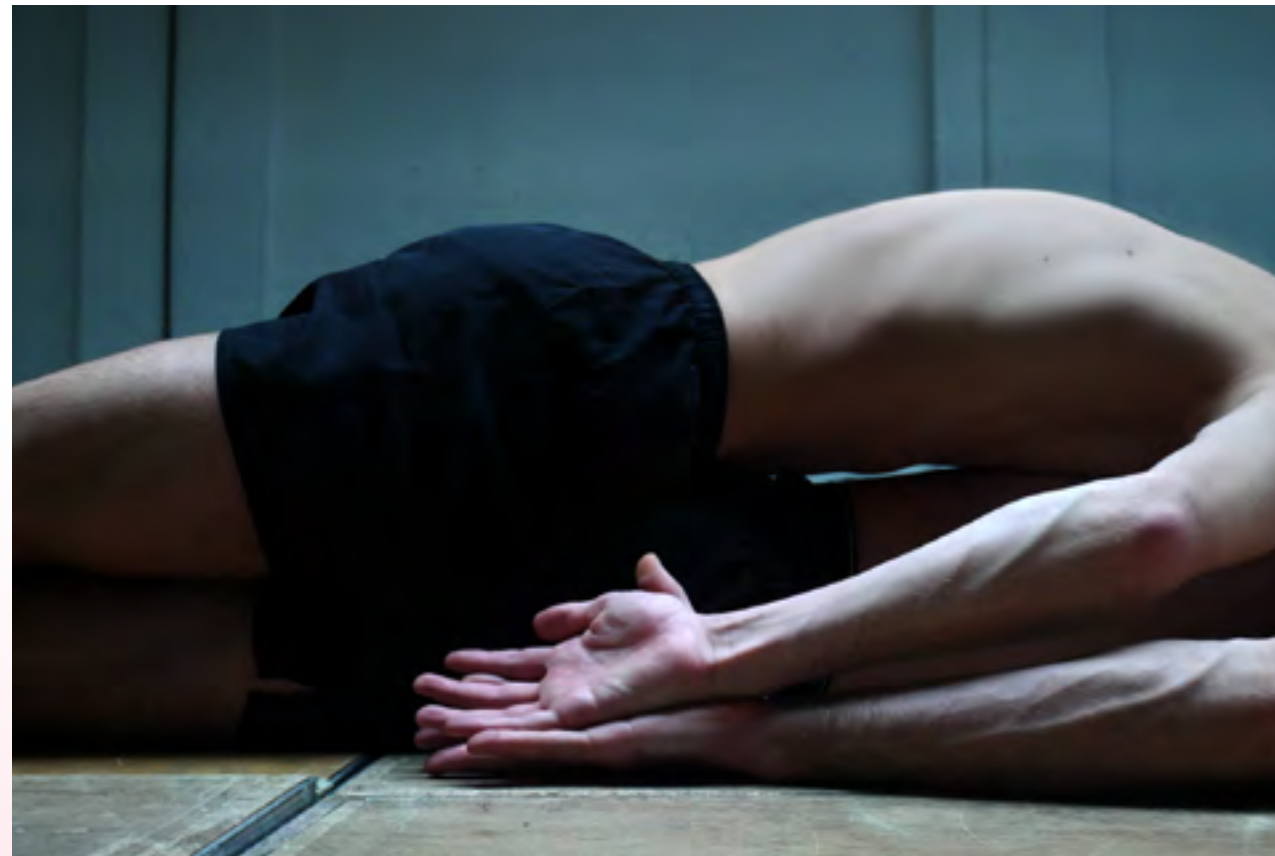
Aoi + Esteban



Driven by AI and audience interaction, LILITH.AEON is a ground-breaking XR dance touring production exploring future humanity. The narrative of LILITH.AEON is inspired by trans-humanism and the real-life story of the youngest cryogenised person and it questions our potential future life cycle and the transformation from physical being to data. It is a durational immersive performative installation where the story unfolds on a large LED cube as a direct result of the character's real-time interaction with the audience made possible by seamless use of the cutting-edge technologies like Unreal Engine, motion capture, AI, Machine Learning and 3D animation.

The Quiet

Anthony van Gog



What happens when we no longer force the body to perform, but simply let it be? At The quiet the smallest movements of sleeping, dreaming or dying bodies are magnified into a sensory experience. Three performers lie on a raised platform. They breathe, shake, tremble. Their muscles tighten and release. Sometimes they seem to be suffering. Sometimes as if they are ecstatic. Are they sick, asleep, in transition or just intensely present?

campfire

Bosse Provoost & Ezra Veldhuis



In Campfire, Bosse Provoost & Ezra Veldhuis take the spectators on stage, where they are immersed in a bath of sound and light. We listen in on a conversation that takes place under strange stars, and traverse different environments — or is it the same space, but experienced differently each time? Between the field of vision of a shrimp, the wandering arms of an octopus, and the inside of a womb, a field of perspectives opens up. Millennia-old animal paintings, firing synapses, and out-of-body experiences pass by as attempts to think beyond human consciousness. Can we imagine how bodies different from our own perceive the world?

No Man's Land

alaa minawi



“No Man's land” is a performance and installation unfolding as an auto-biography of a Palestinian body that inherited infinite “survival-modes”. The performance tackles the implications of the continuous erasure attempts towards the Palestinian presence and narrative. Through a series of explorations, it seeks to identify the tensions within this Palestinian body, unravel the historical roots of these tensions, and explore methods to disentangle them. It explores the liminal space; No-man's land, as a space for initiating new systems. There, all the tension is neutralized and a future might have the chance of cultivation.

SoftMachine: The Return

Choy Ka Fai



SoftMachine: The Return is a project that weaves together a decade of choreographic experiments through the critical lens of five Asian artists: Rianto (Indonesia), Surjit Nongmeikapam (India), Xiao Ke x Zihan (China), and Yuya Tsukahara (Japan). This performance manifests as a multidisciplinary experience, incorporating dance, lecture, demonstration, and documentary. The presentation at SPRING features two solo performative experiences, each reflecting on the artist's unique biography and practice. Rianto offers an intimate portrait of his search for love within the spectrum of dance, gender, and tradition in Indonesia, while Surjit Nongmeikapam narrates a journey from the marginal to the political, encapsulated in a dance of resilience that transcends Manipur's history of ethnic conflicts.

Prices

Price including passe-partout: 135 euros

Excl. passe-partout: 169,5 euros

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SPRING Academy

6.

Decolonial Dramaturgies:
Reclaiming the body
Hosted by Choy Ka Fai



Decolonial Dramaturgies: Reclaiming the body

This trajectory explores how performing arts can question and unsettle colonial ways of understanding bodies. Rather than approaching decoloniality only through a geopolitical lens, this trajectory focuses on an intersectional perspective that examines how bodies are disciplined through power structures. Participants will engage with different artistic approaches that reclaim the body as a site of agency, resistance, and reimagination.

Choy Ka Fai is a Berlin-based Singaporean artist. His multidisciplinary art practice situates itself at the intersection of dance, media art and performance. Through research expeditions, pseudo-scientific experiments and documentary performances, Ka Fai appropriates technologies and narratives to imagine new futures of the human body.

Decolonial Dramaturgies: Reclaiming the body Hosted by Choy Ka Fai

Wednesday May 20th



19.00 - 20.30

Work Body

Michael Turinsky
Theater Kikker, Theaterzaal

21.00 - 22.00

The Quiet

Anthony van Gog
Theater Kikker, Kleine zaal

Friday May 15th

10.00 - 12.00

Opening session

With Choy Ka Fai
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

12.00 - 13.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

13.00 - 16.00

Masterclass

With Surjit Nongmeikapam
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

17.30 - 18.30 Optional

Reading group

Michael Turinsky
De Utrechtse Boekenbar

19.00

IsLand Bar

orangcosong
City Centre

20.30 - 21.20

Giselle A summary

by Toshiki Okada + After Talk
Stadsschouwburg, Grote zaal

Friday May 22nd

14.00 - 16.00 Optional

Engeki Quest

orangcosong
Theater Kikker - Reading Corner

15.00-16.00 Optional

LILITH.AEON

Aoi + Estaban
BAK

16.00 - 17.00

Home Bound

Luke George & Daniel Kok
de Neude

17.00 - 18.00

Topic Talk

Title TBC
Stadsschouwburg, Hekmanfoyer

19.00 - 20.20

No Man's Land

alaa minawi + After Talk
Theater Kikker, Theaterzaal

21.00 - 22.25

SoftMachine: The Return

Choy Ka Fai + After Talk
Stadsschouwburg, Grote Zaal

Saturday May 23rd

10.00-12.00

Reflection session

Choy Ka Fai
Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

12.00 - 13.00

Collective lunch

Theaterhuis de Berenkuil

13.00

Bar Talk

Location TBC



* Optional events require registration through our website (also for participants holding a passe-partout)

Included performances - Decolonial Dramaturgies: Reclaiming the body

Work Body

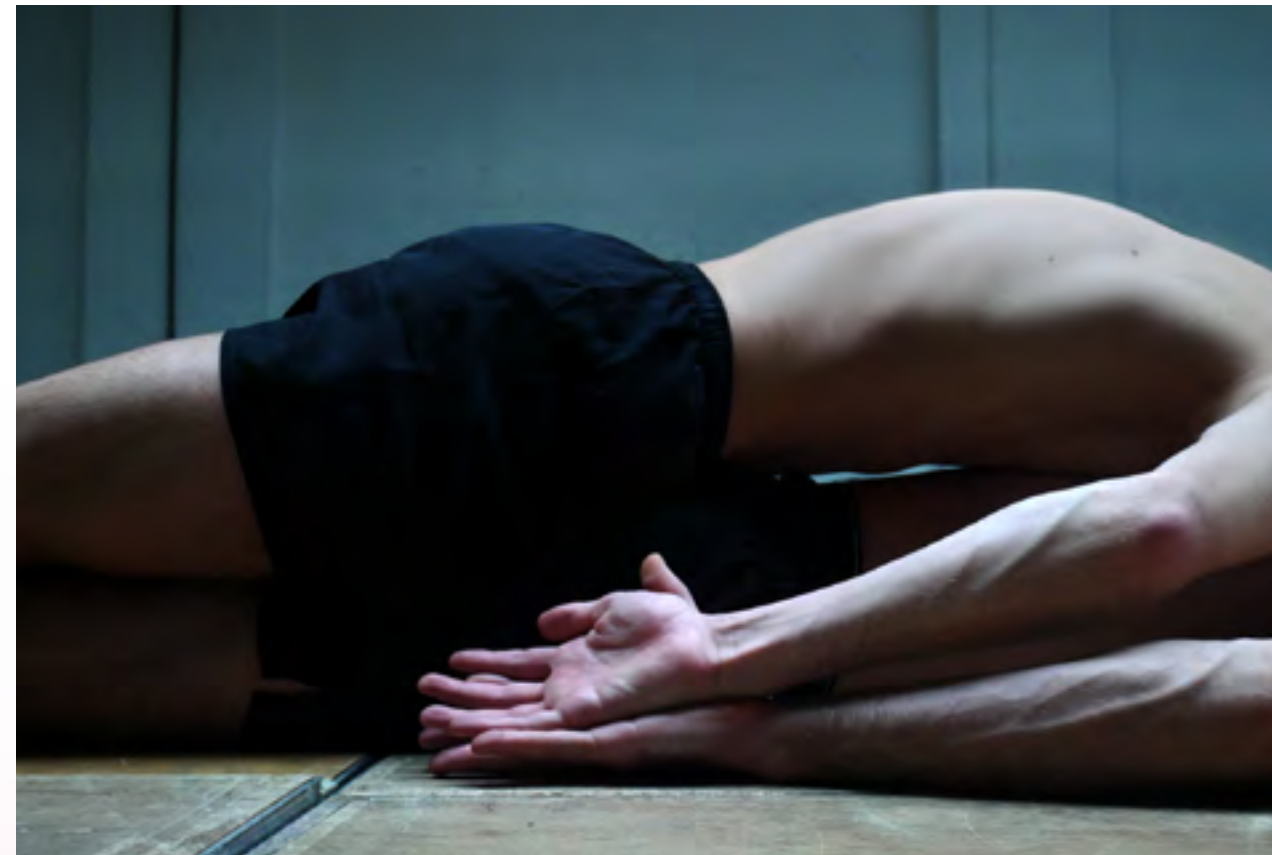
Michael Turinsky



Work Body is inspired by the poem 'Le ceneri di Gramsci' (The Ashes of Gramsci), which Pier Pasolini dedicated to Antonio Gramsci, the co-founder of the Italian Communist Party, who was also physically disabled. Turinsky uses Pasolini's sensual and intellectual homage to the Marxist thinker to find in Work Body an answer to the general shift to the right in the working-class milieu, which is permeated by fantasies of masculinity. Building, singing, speaking, dancing, transverse to the capitalistically organised division of labour, Turinsky not only subverts the separation of mental and manual labour, but also the boundaries between choreographic intervention, concert and political agitation. Work Body creates a space for resonances between the 'disabled' and 'working' body. Turinsky thus shifts the physicalities that are pushed to the margins of representation to the centre of our attention.

The Quiet

Anthony van Gog



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IsLand Bar

orangcosong



IsLand Bar is a performance project that blends cocktail-making with storytelling. Artists craft signature drinks from their 'islands' weaving personal histories into each cocktail while exploring cultural identities. In 2026, we will explore stories of displacement with six to ten migrant artists in Europe, connecting personal experiences to themes of identity and family. Through intimate performances and shared drinks, we create a safe space for togetherness and understanding.

Giselle. A Summary

Toshiki Okada



Renowned theater director and author Toshiki Okada collaborates with former prima ballerina Hana Sakai to explore the world of classical ballet in Japan. Sakai tells the story of Giselle, a masterpiece of romantic ballet, in a YouTube seminar. Sakai has performed the lead role of Giselle countless times. Now she encounters this role herself as a solo performer. With subtle humor, she provides insight into her familiarity with this role, but also into the distance she has taken from it over the course of her career. One moment she performs a perfect pirouette, the next she parodies a YouTube advertisement for an English conversation course. The boundary between reality and fiction becomes permeable, opening up a world to the audience that appears increasingly complex and beguiling.

Home Bound

Luke George & Daniel Kok



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No man's Land

alaa minawi



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Prices

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Excl. passe-partout: 171 euros

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SPRING Academy

Trajectories

— 2026