



# Palucca - Alumni

**Retrospective of the Alumni Activities  
at the Palucca University of Dance  
Dresden 2021-2022**

PALUCCA  
HOCHSCHULE  
FÜR TANZ  
DRESDEN

## ALUMNI-ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS

The past two years of alumni activities came in various shapes and sizes. Eva-Maria Kraft and Marlen Schumann, who are experts in their fields, provided us with intensive insights into the topics "Nutrition for Dancers" and "Strength and Athletic Training for Dancers" in their Alumni Newsletter series.

In 2021, we had the fortune to organize an online seminar on the topic of "Kompetenz- und Handlungsorientierung in der Tanzpädagogik" presented by Dr. Anja Centeno Garcia. Various elements of the didactic methods were dealt with and the seminar participants were then able to discuss these with each other.

Overall, the Alumni Network was enriched by the many projects and topics offered by numerous cultural institutions, companies, and alumni. Some of the contributions triggered positive impulses in our alumni members and these were, in turn, able to give us important feedback or to network with each other.

In 2022, two alumni were here for a campus tour and to visit the courses. And with this, live networking was brought back to life!

In this alumni retrospective we will take a look at past highlights. Several alumni will also share their thoughts and experiences with us. And in addition to this, we have information about the Palucca Endowment Funds and our upcoming performances for you.

We wish to thank our alumni and colleagues who have taken part in our activities and also DAAD, who have supported our work with the allotted funds.

30

Thirty alumni were able to report about their experiences and projects over our channels and network

15

Altogether, there were 15 contributions by our experts.



4

To date, four books were presented in our column "The Library's Recent Acquisitions".

746

The Alumni Network of Palucca University of Dance Dresden comprises 746 members.

4

Four contributions by guest authors provided us with various insights.

10

We published 10 digital newsletter editions in 2022.

## FOREWORD PROF. JASON BEECHEY

Dear readers,

Finding creative solutions in challenging times pretty much sums up the past two years! Searching for ways to continue, exploring new pathways and uncovering alternatives. It has led to the development of some great new initiatives, such as "Ballet Unleashed" and I am sure many of our Alumni have also discovered new ways to connect and thrive.



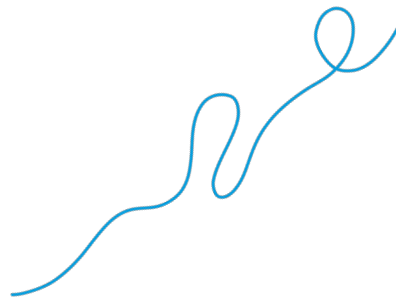
Now finally as things have opened up, it was wonderful to celebrate with over 900 guests our first Open Door Day, since, three years and it is with renewed excitement to experience again live performing arts and being able to share in such activities together. Many projects are planned for this coming Season and we will welcome four Alumni to create new works for the current students. From the Palucca Tanz Studio to the Opera House Leipzig and Semperoper performances to a special limited edition 2023 Palucca Wall Calendar. Many occasions to reconnect and celebrate the Palucca family.

We hope the Alumni Network has been a source of inspiration and support during these past two years. Further information will follow shortly as the long-postponed Alumni Day will hopefully soon take place as well as we reach out to you, for your ideas and wishes as we begin preparations for the upcoming 100 Year Jubilee of the founding of the Palucca University of Dance Dresden in 2025!

Please keep us informed of your activities and this way we can ensure our Alumni Network is as active as possible and we can celebrate all of your achievements together. Hope this finds you and yours healthy and well and we look forward to the coming year together!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, flowing 'J' and 'B'.

Prof. Jason Beechey  
Rector und Director  
Head of M.A. Degree Dance Teacher





## Campus-Tour with the Alumni

Our day at the Palucca University of Dance Dresden after about 70 years....



We are grateful to have spent a few unforgettable hours at Palucca University of Dance Dresden. This was made possible by: Minh Huyen Pietruske and Jana Reh, to both of whom we wish to express our heartfelt thanks.

Entering the house, we had goose bumps! We discovered many new things but also realized that some things hadn't changed a bit. We were able to observe a training with young pupils and visit the tailors' workshop and the costume department, boarding house, and health centre. Then, we were also able to test our own current fitness at the bar.

Afterwards, our heads were full with thoughts.

**"Would you want to be a dancer again?"**, I asked my friend Marion. **"Of course"**, was her answer! That says about everything there is to say about our love for this profession. Back then, shortly after the war, it was a time full of hardships. The school was always an **oasis** where one could forget these things. Today, young people also have to overcome many challenges. The conditions here at the school have much improved of course.

We will always remember this day and we are already looking forward to another Alumni Day, to which we would love to come again.



Renate Wenzel (née Haufe) and Marion Sandler (née Müller)



## 58th Class Reunion

**1963 - 59 years ago, five young ladies, each with a dance diploma in their hands,** left the Palucca School in order to start stage careers in Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, Weimar and Chemnitz (Karl-Marx-Stadt).

Thanks to Palucca and fantastic professional staff, those five years were a real school for life, which taught us precious values and enabled us to maintain enduring friendships to this very day.

Since 1964, we haven't missed a single class reunion! We also celebrated anniversaries in Paris and Prague. Often, we selected Dresden so that we could follow the development of "our school" into the international Palucca University of Dance and marvel at the wonderful new construction.



At the 58th Class Reunion (!) on November 8, 2022, we were warmly welcomed by Prof. Anke Glasow. We were allowed to sit in on classical training with Vitaly Fadeev and Prof. Melnikova. What wonderful memories this brought of our Russian teacher Olga Alexandrowna Iljina in 1961! We marveled at the tumultuous dynamics of modern dance in Prof. Canciani's lesson.

### **The University's Credo is still to train creative artistic personalities!**



We enjoyed this day at "our school" with pleasure and curiosity and we wish to warmly thank everyone who gave us this opportunity and who welcomed us with such wonderful hospitality.

It is wonderful to feel that we "seniors" still belong to the Palucca family and we will certainly be here for the 60th because "nothing is impossible".

Until then, greetings from the graduates of 1963

Eva, Heidrun, Petra, Monika and Marion

From left to right:

Eva Petzholdt (Weigt), Heidrun Müller (Franke), Prof. Anke Glasow, Petra Rogge, Monika Lüddecke (Klug), Marion Wittig (Millauer)

## Wiebke Bickhardt

My education and training at the Palucca University of Dance Dresden began in 2002. Besides learning and growing up, that time was marked by the development of the University itself. Fourteen days after the beginning of the school year, there was the flood disaster, then the construction phase, Prof. Beechey as new Rector, the inauguration of the new building, and the beginning of the Bachelor study programme. All of this marked my time here as a student.

With the completion of my degree, I received engagements as a guest performer in theatres and in projects. In 2013, I began to work with Jule Oeft on my own projects with various teams and partners, for example Company Freaks & Fremde. This continued until 2022 under the name JUWie Dance Company.

As time passed, my interest and talent for administrative work became more and more evident and I took over these tasks in addition to dancing. When my time as a dancer ended, I worked only in administration. Later, I became a freelance producer for various artists, e.g. Yaron Shamir or Wiete Sommer. I returned to the University as Assistant for Project Coordination. Today, I work in the office of the Landesverband für Kultur- und Kreativwirtschaft in Sachsen (Saxony State Association for the Cultural and Creative Industries), where I am responsible for finances, personnel and lobbying.

My dance education qualified me as a stage dancer but, beyond this, also for my present activities. During my studies, despite the extremely structured, disciplined and precise daily routines, it was important for me to strive for my goals with creativity, playfulness, and imagination. Today, this is a useful skill in working with funding guidelines, cultural policy and accounting.

A successful culture scene demands an extreme variety of activities accomplished by a variety of talented people, not "only" by those who perform on stage. Even though I recommend that as a starting point, because one has to start somewhere.



## Andreas Heise - a short interview with a former student

### Short vita:

German born Andreas Heise studied dance at the Palucca University of Dance Dresden.

His career as a dancer began in 1998 under Uwe Scholz at the Leipziger Ballett. In 2003, Andreas joined the Norwegian National Ballet in Oslo where he danced many of the lead roles.

In 2005, he began to choreograph for the Norwegian National Ballet on a regular basis.

Andreas created the trio "Me, Myself and I" at the Palucca University of Dance Dresden in 2015 on the occasion of the school's 90th anniversary celebrations.

Also in 2015, he gave his UK debut as Associate Director/Choreographer in Benjamin Britten's "Death in Venice" at the Garsington Opera.

Andreas has created further works for the Koblenz Theater Ballet in Germany, for the Salzburger Festival and the Nederlandse Reisopera (Dutch National Touring Opera), for the Stuttgarter Ballet, the Staatsballett Berlin, and for the Ballet of the Oper Graz in Austria.

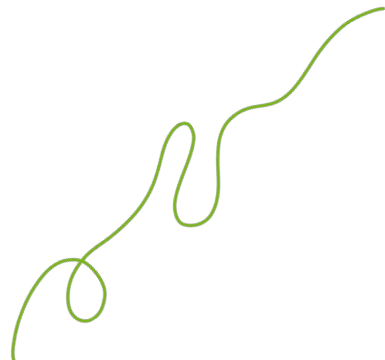
He celebrated his debut as Scenic Director/Choreographer at the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet in 2019.

In 2021, Andreas assumed the artistic direction for the art and science project "Taming Our Trauma" in cooperation with Praetorian Art and Health Consulting in Dresden.

Currently, Andreas is working on his MA in Arts and Cultural Management at the Leuphana University in Lüneburg and he expects to graduate in 2022.

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Instagram: heise\_andreas

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## **Interview:**

### **What does our Alumni Network mean to you and your work?**

Andreas Heise: I stay up to date on the Dresden dance scene and dance scene in general and its artists over the Alumni Network.

### **Challenging years lie behind us. Many cultural institutions have had to close in the meantime. What helped you to find new strength and energy?**

Andreas Heise: In the past two years, I have found strength and energy in self-reflection which has enabled me to find other approaches for my artistic and also personal existence. As a result, I have established entirely new networks, artistic partnerships and projects which would maybe not have happened before the pandemic.

### **Being a University, we also had to react to the changed situation. We were able to digitalise many things and thus continue educating and training dancers. What observations have you been able to make in regards to our University and what are your thoughts on these?**

Andreas Heise: As far as I could follow what was going on, during the pandemic, the University was so well prepared and organised that it was possible to go on relatively smoothly. Certainly, the digital options, excellent communication, and quick actions played major roles.

### **To what extent did the restrictions at that time (for example distancing regulations) affect your creative new ideas? And did these prevail?**

Andreas Heise: Restrictions such as the distance regulations had little effect on my work. For the most part, dance lives from the contact and interactions of bodies in space. Solos became quickly "used up" and even the versatile digital ideas and concepts, in my opinion, never fully live up to the expectations of the art form of dance. Nevertheless, these innovative approaches and techniques have certainly opened up new opportunities which should be explored and developed further.

### **Currently, which topics in the area of dance are of particular interest to you? Where do you see more or less potential?**

Andreas Heise: For a while now, I have been very much occupied with thoughts about community and solidarity in times of internal and external upheavals. At the moment I am exploring this in several projects. The human condition is and remains my major source of inspiration.



## Palucca Endowment Fund at the Bürgerstiftung Dresden

Since 8 December 2020, there has been an agreement between Palucca e.V. and the Bürgerstiftung Dresden for the establishment of a Palucca Endowment Fund under the aegis of the Bürgerstiftung Dresden. In November 2020, the draft of the agreement was approved at the general meeting of the Palucca e.V., thus clearing the path for this move.

The initial capital for the founding of the Palucca Endowment Fund was donated by the former Palucca student Ingeborg Schneider, mar. Zinnert (1936 – 2012). Due to a tragic accident, Ingeborg Schneider was not able to fulfill her dream of becoming a dancer - but throughout her lifetime, she never lost her love for dance.

That was the reason why in December 2010, she wrote a moving letter to the Palucca e.V. "...I will support your association immediately with approximately EUR 36,000.00 for the establishment of a Palucca Endowment Fund. Conditions: For the dance education of talented pupils who are dependent upon financial support. I expect that you will use my money, which I painstakingly saved, with great care...."

The Palucca e.V. administrated this estate initially as "Palucca Foundation in formation"; Heidrun Müller, founding Chairperson of the Palucca e.V., herself a former Palucca pupil, personally accompanied Ingeborg Zinnert during the last two years before her death.

The transfer of the "Palucca Foundation in formation" to the Bürgerstiftung Dresden as the Palucca Endowment Fund is connected to the hopes of creating a larger foundation family. And the endowment fund can make possible things that the Friends Association cannot - most importantly regarding social assistance and the maintenance of the Palucca legacy.

The by-laws and a professional advisory board appointed by the Bürgerstiftung and the Palucca e.V. guarantee the proper use of the funds. Dance-enthusiastic benefactors or others willing to donate are warmly invited to support us in giving the ephemerality of dance a secure foundation!

### **If you are thinking about making a donation or an earmarked donation, please contact:**

Bürgerstiftung Dresden: Palucca-Stiftungsfonds

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Heidrun Müller, Bürgerstiftung Dresden, Foundation advisor

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**We wish to thank** the authors for the information-rich content in the professional articles in our alumni newsletters. You can read these articles here:  
<https://palucca.eu/hochschule/alumni/newsletter>

## Eva Maria Kraft

It was a great pleasure for me to contribute to the alumni project with my health articles concerning nutrition for dancers throughout the entire year 2021. The topics which I selected are those about which I am most often asked and **the more dancers know about these things, the better!** Through the newsletter, this information could be spread throughout the dance world and it can, fortunately, still be read today on the website where all the articles can be found in German and in English. Thank you for such a good and enjoyable collaboration!



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## Marlen Schumann

I was very happy to contribute to this year's alumni newsletters with my articles on fitness and healthy, sensible training for dancers. I received occasional feedback from readers which made me very happy. Furthermore, a **cooperation was established with the dance company of the Landesbühne Sachsen** which was initiated through the new Director Natalie Wagner, who had read one of the articles. I developed an athletic training for them, which is now a part of their training once a week. The Alumni Network made this contact possible and new projects may be on the horizon. That is why it pays to be involved and add one's own ideas. Thank you!



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