



PALUCCA - ALUMNI

JUNE | JULY

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Alumni,

Hello, I hope this finds you and yours all healthy and taking all precautions. Very challenging times and I hope you are all managing. In a sector that is being incredibly hard hit, it is amazing to see the explosion of online activities in dance and the arts.



It really makes one realize, just how vital the arts are and I hope out of this situation, a new appreciation for the arts will remain. We have taken our first steps back here on Campus and our BA Final Presentations and Matinée are being creatively adapted to the times with two films being created. Hopefully they will be online in June and July for you all to see.

The current Graduating Class continues the tradition and has not let this challenge get them down, on the contrary! They are rising above to show just how creative all Palucca people are and how they can turn this situation into a creative challenge!

I do hope we can see many of you at our postponed Alumni Day (hopefully in 2021) and until then, stay healthy and take care!

Prof. Jason Beechey
Rector of the Palucca University of Dance Dresden

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING AT THE UNIVERSITY

A chronicle of events during the times of Corona

March to early June 2020

- A **crisis management team** is established by the Palucca University of Dance Dresden to regularly assess hazards and risks.
- The crisis management team is comprised of Prof. Jason Beechey (Rector), Dr. Claudia Schlüter (Chancellor), Bernd Hähnel (Secondary School Rector), and Jörg Schotte (Health and Safety Officer)
- The crisis management team provides weekly information about the current precautionary measures and reorganization of the university operations.
- Business trips and guest performances by staff members and students are cancelled or postponed.
- University events (among others **Alumni Day** as well as external university aptitude tests are cancelled.
- **Digital teaching formats** are established (e.g. Vimeo).
- On March 18, 2020, the secondary school is officially closed.
- On March 19, 2020, the university campus is officially closed, with the exception of the dormitory. In order to avoid infection, university employees begin working from home.
- **Secondary School Online-Learning** is running successfully. Also, the digital courses for students show high numbers of page views, with in part up to 120 participants.
- The **Easter Dance Workshop** takes place for the first time **in digital form**. Pupils and students submit their own video clips which are then voted on in 10 categories within the university.
- The auditions for the MA Dance Teacher Programme and Choreography Programme take place in digital form.
- As of April 22, 2020, N4 examination preparations begin on campus with strict hygiene and distancing regulations.
- On May 4, 2020, class N4 returns to campus.
- As of May 6, 2020, N3 and BA Dance students return to campus.
- The 2020 **Palucca Hiddensee/Sylt** Project is cancelled.
- Alternative formats for this year's BA Final Presentation and for the Matinée 2020 are developed.
- On May 18, 2020, classes N1 + N2 return to campus.
- The return of classes O1+O2 is planned for the beginning of June.
- As of June 2, 2020, the university administrative team returns to campus with a weekly office presence of 50%.
- **Dance films** are created for the BA Final Presentation and Matinée 2020.

BA FINAL PRESENTATION 2020

Final Presentation TAXI

This year's BA Final Presentation will be presented on June 12 and 13, 2020, for a university in-house audience* in the Grüner Saal at the Palucca University of Dance Dresden - in these special times in a special setting! In team and solo choreographies, the BA Dance graduating class takes us with them on a very unique journey.

Through the watchful eyes of a taxi driver, 15 entertaining stories are told - each of them as different and unique as the passengers themselves. The stories are about strange unusual encounters, loneliness, affinity, and trust. Some of them inspire reflection, some are humorous, some are magical. And maybe the driver sometimes perceives more than one might think....

A Recording of the in-house premiere on June 12, 2020

will be made public a few days after the performance on our university's-Vimeo-channel. The latest information can be found on our homepage under www.palucca.eu/en/current_events as well as on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook channel](#).

We are thrilled about our BA graduates' creativity this year and we wish our future alumni successful BA Final Presentations.

*subject to change



**Click on TAXI to watch the trailer
of this year's BA Final Presentation!**



OUR BACHELOR GRADUATES 2020

BA Dance Programme



ALUMNI PORTRAIT

Wagner Moreira

© Dirk Skiba



I arrived in Münster/NRW in March 2003. Since that time, my home has become Germany. In March 2006 I was engaged by the Gerhart-Hauptmann-Theatre Görlitz/Zittau. Saxony has been my new home since then. **In March 2010, I came to Dresden** to earn my MA in Choreography at the Palucca University of Dance Dresden and the city on the Elbe became my passion. A while later, I received a scholarship for the Master Class Programme with Prof. Jason Beechey, Rector of the Palucca Uni-

versity of Dance Dresden. **With the beginning of the 2020/21 season and ten years after my arrival in Dresden, it is with great joy that I assume the position of Director of the Landesbühnen Sachsen Dance Company (Theatre of the State of Saxony) in Radebeul.**

Having often worked here and throughout Europe in various artistic and pedagogical contexts, institutions, projects, and productions, Radebeul is my next stop. As a freelance artist and choreographer, I have cultivated my relationship to the Radebeul house over the past five years. I have always enjoyed being here as a guest trainer or as part of the audience. Needless to say, I feel that artistic creativity, its conveyance, aesthetic practice and social discourse go hand in hand.



© Gesichtsblitzer.de

ALUMNI PORTRAIT

Wagner Moreira

The participation at all conceivable levels, from low-threshold programmes to complex discourses, is personally for me an artistic obligation and, in the interest of an informed society, a matter of course. **Inclusion, accessibility, mobility and interdisciplinarity have become an integral part of my artistic practices.**

Together with the independent choreographer and Master Class Programme alumna Helena Fernandino, I have created a platform with the title - CoreDanceProjects which is a follow-up project to my Master Class Study project C.O.R.E. (Creating Opportunities of Research & Explorations). Diversity in the arts is and has been an important part of my artistic and pedagogical activities, both in this project and in other projects, as well as in my collaboration with the independent freelance scene, among others Un-label Performing Arts Cologne.

C.O.R.E.
CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES OF
RESEARCH AND
EXPLORATIONS

In my opinion, it is important to develop and establish innovative approaches to artistic working methods and also strategies for "audience development" in the area of performing arts. This applies not only to the current independent scene but also to the state theatre landscape.

Innovative initiatives in Saxony are without question of great importance within the professional context of contemporary dance in Germany. Using formats based upon new forms of accessibility, we are creating new means for making the events in theatres accessible for everyone involved.

Wagner Moreira

wlmoreira.wordpress.com
www.landesbuehnen-sachsen.de



PILATES

with Sandra Käfer

The second mainstay!

What does one do when the career is over or worse, when it has to be terminated prematurely? When I was still young, the world was my oyster and the only thing of importance to me was ballet and dance. I never thought about what would come after. But, the day arrives and then having to make a decision isn't easy. I only knew it had to have something to do with sport and movement. When I was 15 years old and studied here at the Palucca University of Dance Dresden, we watched a film about New York City Ballet in which interesting equipment was used for training. Back then, I didn't know that it was Pilates equipment. Ten years later, I personally had the pleasure of experiencing a training session on Pilates equipment and I was immediately enthusiastic. I knew that being trained as an instructor for these machines and equipment would provide me the possibility to open my own studio and thus hold on to my dream of self-employment and independence.



© Vanessa Hartmann-Gnong

Today, I can look back at over 16 years of work.

The beginning was not easy. The first steps were going to the Trade Office, creating a finance and business plan, finding a good tax person who explained things in a language that I could understand and then a bank that I could trust. But how was I supposed to accomplish this? I had no experience with authorities or with accounting. It was literally **„Learning by doing“**. Comparing, asking questions, collecting information, and having courage.

Training costs, finding a location, financing the machines and equipment and diverse additional expenses were just a few hurdles that had to be overcome. Add to this the creation of a homepage, designing a flyer and structuring prices, customer acquisition and many hands to be shaken until opening day.

PILATES

with Sandra Käfer

An exciting time with many sleepless nights but also with a great deal of positive anticipation for the new. Additionally, one needs perseverance because it takes a certain amount of time before one reaches the breakeven point. And now, one is not only a trainer but also the head of a small business.



© Vanessa Hartmann-Gnong

Pilates training in a studio is done without music. The only tools you have are your voice and your hands. There isn't any demonstrator showing the moves as is common in fitness studios. Rather the trainer guides you through the hour. **That was completely new to me.**

As a dancer, one watches and then imitates movements. Here, I had to learn how to work auditorily (as a learner) and verbally (as a trainer). It turned out that the concentration on and control of my own body was much higher and that the details to the exercises would become more and more precise. To this day, I have never regretted having opened a studio. Working with my clientele, young or sprightly, athletes of all categories, including some ballet students and dancers, simply makes me happy. And it is nice to see how much fruit my efforts bear. Students who have done their training with me (I have been a certified trainer for 12 years) now run their own studios or guide their own clients, who, after intensive training, no longer have physical discomforts. I am simply very grateful that I have been able to take this path and that I may continue my journey as it is definitely not over.

Studio: www.firstpilates.at

School: www.thepilatesstandard.at

Student Marketing & Alumni Coordinator

Shalene Schmidt

Palucca University of Dance Dresden
Basteiplatz 4 | 01069 Dresden
Tel.: +49 (0)351 25906-45
Fax: +49 (0)351 25906-11
www.palucca.eu/en/alumni

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advertise your project
in the Alumni-Newslet-
ter free of charge? If so,
then please contact us
at alumni@palucca.eu.**

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Diese Maßnahme
wird mitfinanziert
mit Steuermitteln auf
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Sächsischen Landtag
beschlossenen
Haushaltes.



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