



# ARTISTS BIO

# ANDREA DE SIENA

---



Andrea De Siena is a dancer originally from San Vito dei Normanni (Puglia, Italy). He has participated in several festivals such as 'La Notte della Taranta' in 2014 with choreographer Miguel Angel Berna. He is a dancer in the Orchestra Popolare Italiana directed by Ambrogio Sparagna and collaborates with the Orchestra Popolare del Saltarello. In 2016, Andrea De Siena danced in the show "Japan Orfeo" in Tokyo and Kamakura directed by Stefano Vizioli and Aaron Carpenè. He teaches traditional dances in Rome and in various locations around the Mediterranean (Barcelona, Milan, Paris, Naples, Nantes, Bethlehem); since 2016, he has been directing the Pizzica School of San Vito and in 2022 he founded the Roma Trad collective with other dancers. In 2022, he won the Ethnos Gener/Azioni Choreographic Award with a piece entitled TRADERE.

INSTAGRAM > [andrea.de.siena](#)

FACEBOOK > [andreadesienapizzica](#)

YOUTUBE > [andreadesienapizzica](#)



# DONNA MEJIA

---



Donna Mejia (Associate Professor, University of Colorado, Boulder) has enjoyed a 35-year career in global traditional and fusion dance, yoga, music, curation, consulting, activism, and scholarship. She has expanded her expertise to trauma-sensitive somatic science and culturally robust frameworks of embodiment and interoception. She has been a life-long meditator and yogini for 3 decades. Donna is a champion for interdisciplinarity and educational reform, and is the Inaugural Chancellor's Scholar in Residence for the Renee Crown Wellness Institute of CU Boulder. To learn more of her awards, publications, activities, collaborations, and adventures, please visit <http://donnainthedance.com>.

WEB > [donnainthedance.com](http://donnainthedance.com)

INSTAGRAM > [proudnerddonna](https://www.instagram.com/proudnerddonna)

FACEBOOK > [donna.mejia.35](https://www.facebook.com/donna.mejia.35)



# FABIO CICCALÈ

---



Choreographer, dancer, and Italian performer. He graduated in Painting from the Academy of Fine Arts in Macerata and from the E. Cecchetti School of Acting-Dance-Singing in Civitanova Marche. He has collaborated with Compagnia Alhena, Compagnia Enzo Cosimi, Compagnia La bilancia Produzioni, Compagnia Nuova Euroballetto, and Compagnia Giuseppina Von Bingen. Since 2002, he has been choreographing and dancing for the company FC@PIN.D'OC now PinDoc. In 2010, he collaborated in creating and dancing in the choreographies of Roberto Castello (C.ia Aldes) for the Fazio/Saviano program Vieni via con me on RAI 3. His most recent solo, "Canto pop," of which he will present an excerpt at Crossings, is "a carousel of choreutic splinters mainly related to the greatest music hits of the 'mythical' sixties. Ciccalè doesn't hold back: 'Bang bang,' 'Perdono,' 'Io ho in mente te,' 'Sono una donna non sono una santa,' and other hits from that era. Ciccalè entertains on the edge of pre-show without giving the impression of aiming to entertain. 'Canto pop' is an intelligent and original operation that surprises and doesn't fade from memory" (by I.Interesse).

INSTAGRAM > [fabiociccale\\_123](#)

FACEBOOK > [fabiociccale](#)

YOUTUBE > [ciccaleTV](#)

WEB > [fabiociccale.wordpress.com](http://fabiociccale.wordpress.com)



# FERNANDO ANUANG'A

---



Fernando Anuanga'a is part of a new generation of contemporary Kenyan choreographers who are reviving interest in African dance and culture. He combines traditional Maasai movements with contemporary and modern dance, often resulting in breathtaking performances.

Debuting in 1990 as a self-taught artist inspired by traditional Maasai dance and songs, he frequently works with African cultural heritage in Kenya and abroad and has travelled the world extensively as a sought-after performer.

WEB > [anuanga.com](http://anuanga.com)

INSTAGRAM > [fernando\\_anuanga](https://www.instagram.com/fernando_anuanga)

FACEBOOK > [anuanga.fernando](https://www.facebook.com/anuanga.fernando)

YOUTUBE > [fernandoanuanga](https://www.youtube.com/fernandoanuanga)



# OMAR RAJEH

---



Lebanese choreographer and dancer Omar Rajeh is founder of the Beirut International Platform of Dance (BIPOD), currently working between Beirut and Lyon. In his choreographic works, he questions the perception of unity and singularity of the body, seeking an extraordinary physical presence through vigorous movements with strong socio-political connections.

FACEBOOK > Omar Rajeh / Maqamat  
INSTAGRAM > Omar Rajeh / Maqamat  
WEB > [omarrajeh.com](http://omarrajeh.com)  
WEB > [maqamat.org](http://maqamat.org)



# ORLY PORTAL

---



Orly Portal is a dancer, choreographer, dance teacher, movement and voice therapist, researcher of tribal dance and Moroccan folklore, and developer of a unique dance language. A graduate of the Dance Studies programme at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, she began her professional career as a dancer and soloist in the Kol VeDama ensemble under the direction of Moshe Efrati and the Bat Sheva Ensemble. Portal is one of the founders of the Improvisation Ensemble, which focuses on the study of the art of improvisation. She studied Arabic music at Bar-Ilan University and travelled to Morocco to learn the original dances of the Gnawa and Amazigh tribes. In her 25-year career as a dancer and choreographer, she has performed on many stages and festivals in Israel and around the world, collaborating with leading artists in various fields.

FACEBOOK > [portal orly](#)

INSTAGRAM > [orlyportal](#)

WEB > [orlyportal.co.il/en](#)

YOUTUBE > [portaldancecompany](#)



# PATRICIA ALVAREZ

---



Patricia Alvarez is an independent dancer and researcher of movement and gesture in Mediterranean and Atlantic cultural traditions. Trained in different types of dances - Arabic dances, flamenco, contemporary dance, classical dance, Afro-Mandinga dance - and in other body techniques such as Pilates, yoga and dance theatre, and with a degree in Arabic Philology and Islam (UAM), she develops her work in different areas. She proposes an interdisciplinary approach, with the body and movement as the central axis, articulating different forms and methodologies of work, linking dance, writing and research. With a critical perspective on the use of dance for social, political and cultural purposes and a particular interest in postcolonial, inclusive and feminist thought, she understands dance not only as art but also as a space for knowledge and reflection.

INSTAGRAM > [patriciaalvarez.danza](https://www.instagram.com/patriciaalvarez.danza)





# POLINA KREMASTA

---



Polina's work focuses on two interrelated axes: bringing dance into the community and introducing the community element-feeling into contemporary dance. Key tools in her work are the research process, the use of repetition, the redefinition of words and movements, and the relationship of the body to earth. She graduated with honors from the Professional Dance School "Rallou Manou" (Greek Ministry of Culture) and the Medicine Department, University of Ioannina city. Kremasta works as a dancer and choreographer of Creo Dance Company, she has led an educational intercultural dance program for the National Opera of Greece and is the creator and founder of a multilayered educational program for dancers and public school pupils, called "Skytali", instilling the love for movement into the community.

WEB > [reon.productions/en/Creo-dance-company-2](http://reon.productions/en/Creo-dance-company-2)

FACEBOOK > [creodancecompany](https://www.facebook.com/creodancecompany)

INSTAGRAM > [creodancecompany](https://www.instagram.com/creodancecompany)

VIMEO > [vimeo.com/user8485994](https://vimeo.com/user8485994)



# RIMA BARANSI

---



Rima Baransi is a dance artist and an MA graduate of the University of Limerick, and Berlin Dance Institute. Baransi is a member of Stereo48 Dance Company, Shams Dance Company, Infinitum, Qamha Projects, and has touched stages like Tate London, OsloWorld, Dublin Dance Festival, RCDF, MOMA and beyond. Movement has always been her guiding light, providing her with a form of freedom she craves, especially growing up in a place that lacked the simple right of movement and human liberty. As a Palestinian woman, navigating confinements and restrictions, Baransi found solace in dance — an exploration of expression unburdened by constraints, and a continual process of learning and unlearning. Dance serves as the voice of rebellion and liberation in which Baransi embraces the power of movement, improvisation, creation, and performance. Baransi's movement practice explores the intersection between personal experiences and movement research that converge into a narrative shaping her direction.

FACEBOOK > [Rima Baransi](#)

INSTAGRAM > [RimaBaransii](#)

YOUTUBE > [Rima Baransi](#)



# VIOLET SCRAP

---



Violet Scrap is an international performer, teacher and choreographer of fusion bellydance. She is, to this date, more than 15 years strong of bellydance training and unapologetic fusing with all the styles she crossed paths with, having major influences from urban styles and contemporary dances. She has traveled worldwide since 2012 to bring her vision where it's asked for. She dedicates her entire career to finding rules to mold.

FACEBOOK > [violets Scrapdance](#)  
INSTAGRAM > [violets Scrapdance](#)  
YOUTUBE > [Violet Scrap](#)

