

JUNIOR BALLET PROJECT

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Artistic director

Dear dancers,

My journey in dance began in France, where I trained at the **CNR of Rouen** and then at the **CNSM of Paris**, before joining the **École Atelier Rudra-Béjart**. A year later, I had the extraordinary opportunity to travel the world with **Maurice Béjart's company**, and then to secure a contract with the **Béjart Ballet Lausanne**. Those years shaped me profoundly - they gave me discipline, strength and an understanding of what it means to devote oneself fully to dance.

Having experienced such enriching experiences, I also felt the need to explore other styles, other voices, other ways of moving. It was this desire that led me to co-found the **Opinion Public** company in Brussels in 2010. Since then, I have continued to choreograph and share my vision, collaborating with companies such as the **Ballet de l'Opéra national du Rhin**, **Bühnen Bern Ballet**, and **Les Grands Ballets Canadiens**.

What drives me today is creating performances and a space for dancers - a place where discipline meets freedom, where classical technique can speak a contemporary language, where bodies connect through strength as much as fragility.

That is also why I founded the **Junior Ballet Project**. Here, you are both a student and an artist in the making. My aim is to challenge you, to support you, and to give you the tools to reveal your own voice as a dancer. Dance is not just about steps: it is also about people - their intentions, their connections, their humanity. This journey will be intense and transformative. It will demand everything from you - but it will give you even more in return.

Welcome to your new artistic home.

Sidonie Fossé

Our project

The **Junior Ballet Project (JBP)** is the professional programme run by the **Opinion Public** company, based in Brussels (Saint-Gilles), and open to **dancers aged between 17 and 25**.

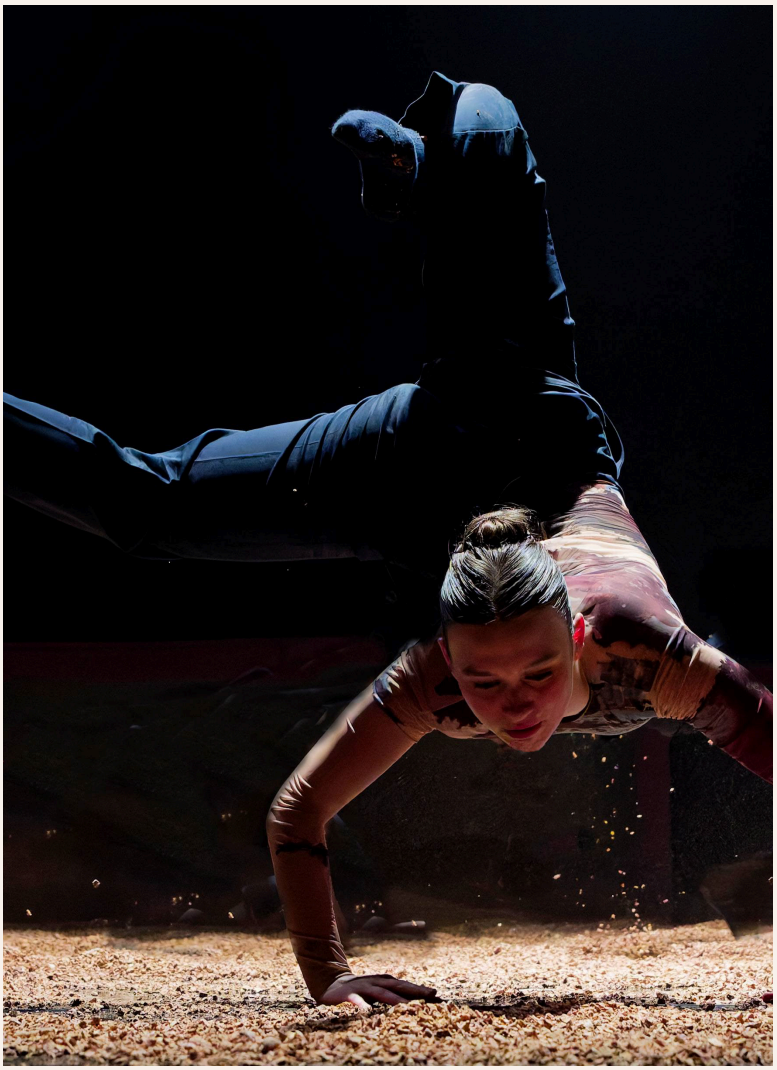
Founded in September 2024 by the artistic director **Sidonie Fossé**, it offers daily immersion in the rhythm and demands of a professional company, while supporting the technical and artistic development of each performer.

From Monday to Friday, the dancers undertake an **intensive training programme** designed to strengthen their technical, artistic and personal skills, as well as cultivating a real company mindset: precision, discipline and team spirit. Stage experience lies at the heart of the programme: throughout the year, the dancers take part in various creative processes, the company's repertoire and public performances - to take their work beyond the studio.

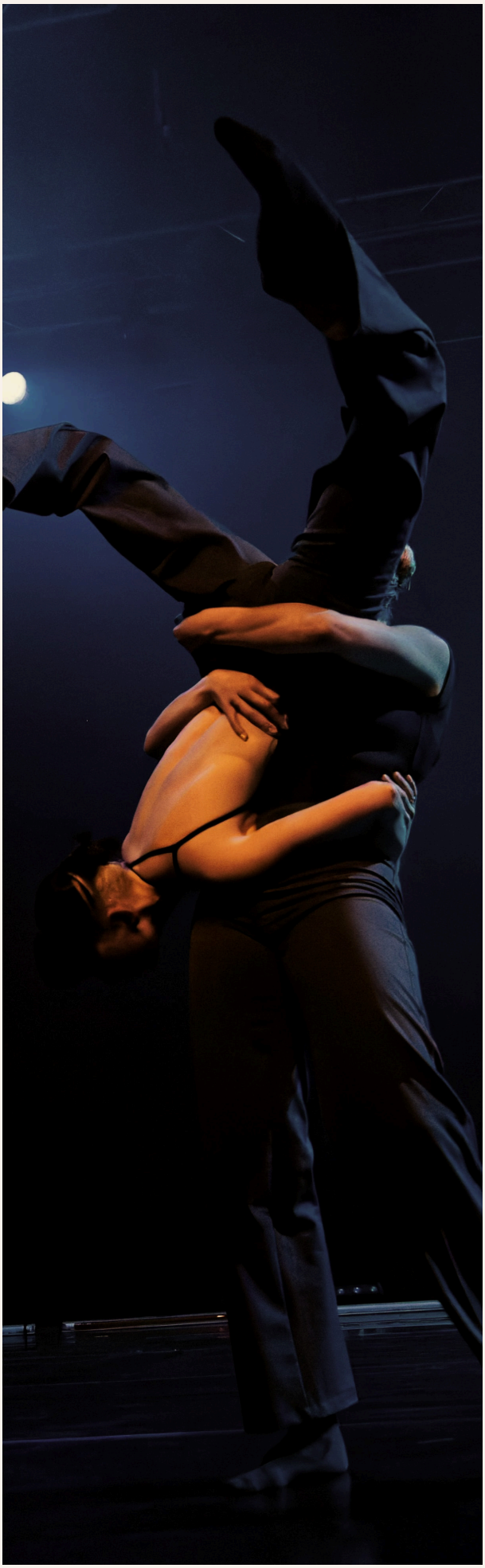
Each season, the JBP also welcomes **international guest artists** for workshops and offers personalised support: mentoring, audition preparation and career guidance.

Our aim is clear: to train performers who are unique and self-reliant, capable of joining a company or building a solid career as freelancers.

The JBP brings together talented dancers, from a variety of backgrounds, **in a supportive yet demanding environment**, where both the artist and the individual are guided with equal care.







Programme of the dancer

Classes

- • Ballet classes
- • Contemporary dance classes
- • Partnering techniques
- • Choreography workshops
- • Improvisation workshops
- • Choreographic composition
- • Acrobatics classes
- • Performance series
- • Pilates & core strengthening
- • Arts Entrepreneurship Workshop
- • Breaking techniques
- • Drama classes
- • Opinion Public Cie repertoire
- • Junior Ballet Project repertoire

Focus points for development

The skills and qualities that dancers are expected to develop include:

• Independence
• Self-discipline
• Speed and efficiency in learning choreography
• Stylistic versatility (technical mastery of several disciplines)
• Creativity in the interpretation and creation of choreographic material
• Ability to adapt to constraints and challenges
• Rigour and regularity in day-to-day work
• Physical and mental resilience
• Team spirit at work
• Stage experience

JUNIOR BALLET PROJECT

A typical day at the Junior Ballet Project

Morning classes	
Monday & Tuesday *(morning)*	**Ballet** & **Contemporary**
Wednesday *(morning)*	**Ballet** & **Pilates** & **Body strenghtening**
Thursday & Friday *(matin)*	**Ballet** & **Contemporary**
Afternoon classes	
Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday *(afternoon)* **& some wednesdays** *(afternoon)*	**A large selection of classes and teachers** Improvisation workshops, choreography workshops, acrobatics, partnering, breaking techniques and much more.

Permanent team



Johann CLAPSON

Rehearsal Director & Assistant Choreographer

Johann CLAPSON is a ballet master and teaches classical and contemporary dance. Trained at prestigious schools, including the **Princess Grace** Academy, the **Royal Danish Ballet School** and the **École-Atelier Rudra Béjart**, he went on to perform leading roles with the **Béjart Ballet Lausanne** and co-founded the **company Opinion Public**. He has also worked as an assistant choreographer at the **Konzert Theater Bern** and at the Ballet de **l'Opéra national du Rhin**. Today, he devotes himself to teaching and mentoring the next generation of dancers, guiding students towards their professional futures.



Victor LAUNAY

Contemporary teacher & partnering teacher

Victor LAUNAY is a contemporary dance teacher, choreographer and performer. Trained at the **CNSMD of Paris** and the **École-Atelier Rudra Béjart**, he has danced with the **Ballet d'Aquitaine** and collaborated with leading choreographers across Europe. As co-founder of **Opinion Public** and founder of **Les Vikings**, his productions have won awards internationally and been staged in Italy, Spain and Switzerland. He now combines performing with teaching contemporary dance at the **Namur Conservatoire**.

Teachers

Sara Angelucci

Contemporary teacher



Member of the **Kaiho company** since 2020, she has collaborated on numerous multidisciplinary productions. She has developed a teaching approach that combines improvisation, visualisation, performance and floorwork.

Benedicto Cieza

Ballet teacher



Having trained in Madrid and Paris, he joined the **Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie** before founding the C**ieza Cie** and co-founding the **Brussels Dance Conservatoire**, where he taught for ten years. In 2023, he set up **Studio B. ASBL.**

Tom Godefroid

Contemporary teacher



He trained in contemporary dance in Belgium, New York and Montreal. Following his first contract with the **Opéra Royal de Wallonie**, he furthered his career by working with renowned choreographers and developing his own works.

Olivia Grassot

Contemporary teacher



She trained at the **Brussels Dance Conservatoire** and at the **Rambert School** of London. She has worked with numerous international companies in Europe, the United Kingdom and China.

Michele Scappa

Contemporary teacher



Trained at the **Northern School of Contemporary Dance** in Leeds, he collaborates with international companies. His work explores body language and the links between movement, performance and psychology.

Guest artists

We regularly invite **internationally renowned artists** to share their expertise and inspire our dancers through exclusive masterclasses. These sessions enable our dancers to develop, explore and draw inspiration from a variety of artistic voices from around the world.



Chloé Albaret
Contemporary



Giovanni Insaudo
Repertory Cie I Vespri



Sandra Salietti
Repertory Cie I Vespri



Brandon Lagaert
Contemporary



Ana Van Tendeloo
Contemporary



Aurélien Oudot
Acrobatics



Niklas Capel
Floorwork



Dries Verstreppen
Contemporary



Alix Schills
Acrobatics



Hugo Pernel
Acrobatics



Aisleen McLafferty
Drama



Maxim Phommaxay
Breaking technique



Sarah Deppe
Floorwork



Eva Servais
Contemporary



Patrice Mincke
Acting coach

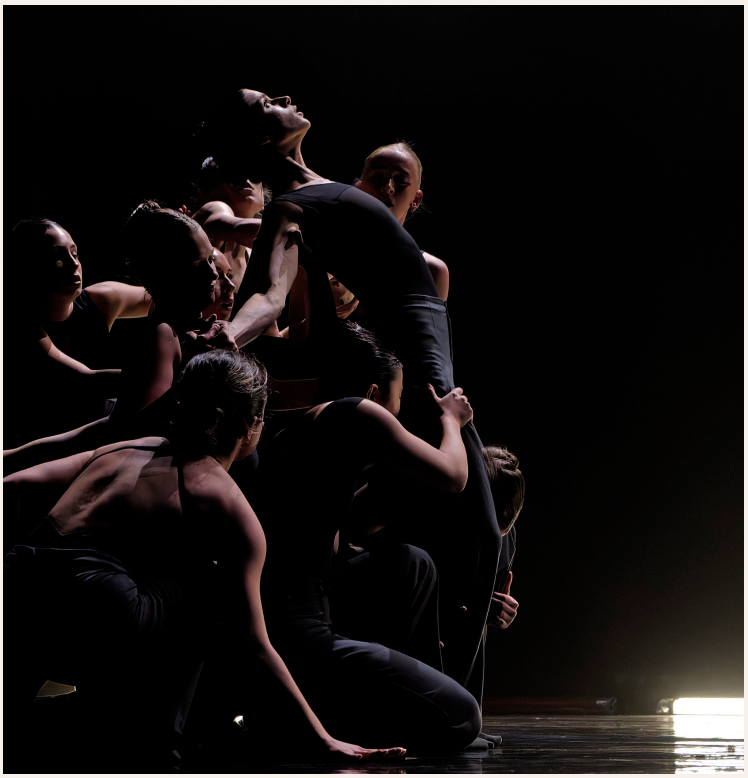
JBP Repertoire



The Rite of Spring

Trailer

Synopsis : In a world obsessed with control, a group of young dancers embodies the rigidity of social norms. Every gesture, every thought is shaped by modernity, erasing each individual's own identity. Little by little, an unexpected force awakens: a raw, instinctive energy is unleashed to break free from the chains of modernity. "The Rite of Spring" explodes with tension, giving way to a visceral struggle between civilisation and nature. As the piece unfolds, we witness the downfall of a central figure, a symbol of a society attempting to contain the uncontrollable. The final sacrifice does not mark the end of a story but a wild rebirth, where the raw energy of nature reclaims its rightful place.



Pyxis

Trailer

Synopsis : The term 'pyxis' refers to a small box used to store precious objects, but also to a constellation once used as a guide by navigators. Part jewellery box, part compass, PYXIS becomes the starting point for a journey into the unknown.

On stage, a mysterious box opens gateways to other worlds. Moving from one reality to another, the dancers plunge into realms where anything is possible and let themselves be carried away by the immensity of the unexplored.

Vanity Fair

Trailer



Synopsis : For just a moment, let yourself be carried away by a never-ending fair. A fascinating world crafted from mirrors and illusions, where every element glows, sparkles and is reflected. Here, a sense of wonder rubs shoulders with emptiness, and sparkling appearances distract us from the fragility of our existence. Immerse yourself in the world of Vanity Fair...

Empty Room

Trailer



Synopsis : Empty Room depicts the routine that sets in within a couple, caught between the reassuring comfort of habits and the desire to escape them. Each then finds refuge in their book, as if escaping to a different place. Without ever taking their eyes off the words that absorb them, their bodies meet, drift apart, intertwine and support one another.



Bach & Nous

Synopsis : "Bach & us" draws its inspiration from two cello suites by Johann Sebastian Bach and from what listening to them stirs within us. Sidonie Fossé places the cello at the heart of her artistic exploration, exploring the duality between its material and its sound: wood, a living material, deep and rooted in the earth; and the vibration that escapes from it, rises and carries us away.

This duality flows through the bodies and the movement. Between contemporary dance and neoclassical choreography, the performers oscillate between grounding and elevation, weight and lightness, in a sensitive dialogue with Bach's music.