

Statement from Prof. Jason Beechey, 25.10.2023

Now in my 18th year at Palucca it truly has become my artistic home. Having the chance to establish a new profile and build a new team and dynamic for dance in Dresden. I hope this has brought as much inspiration to all involved, as it has to me. To have so many individuals give so generously, of their time, dedication and energy. Building Palucca into a hub of creativity and exploring our passion for dance together. To have seen over the years, so many incredible individuals decide to come to Palucca and build, create and explore dance together, it is more than I could have ever hoped for.

Back in 2004, when the city of Dresden declared the intentions to “build Dresden into the dance capitol of Germany”, this was an incredibly visionary statement. Rare to find a city that is so invested in dance. Hellerau was being renovated and they convinced William Forsythe to create a new Company. Thus, Hellerau was reborn along with the Forsythe Company. Nominating Aaron Watkin to the position of Artistic Director at the Semperoper Ballet, was key to set a whole new dynamic into action for the Semperoper. Finally, when I was handed the keys to the brand-new Campus of Palucca in 2006, it was a dream come true. To lead a Dance Education Institute and we set out together to build, collaborate and create a true “full circle” vision for dance for Dresden.

I have now been offered, an incredible second such opportunity. The chance to be a part of building a whole new dynamic for dance in Zurich. My role, as Head of Dance, will be to build a Dance Department for the Zurich University of the Arts, starting on August 1st 2024. With an established Dance Academy Zurich, BA Contemporary Dance, MA Dance and Cathy Marston has just assumed the direction of the Zurich Ballet. My newly created role is to build the Dance Department into a new combined structure and connect the dots with all the other dance institutions and individuals in Zurich and Switzerland. This reminds me very much of Dresden in 2004 and is a chance I never thought I would experience a second time.

I also never thought I would leave Palucca. I am at home and very much a part of the Palucca family. I will remain a part of the Palucca family and very much look forward to celebrating the 100 Year Jubilee in 2025 and will do all possible over the coming 10 months to find the best successor to ensure the University moves forward in the best possible hands. There is an empowered and solid team with an established network and profile. The Team is incredible. People full of knowledge and ideas and there is a hugely talented student population, for whom I am incredibly curious to see and experience their next steps as dancers, teachers and choreographers.

I hope you can understand my excitement and decision, to hopefully pioneer with the Team in Zurich a whole new chapter for dance and to share in this with the global dance Community, most notably with Palucca.

Building together to ensure the dance world can be the most exciting place to be a part of. Celebrating together the joy of dance and all the emotions, ideas that we can experience together through Dance. A true tight-knit, global community, ensuring that generations to come will have safe places to explore their own passions for dance in the most inclusive, inspiring and caring of places and manner.

Sincerely,

Prof. Jason Beechey
25.10.2023