

A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a dark, patterned, long-sleeved dress with buttons. Her face is dramatically lit from the side, with deep shadows on one side and highlights on the other. The background is a blurred, colorful scene, possibly a stage or a natural setting with trees and a sky. In the top right corner, there is a logo for Palucca Hochschule für Tanz Dresden, consisting of a stylized white outline of a house or a similar shape.

PALUCCA
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PALUCCA - ALUMNI

FEBRUARY | MARCH

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Many greetings from the Palucca University of Dance Dresden! I hope that you and the those closest to you are healthy and that you remain courageous and optimistic in mastering the challenges of these times. Unfortunately, we will continue to experience restrictions well into this year. In addition to adhering to stricter Corona hygienic measures, most of the members of the Palucca University are mastering their tasks by working from home. However, despite the many restrictions, we are all grateful for the possibilities that digital technology offers.

Because of this, the University, to a large extent can continue to operate. For the time being, the existing digital teaching formats and the online activities at the secondary school and University will be continued until the end of the present lockdown extension (March 7, 2021). We have been able to make exceptions for the N4 and BAT 3 classes for exam preparations. We are very happy that we are permitted to instruct these students in-person on campus. You can find more information about this under the heading "University News".

Precisely because many of our university events for the first half of this year had to be cancelled, such as the Stunde des Tanzes and the Tanzwoche Hiddensee, we are looking forward to beginning our plans for the Palucca Tanz Studio in the second half of this year. Current developments concerning this will be made known in a timely manner over the alumni newsletter and on our homepage. With today's alumni newsletter edition, I wish to give you an enhanced insight into the current events at the University as well as an outlook on the alumni projects in 2021.

At this point, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all alumni who participated in our newsletter survey. By doing so, you have actively contributed to the continued development of the newsletter content. On this note, I wish you much enjoyment reading this newsletter. Thank you for your loyal readership!

Cordially,

Shalene Schmidt

Student Marketing & Alumni Coordinator
Department of Strategic Development/Communication

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Virtual Master Info Day a success

More than 50 participants from Germany and abroad accepted the University's invitation in January to attend the first virtual Master Info Day. This took place on January 17 and 18, 2021 via DFNconf, a virtual platform provided by the German National Research and Education Network. Working together, the University's Student Marketing department and the MA programmes Choreography and Dance Teacher were able to successfully create a multi-faceted event composed of virtual presentations and Q & A sessions with the heads of the study programmes. A virtual exchange session with current MA students and alumni from the MA programmes rounded off the event. Due to extremely positive resonance from the participants and the possibility for reaching out to a broad range of prospective students, the Master Info Day in 2022 will also offer virtual meeting opportunities.

Digital Easter Workshop 2021

Again this spring, in cooperation with the Palucca e.V., the Palucca University of Dance Dresden has organised an internal digital Easter Workshop. University pupils and students have the opportunity to submit creative dance-contributions in video format which will be then be featured in a virtual award ceremony.

Teaching digitally at the University

Of the current 189 pupils and students enrolled at the University, the pupils in N4 and the graduating class of the three-year study programme BA Dance are being taught in-person on campus. All other secondary school pupils and students in the BA and MA study programmes are being taught exclusively in digital form. A new video, which has been created in a cooperation between the University's PR department and the Audio Visual Studio, provides a behind-the-scenes look at digital teaching and teaching formats. The video can be watched at vimeo.com/509714277 (registration is not necessary)



Reflection about teaching in times of lockdown

When I teach my class online, I reconsider its content and end result. Making sure it is not too much or too little, especially in such narrow and/or unusual spaces the students are working in. By knowing what their daily schedule is, I offer a class that complements and enriches their work.



I try to create a comfortable atmosphere with a positive energy, patience and humility. Keeping the students focused, we all try to use adaptability, flexibility, imagination, and trust. Working through a monitor is like having a magnifying glass and observing certain details we might not be able to see in a normal dance studio. I find this interesting. It is another way of looking at the group with individual frames. As I teach a Contemporary or a yoga class, I still make sure that they explore with ease and artistry their physical work-out. I find that, in spite of the situation, the students stay focused, serious and relaxed. The mood is good. They maintain a constant learning process. Now and then, I will make a funny remark to have them smile and relax a bit more, it is a way to see who is following and who stays isolated in their own "bubble". My way of "testing the waters".

Prof. Christian Canciani



One of the challenges in online dance training is that the participants are always dependent upon the quality of their Internet connections.

However, other than this technical hurdle, online dance training actually works quite well. Various other restrictions - such as the limited available space, the impossibility of having direct physical contact - are challenges for me and the students. These restrictions, however, challenge us in a positive way to become even more creative, flexible and inventive. For example, when we experience our limited space consciously and instinctively in order to be able to move more freely in it, and doing so, find that freedom of movement is not necessarily dependent upon the size of the space available. In the spirit of Pinok & Matho (1987): Limitation means to gauge that which is not forbidden - or as in our case that which is fact.

Prof. Rita Aozane Bilibio

NEWS REGARDING ALUMNI PROJECTS

New electronic newsletter format

As of spring 2021, we expect to publish the alumni newsletter "Palucca Alumni" in a new electronic format. As a result, the existing process of sending out digital mailings will be replaced with a mobile user-friendlier format. Members of the alumni network will be informed about the new data protection instructions for the electronic alumni newsletter shortly. The traditional alumni newsletter edition in print will continue to exist as an additional format.

Digital alumni event in 2021

For autumn 2021, plans are being made for a digital professional event for Palucca alumni. Although this cannot replace the pending Alumni Day, it is intended to promote and foster mutual networking and professional exchange. The professional event's theme as well as other information regarding the programme and registration will be provided in due time through the alumni newsletter.

Start of a new newsletter lecture series

Starting in April 2021, there will be a new lecture series in the alumni newsletter. This series is dedicated to the topic "Nutrition for Professional Dancers" and it will bring fresh impulse to nutrition in the various phases of a dancer's life! We are thrilled to have Eva-Maria Kraft, a certified nutritional expert, professional dancer, and co-author of the book "Ernährung für Tänzer- Grundlagen, Leistungsförderung, Praxistipps" (2016) (English title: "Nutrition for Dancers - Basics, Performance Enhancement, Practical Tips" to author the series. A portrait:



Eva-Maria Kraft is a contemporary dancer and choreographer, dance teacher, nutritional expert with a focus on dance, and practitioner of cranio-sacral therapy. She has been dancing since she was three. She studied at the Konservatorium Wien Privatuniversität and has worked as a free-lance dancer since 2005. She heads the studio RAUM für TANZ (Space for Dance) and her practice for nutrition and cranio sacral bodywork in Vienna. The books "Ernährung für Tänzer" and "Nutrition for Dancers", which she co-authored, were published in 2016 and 2018. Internationally, Eva-Maria Kraft teaches contemporary ballet, contemporary dance, improvisation, and Chladek® technique for amateurs and professionals, and nutrition for dancers. Current artistic projects are, among others, the Realtime Composition Performance Series POETIC SPACE and, as part of the inter-disciplinary research group H.A.U.S. (Humanoids in Architecture and Urban Spaces), she choreographs and performs with humanoid robots. www.evamaria-kraft.at


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Cover: L'esquisse | Choreography: Célia
Bardet | Bachelor Final Presentations 2019
© Ida Zenna

Images: © Ida Zenna, © Eva-Maria Kraft
Translation (excl. Statement of Prof.
Canciani: Helen Centner (Dipl. authorized
translator and English Trainer (BDÜ, ELTAF)

Next Edition: April/May 2021

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