

Dancing (fancy)



- The work

Dancing (fancy) explores notions related to abled, disabled, young and old bodies, centering on the body that is not necessarily acceptable to be present on stage.

The stepping stone for Maria Koliopoulou's new choreographic work is Gilles Deleuze's question: "What can a body do".

In Dancing (fancy), the choreographer connects her research on the body, with breathing, voice and movement, creating fields of temporal coexistence that are transformed and regenerated in the here and now of each performance. The choreographic work redefines constantly one body through another, humorously searching for simplicity in movement, within a fairy tale universe.

Dancing (fancy) began its journey at the Folkwang University in Essen and continued in Cologne at the premises of ROOTS & ROUTES with the Tanzrecherche NRW grant and the additional support of 'Culture Moves Europe'.

*The work borrows its title from E. J. Muybridge's photographic work, 'Dancing fancy' from his 1887 book Human Locomotion.

Credits

Choreography **Maria Koliopoulou**

Performers **Katerina Avramopoulou, Katerina Gevetzi, Loukiani Papadaki**

Dramaturgy consultant **Betina Panagiotara**

Silent singing **Anna Pagalou**

Sound design **Yiannis Isidorou**

Lighting design **Thomas Oikonomakos**

Costume design **Eleftheria Arapoglou_Digitalia**

Artistic collaboration **Mariza Vinieratou**

Photos **Elpida Tempou**

Press **Martha Koskina, Chrysa Matsagani**

Production manager **Cultópia**

Production **Proxima Dance Company**

Premiere 27 September 2023, Bios, Athens.

Duration 35 min

Trailer <https://vimeo.com/872939361?share=copy>

- [Short CV](#)

Maria Koliopoulou is a female artist, activist, choreographer, performer and dance teacher with immigrant roots living and working in Athens. She earned a scholarship to the **Laban Centre** for Movement and Dance and studied Fine Arts at Vacalo School of Arts & Design in Athens. She practices in the martial art of Aikido in which she holds the second black belt and is a founding member of Proxima Dance Company where she choreographs and performs since 1996. In the recent years she has presented works commissioned by **Onassis Stegi, Athens Festival, Ephorate of Greek Antiquities, International Contemporary Dance Festival of Algiers**, Editta Brown Company and StopGap Dance Company. Her choreographic works have been presented in Athens, Algiers, Vienna, Karlstadt, Ljubljana, Salzburg, Stockholm, Prague, Budapest, Chania, Serres and Kavala. She is currently **an awarded artist of the Dance Research NRW, a scholarship of the NRW KULTURsekretariat** – funded by the Ministerium für Kultur und Wissenschaft des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen. She has been awarded the **Jarmila Jeřábková award** (2008) at the New Europe Festival in Prague and the 2nd Prize at the International Contemporary Dance Festival of Algiers (2013) in Algiers.



- [The research](#)

Maria Koliopoulou started her Dance Research scholarship in the Folkwang Hochschule in Essen in March 2023 for her new work *Dancing (fancy)* with the kind support of DIN A13 Tanzcompany, while mapping access in the NRW through talks and meetings with different professionals, companies and cultural institutions in the area: inclusivity and diversity, disabled leadership and education in NRW, were among the subjects in this discourse.

Following this first research period; Maria applied for a wider support on a greater mobility funding so as to return to NRW in August with 3 dancers from her company – Proxima Dance Company - to continue her research in Cologne. For this period, she was further supported with ‘Culture Moves Europe’ mobility fund and ‘Roots and Routes’ for a 17 days research residency at ‘Jula’ Raum in Cologne.

This second phase of the research, allowed Maria time and space for exploration while enriching the creation of the work: the sole commitment and involvement during this period, generated insights and established new knowledge and understanding. Moreover, it was a unique opportunity to develop deeper and stronger connections with local communities through workshops that were offered during this residency, open rehearsals of the choreographic work ‘*Dancing (fancy)*’ and meetings with other artists in the wider area.

‘As a Tanzrecherche NRW artist, it has been an amazing experience to work and network with unique individuals and partners on such a high level of support, trust and collaboration. The connection to other artists and communities has opened new opportunities for collaboration, inspiration and reflection.’

- Support

Dancing (fancy) is supported by

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