



workshops

seminars

residencies

ART FACTORY INTERNATIONAL

contemporary dance platform

Program Study Guide
Season 2025/2026

training

performance

community

For over 15 years, Art Factory International has been offering participants the **opportunity to build their own artistic identity** with solid technical and creative foundations through our international professional training program for contemporary dancers.

The program consistently has had an open and up-to-date vision of the international dance and performing arts scenes, promoting dance excellence and aiming to disseminate the art and culture of dance in order to train individuals prepared for future entry into the artistic and professional world.

Art Factory International is a professional intensive training project created by Leggere Structure Art Factory, a center dedicated to arts and culture in the city of Bologna, Italy.

The program focuses on younger dancers, with age between 18-30, eager to broaden and deepen their own **technical and artistic training in fields such as dance, choreography and composition.**

The program involves **daily training** in classical and contemporary dance through a teaching plan led by artists and teachers, expert in the field and working towards technique strengthening, along with pursuing a higher level of awareness in regard to one's physical strength and the creative movement.

Moreover, the platform is a host to monthly **workshops and residencies**, featuring internationally renowned choreographers and artists with focus on widening the attendees' knowledge and enriching the workshop participants' experiences, visions and professional competences.

The Art Factory International platform's trajectory also arranges **seminars** and classes, by sharing several supporting projects organised by Leggere Structure.

The classes will focus on exchange of virtuous practices by drawing from **different professionals** with the intention of shaping the participant's personality and competences, as well as broadening the artist's new training horizons.

Art Factory International has also started a performative platform within its spaces, under the name of **Spazio CRUDO and Festival CRUDO**, designed to host projects, previews and work-in-progress by international artists in residency at Leggere Strutture, in addition to accommodating 'open door' performances enacted by AFI participants.

*CRUDO has been envisioned as a neutral space where sharing and hosting young professional figures is made possible. A space envisaged at connecting artistic and critical domains, as well as presenting first runs and performance premieres. During the training period, **international in-residence artists** will shape their creations with AFI participants, with the pieces premiering at CRUDO space.*

The platform's goal is to create professional figures with technical-creative skills and speciality who are capable of setting their own career path, proficient in creating a personal artistic identity, able to acquire additional skills, as well as able to grow and work in different performative settings.

dance

training

community

artists

connections

experience

performance

about

People and artists our staff

Mattia Gandini

Executive Director

Rossella Russo

Project Manager

Paengsuda Panyatham

Project Coordinator

Silvia Traversi

Tutoring and Support of students

Mauro Carboni

Teacher of Classical Ballet

Vincenzo Capezzuto

Teacher of Classical Ballet

Lara Fanchin

Teacher of Classical Ballet

Marco Paganucci

Pianist of Classical Ballet

Vincenzo Bosco

Pianist of Classical Ballet

Renato Scarpelini

Teacher of Capoeira

Gioia Maria Morisco

Teacher of Contemporary Dance | Composition

Lara Russo

Teacher of Contemporary Dance | Contact Improvisation

Martina La Ragione

Teacher of Contemporary Dance | Floorwork

Francesca Lastella

Teacher of Contemporary Dance | Floorwork

Emanuele Rosa

Teacher of Contemporary Dance | Composition

Kris Buzzi

Teacher of Hip Hop and Urban dance

Carlos Kalmizele

Teacher of Hip Hop and Urban dance

Lucas Monteiro Delfino

Teacher of Composition skills

Michelle Scappa

Teacher of Composition skills

Carlo Massari

Teacher of Dramaturgy

Lisa Gilardino

Teacher of Individual Management

Tim Volleman

Teacher of Countertechnique®

Maria Martinez

Teacher of Bmc®

Teri Weikel

Teacher of Feldenkrais®

Anna Albertarelli and Prof. Roberto Penzo

Teachers of CorpoPoetico® inclusive dance

Massimo Balducci

Teacher of italian classes

about

Program Overview

The program is structured from October to May in an intensive months of training, carrying out daily from Monday to Friday at 9am to 3.30pm. The training which includes a variety of daily curriculum classes of ballet, contemporary dance, floorwork, counter technique, capoeira, composition, repertoire, improvisation, hiphop and urban dance.

Program Seminars in somatic and body movement

Moreover, the program is also accompanied by seminars that focus on somatic and body movement such as Feldenkrais®, BMC® bodymindcentering, as well as the inclusive/physically integrated dance with the atelier CorpoPoetico®.

Program Seminars on cultural production activities and creative management tools for dancers

Additionally, the training program includes a sessions of seminars on cultural production activities and creative management tools for dancers researching and experimenting with contemporary body languages, dramaturgy, and self-entrepreneurship.

We also offer a short Italian language seminar for dancers who wish to learn the basics in order to facilitate their greater integration and social inclusion within the city.

SEMINARS

CREATIVE MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR DANCERS

Carlo Massari

Dramaturgy

Lucas Monteiro Delfino

Composition and research skills

Michelle Scappa

Composition and research skills

Lisa Gilardino

Individual management organization

SOMATIC BODY AND MOVEMENT

Teri Weikel

Feldenkrais®

Maria Martinez

Bmc®

Arianna Pisano

Osteopathy & Body conditioning

CORPO POETICO® Atelier

Dance | Theatre | Disability | Integration

with Anna Albertarelli and Roberto Penzo

Extra Classes

Italian classes

with Massimo Balducci

Program Structure

Daily Plan

- + The program develops on daily basis from Monday to Friday from 9am until 3.30pm, including a 45-minute lunch break.
- + The morning classes are usually dedicated to classical ballet or capoeira classes, followed by contemporary dance, floorwork, improvisation and choreographic composition, hiphop class etc.
- + In the occasion of the seminars, the courses are fully committed to the subject and are arranged with a full day or a half day schedule.

Workshops and Residencies Plan

- + We have scheduled monthly workshops with international choreographers, the duration of which ranges from 4 days to an intense full week.
- + The artists' residencies take up between 1–2 weeks, with a full-time schedule, in the lead-up to an 'open door' presentation for the public in Art Factory International's performative space or in a festival.

Annual Plan

The program takes up from October to May with a full-time schedule of intensive training, at the conclusion of which the Certificate of Attendance is awarded.

The program observes the official holiday calendar with breaks on the following occasions:

- * 2th November 2025
- * 8th December 2025
- * 3 weeks — Christmas Holidays 2025
- * 1 week — Easter Holidays 2026
- * 1st May 2025

Program Workshops and Artistic Residence with International Guests



Each month the program **hosts international guests** for one full week. This season we are proud to host seven international choreographers who will contribute to the professional and artistic growth of the trainees.

In addition, two artists are invited in the program for a period of **Artistic Residence** within the Art Factory International venue in order to create a performance piece, opening to the public, to be presented at the CRUDO FESTIVAL 2026 in Bologna.

Our teachers and guests are established and renowned international artists who are in full swing with creations and productions, thus, AFI program's technical, creative, and artistic level is always up-to-date and in line with the trends of dance, contemporaneity, and future performing languages.



Workshops

Kidd Pivot and Crystal Pite repertory

with Jiri Pokorny

ForsytheRepertory

with Brigel Gjoka

Lali Ayguade Farrò

from Akram Khan Company and Lali Ayguade C.

Salvatore De Simone

from Wayne McGregor Company

Tomer Navot

Sharon Fridman Practice INA

RubberLegz Workshop

with Rauf Yasit

Gaga/Dancers Workshop

with Elena Bolelli

Residencies

Jos Baker

former dancer in Peeping Tom Company

Eduardo Torroja

Ultima Vez Repertory

Kidd Pivot improvisation tools and repertory of Crystal Pite

with Jiri Pokorny

Jiri is a Czech choreographer based in The Hague, Netherlands. He graduated from the Prague National Dance Conservatory in 2000 and went on dancing with Laterna Magika in Prague. Three years later he joined Nederlands Dans Theater 2 in The Hague and continued his carrier with NDT1. After seven years in NDT, Jiri joined Vancouver based company KiddPivot under the leadership of Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite. Jiri has worked with many renowned choreographers such as Jiri Kylian, Mats Ek, Ohad Naharin, Paul Lightfoot, Sol Leon and Crystal Pite among others. Jiri has performed in prestigious theatres world wide, including Paris Opera, Sadler's Wells London, Teatro Real Madrid, Teatro Liceu Barcelona, Joyce Theatre New York and many more.

In 2013, Jiri transitioned on to making his own works as a freelance choreographer and since then he has collaborated with companies and production houses across Europe and North America. To name few, he created pieces for NDT, Aterballetto in Italy, Basel Ballet, National Theater Mannheim, Budapest Dance Theatre, Chamber Ballet Prague, North West Dance Project in Portland (US) and Korzo productions in the Hague.

Jiri's engagement with dance education has also its importance due to a numerous collaborations with dance schools such as Royal Conservatory in The Hague, Juilliard School in New York, Arts Umbrella Vancouver, NDT's Summer Intensive and Architanz Tokyo.

Jiri directs his own educational program for young choreographers The Pioneer Project in Korzo Theatre, The Hague.

Forsythe Repertory

with Brigel Gjoka

Brigel Gjoka, choreographer teacher and professional stage dancer. His artistic work engagements have taken him around the world to more than 31 countries.

Brigel was born in Albania and trained in Tirana Ballet School 1997–2004. He was a member of Cannes Jeune Ballet during his studies 2004–06 at the Ecole Superieure de Danse de Cannes–Mougins. In 2006 he was engaged by the Ballet De L’opera National Du Rhin, where he had the opportunity to perform different roles and work with choreographers from the international dance scene. Wanting to expend his vision, he joined Staatstheater Mainz in 2009 for one season, then joined the Nederlands Dans Theater in 2010.

In January 2011 he became member of the The Forsythe Company, where he participated in new creations by William Forsythe and also performed a wide range of Forsythe’s repertory until the closure of the company in 2015. As a unique experience also in 2015, he was part of “Life in Progress,” the farewell world tour of Sylvie Guillem, traveling and performing Forsythe’s DUO2015 around the world.

Together with Riley Watts, he was awarded the “Leonide Massine” Prize in the Positano premia la danza, Italy, as Dancer of The Year on The Contemporary Dance Scene in September 2015.

Lali Ayguade Farrò

from Akram Khan Company and Lali Ayguade C.

Lali Ayguadé was born in Barcelona. In 1996 she joined to train in PARTS (Belgium). In her fourth year, she created the solo “Silence” coached by Wim Vandekeybus. After her training, she joined Publik Eye Company in Denmark, directed at that time by Carmen Mehnert.

In 2003, Lali joined the Akram Khan Company as a full-time member creating and performing in the productions: “Kaash”, “Ma”, “Bahok” (together with the National Ballet of China), “Vertical Road” and “Confluence” collaborating with Nitin Sawhney and Ricardo Nova. She has worked with Roberto Olivan (Enclave Dance Company) in the production “Homeland” and with Hofesh Shechter in the productions “In your rooms”, “Cult” and “The Art of not looking back”.

She also worked with Marcos Morau from La Veronal (Spanish Dance National Award in 2013 as Best Choreographer) in the piece “Portland” and with the contemporary circus company Baró d’Evel with whom she performed “Mazut” and “Besties”. In 2005, Lali choreographed “Twice Read” together with the Slovak dancer and choreographer Anton Lachky.

Between 2007 and 2009, she choreographed other small works with the acrobat and clown Joan Ramon Graell (director of Circus Association in Barcelona). In 2015, she created her first full-length work “Kokoro”. Later on did “lu an Mi”. Also, she co-created “De Camino al Otro” with the acrobat Julian Sicard. Lali is currently working on “Hidden” co-produced by Tetare Nacional de Catalunya, Bolzano Danza Festival and Temporada Alta. In 2010, she was nominated as “Exceptional dancer” for the Critics awards of London, and in 2014 as “Best Creator”. In 2016, she was also nominated as “Best Dancer” for the “Recomana.cat” Critics awards in Barcelona. She starred in the short movie “TIMECODE” which was awarded the Palme d’Or at Festival de Cannes, the Goya Award, the Gaudi Award and was nominated at the Oscars 2016 among others. Lali shares her technique and the investigation linked to her creations around the world through workshops.

Salvatore De Simone

from Wayne McGregor Company

Salvatore De Simone, Italian dancer and choreographer born in Calabria, began his artistic training at the Teatro Carcano School in Milan, where he developed a solid technical foundation and a deep passion for contemporary dance. He worked with numerous companies and projects in Italy, standing out for his versatility and creative approach to performance. In Germany, he collaborated with Deutsche Tanzkompanie, choreographing and performing in various productions, while also freelancing in Berlin's vibrant dance scene.

In 2021, he was selected for the Biennale Danza College in Venice, where he had the opportunity to perform works by two icons of contemporary dance: Crystal Pite and Wayne McGregor. This experience enriched his artistic language and prepared him to join the prestigious Company Wayne McGregor in London later that year. There, he explored the interaction between dance and technology, contributing to experimental performances and working with innovative tools such as AISOMA.

Alongside his performing career, Salvatore is passionately dedicated to teaching. He has conducted workshops for Company Wayne McGregor at the Royal Ballet, Biennale Danza, Montpellier Dance etc, sharing his expertise and love for choreography with new generations of dancers. As a choreographer, he has created works that merge physical energy and conceptual research, exemplified by his projects for Deutsche Tanzkompanie and his upcoming creation for the Resolution Festival in 2025.

Salvatore has performed on some of the world's most prestigious stages, collaborating with the Royal Ballet and Roberto Bolle, and taking part in numerous high-profile international galas. His career is defined by a continuous artistic exploration and a desire to innovate, experimenting with new languages and choreographic approaches.

workshops

Sharon Fridman Practice INA

with Tomer Navot

“INA wants to focus her attention to the territory that her body serves to the other, or to the space around her. INA has a clear approach to the surface she gives or uses. INA controls and searches for freedom in her corporal node. INA is sensible to tact. INA is my Mother and my way to understand the movements of my body.

As a child, I lived planning our daily movements and physical needs to be able to advance in space with another body, to keep control and, on the other hand, to try to be as natural as possible.

My mother, INA, lives with the syndrome Arnold Chiari and needs a reference to be able to recognize the position of her own body.

After years of creating choreographies based on my research of balance and its manipulation, trying to control my passion for the potential that hides in the connection between bodies, and developing as an individual my sensibility to gravity and tact, I'm happy to finally give it the name of INA: The sense of my Balance.

The focus of this language is placed on the concept of gravity, on digging deeply into this matter, on discovering its most unexplored aspects. How is my body capable of manipulating the weight of the other? What are the active centres that allow me to carry out this manipulation? What new forms of movement can I generate from there?

On the other hand, to these questions we must add the energetic expression that shapes the bodies, because it never goes unnoticed in the creative processes. Movement implies the transmission of an element with which it has previously been connected... I move as a direct expression of what happens inside me, not as a tool of expression, I move out of an internal and irreversible need.”

Sharon Fridman

RubberLegz Workshop

with Rauf Yasit

He is a Los Angeles based choreographer, director, dancer and visual artist who was born and raised in Germany. When he was a child his father, who was a folklore–dance teacher, taught him traditional folk dances. It didn't take long for him to discover his passion for Breaking.

As a self–taught B–Boy, he began perfecting his skills and growing his passion in 1998. Not long after, he was aptly dubbed “RubberLegz” by his mentor Maxim for his ability to miraculously contort his body into unthinkable shapes and positions. He gained international respect for his unique style.

By 2007 his repertoire evolved to include performing in contemporary dance productions.

Rubberlegz was recently awarded ‘Best Dancer 2019’ by Danza&Danza Magazine for his ‘original language’ that breaks down barriers between dance genres.

He has worked with William Forsythe, National Opera of Paris, USC, CalArts, LACMA, Malou Airaud, MuDA, Nike RT, Burberry, GAP, Arashi, Puma, Replay, Sadlers Wells, Flying Steps, Red Bull, Muscle Milk, Moderat, Sony, Sonos, Fiat, WAD MAG, Tumi, HP, Pandora, Pfadfinderei, PACT Zoll Verein, ArtFactory International, CNDC Angers, LMU, Bodytraffic, Jacob Jonas The Company, Renegade Theatre Herne, Malou Airaud, Andy Hines, Jessica Young, Justin Daashur Hopkins, Elliott Sellers, OURO Collective, Modus Operandi, Whim W’Him and more.

RubberLegz is an Associate Producer of Films. Dance a the global platform for dance.

He is a multi–disciplined tour de force and his talents are not limited to dance. While pursuing his dance passion, he received his diploma in 3D–Visualization and Animation. He worked for several years with professional design agencies as a visual artist before moving to Berlin and working as a freelance artist in both design and dance.

In Los Angeles, RubberLegz is busy focusing on his many projects and utilizing his photography, design and dance skills.

Gaga/Dancers Workshop

with Elena Bolelli

Elena Bolelli is an artist in the field of performing arts and a Certified Gaga Teacher, the movement language developed by Ohad Naharin. She trained professionally in the UK with a BPA and a MA from Northern School of contemporary dance and in Israel (Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance).

In 2017/2018 She joined the postgraduate company Verve under the direction of Matthew Robinson. During her time in Verve she performed and toured nationally and internationally pieces by Sita Osthaimer, Lenka Vagnerova, Hannes Langolf and Matthew Robinson. In 2019 she joined Holstebro dance company; during her time with the company she performed and toured pieces by Jason Mabana, Stephanie Thomasen, Thomas Bentin, Marie BrolinTani and Tim Rushton. In 2020 Elena started a collaboration with Nunzia Picciallo and their project Overwhelming has been selected and founded by MOVIN'UP SPETTACOLO – PERFORMING ARTS 2020 promoted by MIBAC, Italy.

From 2020 to 2022 Elena danced and collaborated for Sweetshop Revolution in UK. In 2021 Elena created the Marconi Arts Festival where she aims to develop and share arts with many people as possible. Elena's recent creations Porcellum and "La Famiglia" are being selected for Florence Dance Festival, Antefestival, Crudo Festival and Mobile Dance Film Festival.

Elena held classes of Gaga/people and Gaga/dancers and workshops. She had the opportunity to teach for different dance companies and institutions like: Scottish School of Contemporary Dance, Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) at Northern School of Contemporary Dance and London contemporary dance school, the University of Wolverhampton, DTA program (Denmark), Jazz arts theater (South Africa), Studio Danza Ensemble (Italy), Contemporary art project (UK), Ballet akademie Stockholm, Theatre Alliance, IL Dance, Scottish Dance theatre, RegionTeater Väst, Teatro Off Ferrara, Ateneo della Danza Forlì Cesena and others.



RESIDENCIAS

season
2025/2026

Jos Baker

Jos worked for Peeping Tom as a dancer, actor and collaborator, principally with the productions 32 Rue Vandenbranden, and A Louer. Since then he worked for DV8 Physical Theatre on the production of John then began directing and performing in the promotional events for Petit Bateau's Cedric Charlier collection. Other stage works include In the process of by Zoi Dimitriou and Plastic Junkies by Antonin Comestaz.

On film, Jos made several music videos and short films, including: Forgot to live by Ay Wing, and Let it Roll by Mustard Gas and Roses directed by Koen Mortier, J'te Ramene directed by Yves Housmann and Biegga savkala duoddariid duohken lea soames by Elle Sofe Henrikseni, as well as several commercials.

He has created several of his own works, including: Creature Man Don't Tell Me, Feedback, What do you do?, We were youth, Tidal Breath, Let us not ask where it leads, Understanding Sugar and Of no fixed abode.

He also teaches internationally, offering a range of classes and workshops for professional dancers at institutions including SEAD, Ballet Junior de Geneve, PARTS Summer School, TrinityLaban, The Place, Amsterdam Theatre school, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Codarts, Deltebre Dansa, El Danseu Festival, TripSpace Projects, Ravnedans, Jetsummer, Staatstheatre Kassel and many others.

Jos started his dance training at the age of 7 with Oxford Youth Dance and then continued his formal education first at The Laban Center London and then at PARTS [Performing Arts Research and Training Studios] in Brussels. Throughout this training he has studied many techniques and approaches, including: Ballet, Release, Cunningham, Graham, acting, Capoueira, Popping, Salsa, Tango, Contact Improvisation, Flying Low, Passing through, Forsythe improvisation Technologies, Labanetics, Physiology and Physics.

Ultima Vez

REPERTORY

WITH EDUARDO TORROJA

The residency will focus on the energetic and physical repertory vocabulary from the three first pieces of Ultima Vez: “What the Body Does Not Remember”, “Les Porteuses de mauvaises nouvelles” and “The weight of a hand”. It is about movement “as a theatrical act”.

Participants will follow the creation process going from the origins of the material, the working transitions until the final performed results. This vocabulary will be also the starting point to a guided development of the participants’ own choreographic work. Creating their compositions through the form, the emotion, the strong theatrical atmosphere and the intention of the proposed material.

We will explore and confront this material through improvisations, floorwork, contact and partner work, group forms and objects’ manipulation. To arrive to This vocabulary will also be the starting point with a wide range of concepts such as: tension, instinct, chaos, sensuality, risk, trust, protection, dependency, power, strategies, neutrality, physical extremes.

admission

A.F.I. born from an **artistic project** as a platform that allows for **passing, change, and transformation** that occurs in the phase of personal and individual growth. The A.F.I. training program allows each student to shape their own **artistic identity in constant evolution**, and to be able to pursue their career and create international networks starting from a wholesome and consolidated environment.

Admission is subject to invitation.

To apply to the program, candidates will have to go through an audition which will consist of a classical and contemporary dance lesson, a choreographic class, and an individual interview with the staff.

Video audition is also available, kindly refer to our official website:
<https://www.artfactory-international.com/admission/>

Participating in the audition is free of charge. Kindly fill out this form and submit your audition application here:

APPLY NOW

If you have any questions about entry requirements or require further information, please write to artfactoryinternational@gmail.com





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more info