

COSMIN MANOLESCU

Choreographer and performer

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COSMIN MANOLESCU is a dancer, choreographer and artistic director of Serial Paradise/Fondation Gabriela Tudor. He deeply believes that contemporary dance is an art form that can positively change people's lives and bring them together across borders, regardless of their age, gender or identity. Since 1997, he has played an important role in the development of contemporary dance in Romania and in the creation of the National Dance Centre Bucharest (2004).

He trained in contemporary dance with Christine Bastin, Karine Saporta, Christian Trouillas, Mathilde Monnier, Georges Appaix and Dominique Bagouet, within the framework of the project 'La Danse en Voyage', led by the AFAA, in Romania (1990-1993). In 1993 he participated in a dance workshop with Gelabert Gesc (Summer Amsterdam University) and in 1994 he received a grant from the Soros Foundation to study dance in the United States with Irene Hultman, Doug Rosenberg (Cunningham technique) and Mark Taylor (Six Week School - American Dance Festival programme).

Between 1992 and 1996, he performed in Le Grand Jeu created by Christian Trouillas and danced on important French stages - ArtDanse (Dijon), Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris), Maison de la Danse (Lyon), Le Quartz (Brest). In 1993, in collaboration with Irina Costea, Florin Fieroiu and Mihai Mihalcea, he created the Groupe Les Marginaux (Grupul Marginalii), the first independent contemporary dance company in Romania after 1989, for which he created the quartet Fragments de vie in 1994.

In 1996 he finished the European Specialized Master in Cultural Management - ECUMEST at the Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans and his studies at the Academy of Theatre and Film - dance section, with a degree in choreography. In 1999 he discovered butoh dance with Ko Muroboshi in Vienna and took classes with David Zambrano, Ko Murabushi and Emio Greco thanks to the DanceWeb scholarship offered by the ImpulseTanz festival.

His artistic work as a performer and choreographer has been presented in important festivals and venues such as Dance Theater Workshop New York (2003), Festival de la Nouvelle Danse d'Uzès (2004), Biennale de danse de Lyon (2004), Enzimi Festival de Rome

(2005), Dublin Fringe Festival, Fabrica do Movimentos Festival Porto (2006), Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles Paris (2006), PS 122 New York (2011), Beirut Street Festival (2007), Dansstationen Malmö (2007), Brakke Grond Amsterdam (2007), Studio Morishita Tokyo (2014), BananeFabrik / Centre de danse chorégraphique à Luxembourg (2015), Time to Dance Festival in Riga (2015), Seattle International Dance Festival (2017), etc. His performances and projects have received several awards in Romania and France - Prix Nouveau Talent /chorégraphie, awarded by SACD (2006) and the innovation prize for the project Don'At Ask the Blonds (in collaboration with Kira Riikonen and Roberto Casarotto) awarded by Sogeda and SACD Monaco (2005).

In 1997, together with Gabriela Tudor, he founded the DCM Project Foundation - Dance, Culture, Management (renamed Gabriela Tudor Foundation in 2009 in memory of Gabriela Tudor) and began a work of promotion and development of the choreographic milieu in Romania. Among other projects, he is the co-founder of the Inter/National Centre for Contemporary Dance (1997-1999) and the artistic director of the International Dance Festival Bucharest.West (2001-2003), of Danse.Entre.Deux (Romania-Luxembourg exchange) and Sibiu Dans 2007 (organised within the framework of the programme Sibiu European Capital of Culture 2007). Between 2001 and 2011, he co-founded and co-organised the Balkan Dance Platform (Sofia 2001, Bucharest 2003, Skopje 2005, Ljubljana 2011), a travelling dance platform that has had a strong impact on the development of contemporary dance in the Balkans. In 2009, he was selected among 12 European dancers to participate in the Asia-Europe Dance Forum organised by ASEF and the Alkantara Festival in Lisbon. Following this meeting, he started to travel in Asia to meet artists and new contexts for dance, in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, China and India.

Between 2010-2011, he initiated and co-organized Moving Dialogue, a New York-Bucharest dance exchange for emerging dance artists and writers, in partnership with Mouvement Research, Dance Theater Workshop, the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York and the National Dance Center Bucharest. Between 2011 and 2015, Cosmin Manolescu was co-initiator and artistic director of E-Motional - a European dance programme of mobility and creative exchange led by the Gabriela Tudor Foundation with the financial support of the European Union and developed in partnership with key organisations and artists in Latvia, Portugal, Luxembourg, Cyprus, United Kingdom, Ireland, Turkey (www.e-motional.eu).

In 2012, he received a grant from the Season Foundation (Tokyo) to discover and connect with the Japanese choreographic scene. One year later, in collaboration with Stefania Ferchedau, he developed Eastern Connection, a long-term platform for artistic exchange and collaboration involving Romanian and Japanese artists, dance writers and producers. Within this platform, he collaborated in November 2015 with Zan Yamashita, a choreographer and performer based in Kyoto. In September 2014, during a residency in Tokyo and Kinosaki supported by The Season Foundation, he began experimenting with kites as a tool for reflection on the body, contemporary dance and public spaces.

Between July 2012 and November 2014, Cosmin Manolescu was Artistic Director of the ZonaD dance workshop space and regularly led dance workshops, developed community projects and worked with people with disabilities, leading monthly jam sessions and regularly presenting dance films.

From 2016, he began to develop his own working method - the emotional body, a holistic approach to the body that includes touch, yoga exercises, and subtle sensory movements that he is currently learning around the world and using in his performances. He is currently interested in projects linking the body to the city, landscape and nature. He has been part of the Icon Arts Academy artist-teacher coordination team since 2015 and since 2018 he has been organising an annual outdoor contemporary dance and personal development retreat on Corbu beach every year.

In 2017, he launched the Dans-Wanderer tree project (www.danswanderer.ro), which is about the philosophy of experiential travel and discovery of the unknown. He is the initiator and co-founding member of the collective 4 Corps, which will open in the future - AREAL - a new space for choreographic development.

Simple Pleasures - <https://vimeo.com/397038157>

Imaginarium - <https://vimeo.com/455921856>

Pespectives - <https://vimeo.com/421202965>