

PERFORMING  
ARTS  
ACADEMY  
الأكاديمية  
للتنشيط  
الفني

- PRESENTS -

# DISCONNECT

Directed by: Alex Jessop  
Choreography by: Alex Jessop, Tom Dale and Giuseppe Casiero

Saturday, 4 February  
Sunday, 5 February  
at 7.30 PM

Matinee: Sunday, 5 February  
at 3.00 PM



# DISCONNECT

Directed by: Alex Jessop

Choreography by: Alex Jessop, Tom Dale and Giuseppe Casiero

In a world where we continually feel disconnected, we invite you to come and connect. Bound by no common language and knowing no limits, three individually choreographed pieces collide in a moment of theatrical physicality not to be missed.

## PROGRAMME

### 1. 'SUPERKALEIDER'

Choreographer: Tom Dale

Assistant Choreographer: Jemima Brown

We were interested in creating the appearance of organic systems and structures that would have been too complicated for us to create by individually directing all of the dancers. Instead, we looked at creating and working with creative systems that enabled the dancers to build their own complex relationships, with the hope that these abstract structures allowed their movement to flourish over time. The music of Nils Frahm inspired this interweaving and layering in the work and our commitment to structured complexity.

### 2. 'THE DARK SIDE'

Choreographer: Giuseppe Casiero

Inspired by Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet's "Landfall", 'The Dark Side' recalls Anderson's experience of Hurricane Sandy. Landfall juxtaposes lush electronics and traditional strings by Kronos with Anderson's powerful descriptions of loss, and in this choreography, we explore how human memory can be stronger than catastrophe. The idea of how we handle loss, how we search for meaning in the mystery of it all.

### 3. 'I GOTCHA!'

Choreographer: Alex Jessop

A celebration of the iconic choreography of Bob Fosse. The sass and attitude of brass orchestrations inspire the explosive, theatrical movement as themes of empowerment, status, mystery, and wit are woven through a lively, unapologetic journey of American Jazz dance.

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## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am continually fascinated and challenged by the daily exploration of performing arts within the intersectional, multicultural and beautiful environment that is SPAA, and how our respective art forms interact to communicate our stories, and articulate our human experience. Yet within the complex discoveries we continue to make in this Academy, dance remains for me the purest expression of emotional energy that is not bound by a language structure or any other restrictive force. We can connect as one, from a common place, in a shared experience that is meaningful for all.

In this spirit I am humbled and proud to share this production, where a diverse cohort from multiple nationalities collide in three very different and distinct pieces of choreography, drawing on a range of stimulus and inspiration for their content and their message. As pieces of dance they are disconnected, created with no regard for coherence nor a common theme, yet they are united by the spirit and developing skills of these wonderful young dancers.

I must take a moment to extend my continued gratitude to the dance team here at SPAA for their endless commitment to the development of our students and for their collective and individual talent and passion. Every day is a school day for me! I must also thank my fellow choreographers for their vision and creativity in delivering this work so beautifully. A considerable mention must also go to our incredible Production Arts faculty. We are blessed to have a tireless and exceptionally knowledgeable team surrounding us and it has also been my pleasure to share this journey alongside some very talented and creative students who have been exceptional in their roles and responsibilities across the rehearsal process.

Finally it is my honour to invite you to absorb, unplug and disconnect. Disconnect from expectation, from distraction and interruption, and embrace the energy and honesty of these three moments of dance.

- Alex Jessop (SPAA Programme Leader - Dance)

# PERFORMERS

Anouar Benhmerras  
Ceba Raad  
Fouad Rida  
Hasan Alresheq  
Holly Austin

Karim Ennoury  
Ksenia Klubova  
Lance Guinid  
Mariana Moodad  
Rashid Conteh

Salah Dhaya

Rehearsal Assistant

## STAFF SUPPORT

Alex Jessop  
Tom Dale  
Giuseppe Casiero  
Jemima Brown  
Lisa Rowley  
Natalie Relf

Artistic Director/Choreographer  
Choreographer  
Choreographer  
Assistant Choreographer  
Rehearsal Director  
Choreographic Support

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# PRODUCTION TEAM

Murtaja Alhumaidi  
Sarah El Batraway  
Enas Ezzat  
Ash Bakr  
Maki AlOwa  
Mahrdekar Omran  
Moataz Serif Elboarie  
Ali Hamed Mahmood  
Dina Abd ElMigeed

Assistant Production Manager  
Stage Manager  
Deputy Stage Manager  
Lighting  
Audio Visual  
Audio Visual  
Design Assistant  
Costume Designer and Supervisor  
Costume Assistant

## STAFF SUPPORT

Jacqui George  
Andreas Ehrenberger  
Candeta Bishop  
Nick Wheeler  
John Parkhouse  
Andrea Forde  
Amy Wildgoose  
Jackson Lopez  
Febin Thomas  
Sibin Babu  
Sooraj Nair  
Junaïd Chaudhary  
Rafaqat Khan

Programme Leader - Production Arts  
Production Manager  
Lead Scenic Art Tutor  
Lead Lighting Tutor  
Lead Sound Tutor  
Costume Tutor  
Stage Management Supervisor  
Video Technician  
Sound Technician  
Technician  
Technician  
Deputy Carpenter  
Assistant Carpenter

# CHOREOGRAPHERS

## ALEX JESSOP

Alex trained at Laine Theatre Arts, graduating with the Trinity Level 6 National Diploma in Musical Theatre, BA (Hons) in Musical Theatre and ISTD Modern teaching qualifications. Upon graduating, Alex performed in 'Chicago' (Swing and understudy 'Amos', Adelphi Theatre London), 'We Will Rock You' (1st understudy 'Galileo', Dominion Theatre London), 'Saturday Night Fever' ('Bobby C' and alternate 'Tony Manero', UK Tour and Apollo Victoria Theatre London), and more. He was resident choreographer and Jazz teacher for the prestigious Laine Theatre. Alex also recently represented ArtsEd in Dubai as part of their international outreach programme, bringing the West End to the Middle East.

## GIUSEPPE CASIERO

Giuseppe Casiero was born in Andria (Italy) in 1992 and at the age of 16 he moved to Florence where he attended the Professional Dance Training at the School of Balletto Di Toscana and danced in the same Company. In 2014 he joined as soloist dancer the Nordharzer Stadtebund Theater in Germany. In the same year he made his debut as a choreographer creating the piece SÁRMÁ for the Company. In 2017 he founded the Amniotik Ballet Company. From 2019 till today he took part in various international productions including: Show: Leila, the Land of Imagination at "King Khalid International Stadium" in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Show: Golden Jubilee for EXPO 2020, Dubai (Prod: David Atkins Ent), Closing Ceremony for EXPO 2020 with Christina Aguilera - Art Dir. Daniel Ezralow (Dubai) and Opening Ceremony for the IFMA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP in Abu Dhabi.

## TOM DALE

Tom is a choreographer, dance artist and Artistic Director for Tom Dale Company which he founded in 2010. Here he brings together teams of creatives to explore creative dance and digital art creating contemporary performance work across a wide variety of settings. As a choreographer Tom is as much interested in the empirical knowledge built up by the moving body through movement practices as he is in the crafting and weaving of art forms with new technologies. Tom has created all of TDC's work to date including critically acclaimed pieces Rise, I Infinite, Refugees of the Septic Heart, Step Sonic and Digitopia, which won the award for Outstanding Production at the UK's Theatre and Technology Awards 2017.

## JEMIMA BROWN (ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER)

Jemima Brown is a Dance Artist and singer/songwriter originally from Belfast, Northern Ireland. Since Graduating in 2015, Jemima has been touring and performing in work nationally and internationally with companies such as Tom Dale Company, Shobana Jeyasingh Dance, James Cousins Company and Avant Garde Dance Company. Notably she has been twice nominated for a National Dance Award for her work with Tom Dale Company and James Cousins Company for 'Outstanding Female Modern Performance' and 'The Emerging Artist Award'. As a keen musician, singer/songwriter alongside her dance career, Jemima has released her own EP 'Alter Ego' and various music videos under the artist name MYMA.

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## LISA ROWLEY (REHEARSAL DIRECTOR)

Lisa trained at Trinity Laban in London, and gained a BA HONS in Dance Theatre. She then went on to do her MA with Transitions Dance Company, touring internationally. She then went onto to work with Henri Oguike Dance Company, Ace Dance and Music, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Bawren Tavaziva, Douglas Thorpe and Joss Arnott Dance, whom she continued to work with for nine years. Lisa was Head of contemporary at the prestigious Italia Conti School in London where she was able to choreograph for MOVE IT Exhibition. She then continued her journey in teaching and choreography in the UAE where she is currently Lead Tutor of Dance at Sharjah Performing Arts Academy.