



AEF

DANCE
DEPARTMENT



ACCADEMIA
EUROPEA
DI FIRENZE



DANCE DEPARTMENT

Our mission is to equip artists with skills and talents that they can carry into their professional careers beyond training. AEF's Dance courses are held in collaboration with the Florence Dance Center, a dance school located in the heart of the Oltrarno district. Through the partnership with Florence Dance Center, AEF offers its dance students extensive opportunities to perform in prestigious venues around the city. As a result, our school harbors a community of artists, who play an important part in Florence's community of creatives. The Florence Dance Center was founded in 1987 by Marga Nativo, a former Prima Ballerina Étoile of the Teatro Comunale of Florence who, during her long career of international fame collaborated with the greatest choreographers and danced with the most important dancers in the world.

OUR COURSES

- CHOREOGRAPHY
- DANCE TECHNIQUES
- MODERN DANCE TECHNIQUE
- MUSICAL THEATRE TECHNIQUES
- CONTEMPORARY DANCE
- PARTNERING
- DANCE PEDAGOGY
- JAZZ DANCE
- THEATRICAL DESIGN AND PRODUCTION
- HISTORY OF BALLET
- ITALIAN TOPICS DANCE
- DANCE IN DIFFERENT CULTURES
- SCENOGRAPHY
- STAGE DIRECTION
- DANCE IN EDUCATION
- MOVEMENT AND CREATIVE PRACTICES
- MINDFULNESS SKILLS FOR ART PERFORMERS

SEMESTERS AND TAILOR-MADE COURSES

Most of our courses are offered on a Semester basis (Study Abroad or Bachelor-Level Semesters) but are also available in the Winter and Summer Terms as well as in tailor-made programs.

AEF PERFORMING ARTS BACHELOR-LEVEL SEMESTERS

Dance Theatre and Education

AEF's Dance Bachelor-Level Semesters provide advanced studies in dance for motivated students who want to make dance their principal focus and career in life. Other than providing a motivated and enjoyable atmosphere in order to nurture student education in dance, AEF provides a marvellous environment within which students can grow as human beings, with the Renaissance city of Florence - which is also on the cutting edge of contemporary culture - as a backdrop.

Our recipe of combining the practical with the theoretical is the key to an all encompassing education in dance with the AEF program: dance classes are physically oriented, since practical participation is the key to learning. Theoretical studies then complement and augment learned knowledge acquired through core classes.



Due to the increased interest in the dance program and our commitment to personal student attention, applicants are required to audition for admittance. Students will be evaluated by the dance faculty on the basis of previous training, alignment, maturity of movement, core support and potential.

STRUCTURE AND ASSESSMENT: The program offers personal development both in individual and group contexts. Individual teaching and coaching pertains to creative seminars and workshops in choreography, while the majority of dance classes are conducted in group classes. Classes, among fellow students and teachers, offer a more extensive learning experience, bridging social, cultural and artistic values in a dynamic and interactive setting of dance education.

The program offers a broad range of core classes from dance technique in ballet, modern and jazz, somatic studies and history of dance, complementary courses in music, art and the performing arts, as well as more specialized work in creative choreography and performance. International summer programs of dance and performing arts are at the students disposition for those that want an all-encompassing experience, 365 days of the year. Students are constantly monitored by the regular teaching staff, guest artists and also by peers and other students from the dance and performing arts

professions. Formal assessment is divided by monitored classes at the half point of the semester and final exams and performances at the end of the semester.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES AND FLORENCE: A distinctive forte of our program includes the many performing opportunities during the semesters of activity. Students participate in site-specific performances, special events and outreach programs organized by AEF, and final performances in local theaters at the end of each semester. The city of Florence becomes our dancers' stage, guaranteeing an intense and satisfying practice of experiential learning. Such a strong performance aspect of the program offers students a viable means of asserting artistic prowess and integrity as performers and creators of dance, while providing constant ground for maturation and assessment.

Students are also exposed to dance events from major companies, on stage in Florence during the year. A unique aspect of our program is the close contact and collaboration with the other AEF liberal arts departments, as dancers, artists, singers and musicians team up to express their artistry together, giving students a 360° view on culture and art.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the end of the program, not only will students have acquired the practical and theoretical skills to go on to pursue a career in the world of dance, but they will also be more aware of themselves as artists, within the wider perspective of culture and art. What is more, the connection with the Florence Dance Center and Florence Dance Festival, prestigious international institutions of education and performing arts, offers networking possibilities in areas of performing, master classes, technical know-how, organization, press and logistics.

Thanks to this, students will have a better understanding of the roles on offer in their industry, and what it is to be a professional, that they can take with them into their future career.





OUR TEACHERS:



BRUNELLA BALDI - *COREOGRAPHY*

She began her studies with contemporary and classical dance in Florence. She graduated in Paris at the *Centre International de la Danse* and the *Fédération Française de Danse*. She studied with many French choreographers of "Nouvelle Danse" as well as with Americans. The most significant meeting in her formation is with Dorothy Madden, last witness and collaborator of D. Humphrey. She began working as a choreographer in 1985 and teaches in numerous dance centers.



ARIANNA BENEDETTI - *CONTEMPORARY DANCE*

She began studying dance in 1965, and completed her technical and artistic training with leading international teachers. She has won numerous prizes and has extensive experience on both a professional and teaching level in addition to carrying out an intensive activity as a choreographer.



VALENTINA DOLARA - *MINDFULNESS SKILLS FOR ART PERFORMERS*

With a Law Degree from the University of Florence, Valentina began her work in Human Rights, completing her training at the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in Geneva and the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg. She then expanded her range of interests to Mindfulness practices, studying at the Santa Barbara Institute for Consciousness Studies and Greater Good Center of Berkeley University and collaborating with the University of Florence and Toronto.



ANGELO EGARESE - *CLASSICAL BALLET*

Angelo began his career as a choreographer in 2011, and since then has created and danced in major performances all over Italy and Europe. Since 2012 he has been collaborating on a permanent level with Marga Nativo and Keith Ferrone.



BENEDETTA GHIGLIA - *CLASSICAL BALLET, CONTEMPORARY DANCE*

Born in Florence, she started dancing as a child and trained at the Florence Dance Center, where she studied classical ballet, contemporary dance and tip-tap. She has taken part in numerous performances put on by the Florence Dance Center and worked for the RAI (Italy's national TV company), as well as dedicating much of her time to teaching.

OUR TEACHERS:



MARGA NATIVO - CLASSICAL BALLET

Marga Nativo's professional and artistic itinerary is studded with successes and extraordinary experiences. Former Prima Ballerina Étoile of the Teatro Comunale of Florence, she has danced in the most important theaters under world famous choreographers.

As artistic director of the Florence Dance Center and co-founder of the Florence Dance Festival, she continues in her untiring commitment to spread dancing in all its forms.



SILVIA POLETTI - THE HISTORY OF THE DANCE

With a degree in classical literature, Silvia is a journalist and critic and works for specialized Italian and foreign magazines. She prepares essays and conferences on dance-theater for the main Italian festivals and theaters and is a history lecturer at the Urbino, Venice, Siena and Florence Universities. The author of monographs, she also collaborated in writing *Storia della danza italiana* (2011).



MARA SARDI - MODERN DANCE

Mara began studying modern dance and soon realized that a single way of dancing and conceiving the body was not enough for her, so she began to experiment with different styles, attending schools and workshops throughout Italy. She teaches modern dance, postural gymnastics, stretching, muscle strengthening and spontaneous dance classes. She also continues to pursue her career as a dancer with great success.



GABRIELLA SECCHI - CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Gabriella can boast a solid background and extensive experience as a teacher, but through teaching she started off on her own research journey, focusing on physical energy, in which dance becomes a risk, instinct, speed and expressiveness.





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