

Moving Meeting #9

Biographies (EN)

Marino Ariza is a Colombian choreographer, dancer, and performer. His work weaves together contemporary, urban, and traditional Colombian dance to explore memory, nostalgia, and diverse ways of connecting with audiences. Rooted in movement research, his practice approaches dance as a space for knowledge production, emotional exchange, and community engagement. He holds a degree in Performing Arts with an emphasis on dance and somatics from Javeriana University. In 2025, he was a resident artist in the Limited Edition program at K3 - Tanzplan Hamburg, and he also participated in the Bottom Up Dance School II program. In Colombia, he worked as a dancer and choreographer for television and film and co-directed the traditional dance company Tributo Pisabarro.

Mohammed Ghunaim a.k.a. Ziko is a cultural practitioner and dramaturg based in Hamburg. He worked at Thalia Theater within the 360° – Fonds für Kulturen der neuen Stadtgesellschaft, where he developed formats at the intersection of community, access, and artistic practice. He is currently part of the Tanztriennale Access and Community team. His work focuses on opening institutions, fostering transnational perspectives, and creating spaces for underrepresented voices. With a background in theater and a personal connection to multiple cultural contexts, he brings a practice shaped by lived experience, collaboration, and critical engagement with structures in the arts.

Francesca "Freshca" Waehneltdt is a dancer and choreographer from Hamburg's hip-hop community. Her artistic practice is rooted in hip-hop freestyle culture and engages in dialogue with contemporary choreographic approaches. As a performer, she has collaborated with artists such as José Vidal, Saido Lehlou, Ursina Tossi, Victor Quijada, and Serge Coulibaly. Her work explores collaborative processes both conceptually and structurally, seeking to make the boundary between so-called high culture and subculture more permeable. Alongside her choreographic and performance practice, Waehneltdt develops training and production structures within the hip-hop community. She is the initiator of Spring Battle, the first FLINTA* hip-hop battle in Germany.

Pascal Schmidt (they/them) is a Hamburg-based multimedia artist whose work blends performance, photography, and film to explore themes of identity, gender, and community. With roots in both Germany and Jamaica, Schmidt brings an intersectional perspective shaped by a multicultural background. Originally trained in dance and having performed with major institutions in Hamburg, they now use movement as a core element in interdisciplinary projects. As the founder of the queer performance collective *House of Brownies*, Schmidt is also an active community builder, creating inclusive spaces for artistic expression while combining art with social engagement and activism.

Monique Smith-McDowell is a Choreographer, performer and artistic audio describer. A graduate of London Contemporary Dance School, she has worked with The Lion King, Michael Turinsky and Ursina Tossi among others. Through Monique's work, she aims to highlight and give space to the perspectives of the marginalized in relation to sociopolitical issues. Creating theatre that impacts its audience, tells a story and through its emotive atmosphere, challenges the boundaries, barriers and perspectives both in and out of the theatre doors.