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tanja liedtke foundation
inspiring dance

Newsletter January 2026

2026 Tanja Liedtke Fellowship



We are thrilled to announce the selected fellow(s!) for the **2026 Tanja Liedtke Fellowship**. Given the overwhelming and historic number of applications, the jury found it a great challenge to create a shortlist, let alone choose only one fellow to support, and therefore requested that the foundation support each of the shortlisted artists. Thus, it is with great pleasure that we announce the following recipients of the Tanja Liedtke Foundation.

Lúa Mayenco, Leah Marojevic and Anna Chiedza Spörri

In order to enhance the benefits of supporting multiple artists this year, the selected fellows have agreed to support one another throughout their journeys. Over the year, they will meet both in person and online to share and observe one another's processes and findings, fostering a collaborative spirit that we trust will enrich their experiences. As a collective of distinct artistic voices embarking on varied journeys, we wish these wonderful women the utmost success in their exploration and development this year. We look forward to hearing from them later in the year as they share what they made possible for themselves and their communities through this fellowship.



Lúa Mayenco

"I am a performer, choreographer, and graphic artist from Madrid, currently creating from the city of Copenhagen. I am fascinated by physical expression and curious to understand how to develop a sustainable artistic practice. The Tanja Liedtke Foundation has granted me the time and support to explore the ways in which care, humor, and the embrace of failure transform and define the processes of both making and sharing performative works. To complete this research, in the spring of 2026 I will be travelling to the Milvus Artistic Research Center in Knislinge, Sweden."



Leah Marojevic

"My name is Leah Marojević. I'm from London and based in Berlin. My work as a performer and maker has grown through many years of close collaboration across Europe and the UK. This fellowship supports a long-held curiosity about authorship and gives me the time and space to develop my own choreographic practice more intentionally — something I'm deeply thankful for and very excited about."

(Photo credit: Spyros Rennt)



Anna Chiedza Spörri

"I am always doing something, creating, hosting, teaching, sharing or watching artists, art and others' creativity. I love learning in different cultural contexts and from different people, discovering new realities and getting inspired by my surroundings. My art is personal, often challenging dominant narratives while creating space for new ones to emerge. Being selected as a fellow of the Tanja Liedtke Foundation feels like an essential step in my artistic development, offering a meaningful moment to reflect, deepen my practice and shape the direction of my work in the year ahead."

(Photo credit: Laura Gauch)

Valentina Avila HfMDK Internship 2025/2026 at Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden (HSW)



Valentina Avila at Staatstheater Wiesbaden 2025/2026

Schneeflöckchen

Opera by Nikolai Rimski-Korsakov

News from Alicia:

"Being part of the opera production "Schneeflöckchen" at Hessisches Staatsballett has been very challenging but at the same time, really enriching. The process started at the beginning of December and it will premiere on the 24th of January of 2026. It has been interesting to work in an environment that I'm not familiar with, it is very different and as well very interesting and new. I never worked in an opera before, and it is nice to be surrounded by different talented artists such as the opera singers and the choir. It has been challenging to interpret my character because it has more of an abstract approach than a set personality, and I keep myself busy working on that."

I've been able to train and rehearse with HSW, learn the repertory that they are performing lately "Corp de Walks" by Sharon Eyal and I'm being involved in one of the creation process that the company is working at the moment "Cantos" by Maciej Kuźmiński."

HfMDK Frankfurt, Deutschlandstipendium 2025/2026



Alicia Bonell Fajardo HfMDK Frankfurt (Third year student at HfMDK Frankfurt)

Prof. Damian Gmür writes about the young Colombian:

“Alicia’s potential was impressively demonstrated in the stage projects of the BA Dance program. She convinced me with her expressive yet natural power of expression. In her dance work, Alicia authentically shows sensitivity, emotional depth, and artistic passion. She understands dance not only as an aesthetic medium, but as a form of communication that should touch, move, generate joy, or stimulate reflection. In the summer of 2024, she received a 50% scholarship for Opus Ballet and successfully participated in a certified masterclass week with Claudia Zaccari, Claudia Lavista, and Gisela Vaz. In her studies, rehearsals, and training, Alicia demonstrates an enormous thirst for knowledge and pronounced curiosity. She is always open to artistic and technical feedback. Her positive attitude, combined with her discipline, serves as a role model and motivation for the entire class.”

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