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tanja liedtke foundation
inspiring dance

Newsletter April 2026

Lúa Mayenco - Kicks Off the First of Three Tanja Liedtke Fellowships



Lúa Mayenco
Photo: Bradley Waller

If you remember back to our January newsletter, Lúa Mayenco was chosen as one of our three fellows for 2026. Kicking off the first of the fellowships offered this year, she spent the month of April at the Milvus Artistic Research Center (M.A.R.C.) in a small town called Knislinge in rural Sweden.

Working mostly out of an “old wooden dance hall, with a great disco ball floating in the middle”, Lúa said was “...weirdly inspiring”.

After her first week of the fellowship Lúa reported, “I have spent most of my time alone, trying things, and moves, and pushing judgement away. For now everything is a chaotic soup. I am learning how to trust ... creating space for things to crystallise on their own... I have also been busy creating some nice props and inventing characters.”

As part of her itinerary, Lúa was to be mentored by Rachel Tess resident artist and director at M.A.R.C. “I have observed the work she is engaged with as a performer and some of her fundraising mentorship-sessions. She is a powerhouse from Oregon who, after traveling the whole world as a dancer, ended up in the middle of the Swedish country side, shaking up everything she could. I am happy to be able to learn so much from her. She has shared a lot of reading materials, questionnaires and resources to question my own practice as I shape it. Even if everything is very still around, I am buzzing.”

Catching up with Lúa in the last week of her fellowship, it was clear by her enthusiastic energy and the reflections she shared, that the fellowship had been a valuable adventure for her. She graciously sent us a few words to share about the last few weeks:

“Time, when you are immersed so deeply in a creative research, loses all its edges. I have now been in Knislinge for three weeks, attending my imagination with a clarity I have never experienced before. Just in the past couple of days, I immersed myself in two different collaborative projects. Bradley Waller and I spent a day capturing my choreographic process through his camera lens, suspending the most exciting moments of this thrilling journey. Shortly after, the videographer Graham Adey arrived ready to shoot a dance film, reflecting on the many questions that appear when committing to the practice of making. After such an intense weekend, I feel proud and fulfilled, allowing myself to recognise the courage and trust that it requires to share one's ideas.

Now, approaching the final days at Knislinge, I prepare to become part of MARC's team. On April 24th and 25th, they will be hosting a music and dance festival and I will be joining them to host, exchange and enjoy the work of national and international artists. I am sure this last stretch is still full of eye-opening experiences.”

We are proud to have been able to support Lúa Mayenco for this fellowship, and looking forward to seeing more from her for many years to come



Lúa Mayenco
Photos: Bradley Waller

40th Annual Choreographic Competition in Hannover

Ten Years of Our Supporting the Ballet Society



This year, from the 11th until the 13th of June, the Hannover Ballet Society will host its 40th choreographic competition. This will be the tenth year that the Tanja Liedtke Foundation has sponsored the competition. Paul White, will travel to Hannover to present the top award to the chosen choreographer.

Twenty choreographic pieces, between 5-12mins in length, have been selected to be showcased throughout the three day event. The main jury for this anniversary edition of the competition; **Roy Assaf, Tu Hoang, Goyo Montero, Sofia Nappi, Christiane Winter, and Gregor Zöllig**, will have the challenging role of selecting the prize winners, in what is historically a very rich display of creative, well-executed, world class performances. See the competition's website for more details:

[Hannover Choreography News](#)

The "Startup" - Helps Launch Valentia Avila Out Into the Dance Profession



Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Schneeflöckchen, Tanz und Tanzstatisterie, Chor und Extrachor.
Photo: Max Borchardt

The "Startup" is an initiative organised by the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst (Frankfurt) as a collaboration between the Tanja Liedtke Foundation and the Hessische Staatstheater Wiesbaden. One of the first projects gave Valentina Avila an extra "leg up" to get into the dance profession. More to come about Valentina's progress in the future!

RESONANCE - by James Batchelor



RESONANCE of James Batchelor with the whole team.
Photo: Janie Barrett

A special thank you to all our donors for their generous support of our project RESONANCE, choreographed by James Batchelor. The piece has already been shown to acclaim in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne (Australia). The work unites three generations of Australian dancers in a moving celebration of memory, connection, and reinvention. Batchelor explores the legacy of Tanja Liedtke and her work, and honours the bodies of dancers who worked closely with her as living archives.

Thank you for contributing to realise a project so close to the foundation's purpose and inspirations.

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