

# Subject/Object/Practice/Place: Connecting Creatively Through the Performing Arts

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the School of Performing  
Arts, University of Malta, 2024

In partnership with Creative Europe Desk - Malta

20–22 March 2024

Valletta Campus and Online

## Programme



**L-Università ta' Malta**  
School of Performing Arts



**Co-funded by  
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# Conference Theme

Creative connections are an important part of the performing arts, with the inspiration and intention of the process/product often seeking to push the boundaries of artistic expression for the creator, performer, and witness. The past few years have seen the discipline in a state of reconfiguration, and for artists, educators, performers, and researchers, adaptation was necessary. But what remained at the heart of the performing arts was the desire to continue to formulate these connections, exploring the physical, musical, emotional, and visceral. Many of the “traditional” modes of creation and practice were redefined, altering the modes of conception and perception. And yet, the basic creative parameters never changed – and there was a continuation to dance/sing/play/compose/act/make art. Moving forward, what has been discovered is that the goal of the arts has not changed, but more possibilities have been revealed, leaving it in a new state of creative hybridisation.

Our 2024 SPA Conference theme, *Subject/Object/Practice/Place: Connecting Creatively Through the Performing Arts* seeks to explore these connections, both past to present. Over the three days of the conference, we want participants to encounter, recount, and explore, both physically and theoretically, sources of motivation and collaboration. As such, we intend to provide opportunities for both theoretical presentations and practical workshops. As can be seen, by the quite broad title, exploring different modes of transmission is of interest, and outside-of-the-box thinking is encouraged! It is hoped that by the end of the conference, new links for creative, performative, and educational opportunities in and through the performing arts will have been presented and (re)discovered.

Conference hashtag: **#spaconference24 #creativeeuropedeskmalta**

Conference Conveners:

**Dr Deborah Williams**

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**Mrs Margherita Borg Buhagiar**

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PhD Candidate, School of Performing Arts  
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# Programme

Times are in CET (GMT+1)

An asterisk \* indicates remote presenters and sessions.

All keynote speakers and paper presentation sessions will be streamed live via Zoom. Unless indicated, individual papers will be 15 - 20 minutes. Please note that some panels are a mix of individual/collaborative papers and practice-based presentations.

Zoom links will be sent via email to everyone registered for the conference.

## Notes on Room Allocation:

The Wednesday and Friday plenary sessions (opening of the conference and two keynote sessions) will take place in **Aula Magna**.

The Thursday keynote session will take place in **Aula Prima**.

All other sessions have the room allocation written down next to the title.

## Notes of Film Showings:

Films that were submitted to this conference will be shown on loop in Room 5 from 11:00 - 16:00 across all three days of the conference.

## **DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024**

### **08:00 - 08:30 Registration**

**08:30 - 09:00 Welcome and opening of the conference: Prof Phillip Ciantar, Dr Deborah Williams, Margherita Borg Buhagiar**

### **9:00-10:30 Plenary session: Keynote 1 - Level 1 - Aula Magna\***

Speaker: Prof Amanda Bayley, 'Eco-creative approaches to environmental listening and intercultural musicking'

Moderator: Dr Max Erwin

### **10:30-11:00 Break**

### **11:00-12:30 Parallel session: Panel 1 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 101\***

*Historical Rhythms: A Tapestry of Socio-Politics and the Arts*

Dr Stacey Prickett, 'Cold War European arts festivals: Dancing in politicised spaces'

Dr Max Erwin, 'Music and Conservative Revolution: Performing German Identity on the Operatic Stage'

\*Dr Kathrina Farrugia-Kriel, 'As she danced one evening in late spring...Choreography as subject/object/practice/place in *The Longing* (1978)'

Dr Tyrone Grima, 'Queer characters on the Maltese stage in the 1970s and 1980s'

Moderator: Dr Deborah Williams

### **11:00-12:30 Parallel session: Panel 2 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 102\***

*Articulations of Insight: Navigating the Artistic Process*

Dr Francesca Placanica, 'Creative Shared Spaces: Turning the Music Room into a Laboratory'

Prof Haftor Medbøe, 'From a place of silence: articulations of the unspoken'

\*Troy Coleman, 'No-Roling – Performer Wellness Between Roles'

Prof Frank Camilleri, Book Presentation, 'Performer Training for Actors and Athletes (2023)'

Moderator: Prof Frank Camilleri

**11:00-12:30 Parallel session: Panel 3 - Practice-Based Presentations (30 minutes each)  
- Level 0 - Theatre**

*Harmonising History: Unraveling the Diversity of Musical Heritage*

Prof Philip Ciantar, ‘*Ja Baħar*’ (‘*O Sea*’): Sea Migration Tragedies, Musical Response, Ethnography, and Advocacy in Musical Composition’

Dr Jun Kai Pow, ‘Photographs and/as Patrimony: A Video History of Indo-Dutch Musical Memory’

Moderator: Dr John Galea

**11:00-13:00 Workshop - 1 hour Outdoors and 1 hour in Room 103**

Dr Katie Beswick, ‘Poetic Dramaturgies: A City Exploration Workshop’  
(Meet in the Valletta Campus Entrance Hallway)

**12:30-14:00 Break**

**13:30 - 14:00 Creative Europe Desk Malta - Level 1 - Meeting Room 101**

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**14:00-15:30 Parallel session: Panel 1 - Level 0 - Meeting Room 6 \***

*VR and Choreographic Thinking: Roundtable Discussion*

Speakers:

\*Dr John D’Arcy

\*Patricia Okenwa

\*Margherita Landi and/or Agnese Lanza

Dr Paula Guzzanti

Moderator: Dr Paula Guzzanti

**14:00-15:30 Parallel session: Panel 2 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 102\***

*Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Navigating Leadership and Inclusion in the Arts*

Ilona Baldacchino and Jo Butterworth, 'Leadership skills, disability, and the performing arts: The Opening Doors Context' (30 minutes)

Anna Püschel, 'Dancing Hands' (1 hour)

Moderator: Sara Accettura

**14:00-15:30 Workshop - Level 1 - Aula Magna**

Kerstin Stutterheim, '(How) Can Dramaturgy Support Your Creativity?' (1 hour 30 minutes)

**14:00-15:30 Workshop - Level 0 - Theatre**

Juliana Ruiz Torres, 'Contemporary? An Embodied Inquiry' (1 hour 30 minutes)

**15:30-16:00 Break**

**16:00 – 18:00 Parallel session: Panel 1 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 102\***

*From Pain to Purpose: Explorations of Trauma and Wellbeing in the Arts*

Dagmara Gizlo, 'The Plays of Marina Carr and Contemporary Psychology: A Cross-Disciplinary Study'

Gioia Filocamo, 'UMbRiA, Music & Wellness for a Healthy Society: A Collaborative Project among High Education Artistic Institutes'

Kara Flanagan, 'Connecting Creatively with the Craft of Performance: Creating Drama Curriculum to Address Musician Performance Anxiety'

Nesrin Alrefaai & Nikki Disney, 'A Practice-Oriented Framework for Addressing Trauma in Plays: *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*' (30 minutes)

Moderator: TBA

**16:00 – 18:00 Workshop - Level 1 - Aula Magna**

Josephine Calvo, 'Karate for Actor Training' (30 minutes)

Esther Venrooij, 'Thinking Bodies, Radical Scores' (1 hour)

**16:00 – 18:00 Workshop - Level 0 - Theatre**

Ivana Jelača, 'Stay Tuned: Rethinking Rituals and Performative Concepts of Classical Music' (2 hours)

**16:00 - 17:00 ONLINE Workshop\* - Level 1 - Meeting Room 101**

\*Eleni Kolliopoulou, 'Rock, Paper, Scissors' (30 minutes - participants need to have their own headphones)

**18:00 – 20:00 Networking Sessions**

**DAY 2 – THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2024**



**08:30 - 09:00 Registration**

**9:00-10:30 Plenary session: Keynote 2 - Level 2 - Aula Prima\***

Speaker: Cara Hagan, 'Where Ritual and Civic Practice Meet'

Moderator: Dr Paula Guzzanti

**10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break**

**11:00-12:30 Parallel Session: Panel 1 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 101\***

*Soundscapes of Knowledge: Approaches to Music Pedagogy*

Sue Richardson, 'Musostudy: an innovative, bespoke pedagogy to enhance learning in Higher Popular Music Education'

Dovile Kazonaite, 'The Dual Identity of a Singer: Exploring Two Bodies and Their Artistic Expression'

Francesco Venturi, 'Voice Training between Metaphor and Somatics'

Jack Adler-McKean, 'All the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order: In search of sustainability at the interface of materiality, timbre, and performance practice'

Moderator: Prof Philip Ciantar

**11:00-12:30 Parallel Session: Panel 2 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 102\***

*Evoking Emotions, Challenging Norms: Critical Conversations Through Artists' Perspectives*

Dr Rowena Gander, 'Objectification: Reperforming the Work of Marina Abramovic'

Dorota Sosnowska, 'The reincarnation of *St Orlan*. Carnal creativity in the 1990's'

Nicholas Arnold, 'Not Mike Leigh'

Ciarán Crilly, 'Once More Without Feeling: Kurtág, Beckett, and the Search for New Beginnings'

Moderator: Dr Mario Frendo

**11:00 – 13:00 Workshop & Practice-Based Presentation - Level 0 - Theatre**

Marie Hay, 'Speakingdance: performing being with speech and dance' (1 hour)

Laura Farré Rozada, 'How to Implement Conceptual Simplification on Ofer Ben-Amots' The Butterfly Effect: Reflecting on a New Problem-Solving Method for the Analysis, Learning and Memorisation of a Commissioned Piano Work' (1 hour)

**11:00 – 13:00 Workshop - 2 hours Outdoors**

Victoria Hunter & Heike Salzer, 'Moving and Mapping: Exploring body-site relations through counter-cartography' (Meet in the Valletta Campus Entrance Hallway)

**12:30 – 14:00 Coffee Break**

**13:30 - 14:00 Creative Europe Desk Malta - Level 1 - Meeting Room 101**

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**14:00-15:30 Parallel session: Panel 1 - Level 1 - Meeting - Room 101\***

*Dramaturgy Decoded: Crafting Narrative, Shaping Perspective*

Sylvia Solakidi, 'A trans Existence that cancels Cancel Culture – the Dramaturgy of Jan Fabre's *Peak Mytikas*'

Prof Gill Foster, '*Arschylus Reborn*: how the lost *Danaid Tetralogy* is being reinvented for contemporary global audiences in an innovative creative partnership between theatre professionals and the academy'

Dr Mario Frendo, 'Performance Dramaturgies in Opera: Stanislavsky and the Musico-Dramatic Text'

Dr Katerina Grohmann, 'The leading tendencies in the productions of Stockhausen's *LIGHT* – operas in recent years'

Moderator: Kerstin Stutterheim

**14:00-15:30 Parallel session: Panel 2 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 102\***

*Dancing Borders, Bridging Cultures: Exploring Interculturality*

\*Josephine Doofan Gande, 'Movements Significance of the Tsue Tsue (cat) Dance and the Tiv's philosophy of "Ya Na Agbian".'

Floyd Favel & Sabina Sweta Sen-Podstawska, 'Creating with the dramatic text in progress 'Passage of the sun': Connecting across cultures, lands, bodies, movements and stories'  
(30 minutes)

\*Subhashini Goda Venkataramani, 'What is Indian about Bharatanatyam?'

Moderator: Dr Deborah Williams

**14:00-15:30 Parallel session: Panel 3 - Practice Based Presentations - Level 1 - Meeting Room 103\***

*Agency and Artistry: Navigating Creative Connections*

Lisa Kendell & Rachel Rimmer-Piekarczyk, 'Agency and Awakening: Creative Connections Attributed to Reckless Sleepers' A String Section' (30 minutes)

Adrienne Ming, 'I Don't Dance Now, I Make Money Moves' (30 minutes)

Moderator: Josh Slater

**14:00 – 15:30 Workshop - Level 0 - Theatre**

Dr Morag Galloway & Nicola Forshaw, '*Mus(e)Dance Practice Research: Exploring Cross-Disciplinary Collaborations*' ( 1hour 30 minutes)

**15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break**

**16:00 – 17:30 Parallel session: Panel 1 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 103\***

*Arts-Tech Odyssey: Navigating Multimedia Performance*

Angela Woodhouse, 'Who Cares: A Reflection on Thermal Imaging Video Project'

\*Kurtis Lesick, 'Performance and the Beginning and End of Subjectivity'

Patrick Gusset, 'The Future of the Earth: Pre-enacting Climate Scenarios – Pre-enactment as Research'

Moderator: Dr Maragaret Westby

**16:00 – 17:30 Parallel session: Panel 2 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 101\***

*Location, Location: Exploring Alternate Spaces and Creative Frontiers*

Georgia Petroudi, 'Location and society as a research exploration embedded in artistic creation: some examples of music by Cypriot composers'

\*Dr Clare Lesser, 'Disseminating Connectivity: *Musik für ein Haus* and *Fresco* as Mobile Event'

James Kenworth, 'The use of public environment as alternative auditoria and 'mixed economy' participation to create new writing which originates from, and is rooted in, a community's history, culture and people'

\*Heather Kelly, 'Hope Springs Eternal: Performing Grief and Resilience in Boulder's Columbia Cemetery'

Moderator: Dr Vicky Hunter

**16:00 – 17:00 Workshop - Level 2 - Aula Prima**

Sarah Vella & Benjamin Cachia, 'Moving Beyond' (1 hour)

**16:00 – 18:00 Workshop - Level 0 - Theatre**

Thomas Page, 'Connectivity towards interconnectivity' (2 hours)

**16:00 - 17:00 ONLINE Workshop - Level 1 - Meeting Room 102\* (1 hour)**

\*Caroline Butcher, 'Impossible Tasks as a Means to Possibility'

**08:30 - 09:00 Registration**

**9:00-10:30 Plenary session: Keynote 3 - Level 1 - Aula Magna\***

Speakers: Lee Miller and Joanne "Bob" Whalley, 'Subject/Object/Practice/Place: Practising Digital Senescence'

Moderator: Dr Marco Galea

**10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break**

**11:00-12:30 Parallel Session: Panel 1 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 101\***

*Empowering Connections: The Impact of Community Engagement in the Arts*

Emma Meehan, 'Sharing Harmony: Practicing Dialogue in Amerta Movement'

\*Maja Milatovic-Ovadia, 'Possibilities of collaborative theatre and ludic practices in the post-war reconciliation process'

Susie Crow, 'Drawing Dance: cross art collaboration and dialogue in practice'

José Dias, 'Off Screen: Musicking archive film and reinterpreting collective memory in Coventry'

Moderator: Prof Jo Butterworth

**11:00-12:30 Parallel Session: Panel 2 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 102\***

*Symbiotic Dialogues: Navigating Human and Non-Human Agency in the Performing Arts*

Mireille E. Camilleri, 'Human & Non-Human Agency in Performance'

\*Inga Romantsova, 'Evreinov and Creativity'

Prof Frank Camilleri, 'Time to Waste: Learning in Performance'

\*Aliyu Yakubu Abdulkadir & Josephine Doofan Gande, 'Drama as a Tool for Societal Reflection and Reform: An Appraisal of Bode Ojoniyi's A Play of the Palliatives'

Moderator: Prof Frank Camilleri

**11:00 – 13:00 Workshop - Level 0 - Theatre (2 hours)**

Lilly Kind, 'Flying Home: A Critical Embrace of Queerness & Africanist Aesthetics in David Zambrano's Flying Low & Passing Through'

**12:30 – 14:00 Coffee Break**

**13:30 – 14:00 Student Panel - Level 0 - Meeting Room 6\***

Alex Jatosti, 'The Dialectic of Subjectivity in Thomas Mann's Doctor Faustus'

Lilla Kedves, 'And there is the rhythm of madness' – The Representation of Mental Disorders on the Contemporary Stage'

Sarah Sammut, 'A Case Study on the Minority Group of Maltese Male Dancers'

Antea Buro, 'Polùtropos - representation of a "multifaced" word'

Moderator: Dr Deborah Williams

**14:00-15:30 Parallel session: Panel 1 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 102\***

*Tech-Tuned: Exploring the Intersection of Technology and the Performing Arts*

\*Dr Kirsty Russel, '360° Immersive Dance-Making and Performance as an Expanded Screendance Practice'

Abigail May Parker, 'Retro-Futuristic 'ABBA'atars': The Modernised Role of the Audience'

\*Huiyue Wen, 'The Evolution of Screen-to-Stage Musical Theatre Adaptations: A Practical Exploration' (30 minutes)

Moderator: Dr Paula Guzzanti

**14:00-15:30 Parallel session: Panel 2 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 101\***

*Rhythms of Revolution: Shaping the Conversation in the Performing Arts*

Kathryn Stamp, 'The closeness of us: dance research trajectories and relationality'

\*Karen Wood, 'Freelancing in Dance – What and where are the practices of care?'

Sara Wookey, 'A Shared Aliveness at Louvre Lens Park: Play, Rest and Proximity'

Moderator: Dr Cristina de Lucas

**14:00-15:30 Parallel session: Panel 3 – Practice-based presentations - Level 1 - Meeting Room 103\***

*Falling and Failing: Experiments with Risk and Reward*

Josh Slater, 'Catching the fall: Landing between documentation and the experiential'

Dr Joseph Mercier, 'Desperate Gestures: Queer Presence as a Choreopolitical Practice'

\*Anna Pilot, 'It's Personal: Asking an Audience to Risk Failure' (30 minutes)

Moderator: Dr Andrew Sanger

**14:00-15:30 Workshop - Level 1 - Aula Magna**

Sara Accettura & Moritz Zavan Stoeckle, 'Composing and creating movement through the auditory and visual stimuli: connecting practices through a sensory approach' (1 hour)

**15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break**

**16:00 – 17:30 Parallel session: Panel 1 - Level 1 - Meeting Room 101\***

*Navigating Narratives: Intertwining Story and Scenarios in the Performing Arts*

Cristina de Lucas, 'Literature as a source of creativity for dance'

Dr Andrew Sanger, 'Storytelling and the Alchemy of Experience: Making meaning in environmental movement practice'

Ayşegül Begüm Kuntman, 'The Use of Choreography in Contemporary Choir Performances: movement and musical storytelling across various choral repertoires.'

Andi Johnson, 'Crafting Collaborative Narratives on Identity: building archives within, across, and between dance cultures'

Moderator: Dr Stacey Prickett

**16:00 – 17:00 Workshop - Level 0 - Theatre**

Dance Beyond Borders - Deborah Falzon & Julienne Schembri, 'Transformative Dance for Social Change' (1 hour)

**16:00 - 17:30 ONLINE Workshop\* - Level 1 - Meeting Room 102**

\*Lucie Sykes, 'Game changer: body-mind awareness within movement practices'  
(1 hour)

**17:45 - 18:15 Closing Plenary - Level 1 - Aula Magna\***

**18:00 - 20:00 10th Anniversary Reception - Level 0 Corridor**