

# Scholarships for the workshop with Rafaële Giovanola

Choreographer Rafaële Giovanola (CocoonDance) will teach a three-day intensive workshop during the Tanzfestival Winterthur.

WED 25.11.2026 10:00-14:00  
THU 26.11.2026 10:00-16:00  
FRI 27.11.2026 10:00-16:00 with a SHOWING at 19:30 at the Tanzfestival Winterthur

We offer 10 scholarships for this workshop.

Scholarship includes:

- workshop fee
- dinner at the festival
- tickets to the performances at the festival during the workshop
- accomodation (if necessary)

Criteria: The workshop is for professional dancers/dance makers/dance pedagogues who are working and living in Switzerland

Course language: English

Application deadline: 1st of October 2026

To apply for the scholarship send:

- Motivation letter (max. 1 page A4) stating why you need a scholarship and how this workshop could potentially benefit you and your work
- CV (max. 2 pages A4)

everything in English to: [info@tanzinwinterthur.ch](mailto:info@tanzinwinterthur.ch)

You can participate in this workshop without applying for the scholarship. The only criteria is a professional level in dance. Participation without scholarship costs CHF 180.-.

This fee includes dinners at the festival and tickets to the performances on the nights of the workshop.

[www.tanzfestivalwinterthur.ch](http://www.tanzfestivalwinterthur.ch)



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# Movement LAB with Rafaële Giovanola (CocoonDance)

## *In Search of the Unthought Body*

This intensive LAB invites participants to explore the body beyond technique, style, or expectation. Rooted in Rafaële Giovanola's long-term research – the search for the unthought body– the workshop opens a space where perception, instinct, and physical memory become engines for movement. Through precise yet simple tasks, a body emerges that is not choreographed in advance but discovered in real time: a body that thinks through sensation rather than intention.

Participants are encouraged to access their own narrative, emotional, and physical potential, allowing movement to arise directly from the moment and from the shared studio environment.

Across the three days, we will enter different universes from CocoonDance's repertoire, with particular attention to Momentum #2, curated for the Winterthur Festival. This work investigates extreme spinal articulation, bounce, exhaustion, heightened reactivity, and body-to-body communication. These states push the body toward unfamiliar territories, opening new modes of presence, attention, and relationality.

The LAB culminates in a shared public rehearsal, offering an insight into the research process and the emergent physicalities developed collectively.

## About Rafaële Giovanola

Swiss, born in the USA, Rafaële Giovanola is a choreographer and the artistic director of CocoonDance, the company she founded in 2000 with dramaturg Rainald Endraß. Before establishing CocoonDance, she was a celebrated soloist with several international companies, most notably William Forsythe's Frankfurt Ballet.

Since 2004, Giovanola has created more than forty productions and co-curates the dance program at Theater im Ballsaal (Bonn). Under her direction, CocoonDance has become a prominent voice in contemporary dance, recognized for its rigorous physical research, distinctive dramaturgical approach, and strong commitment to cultural education. The company tours internationally across five continents and appears regularly at major festivals including German Dance Platform, STEPS, Rencontres Chorégraphiques Internationales de Saint-Denis, Les Hivernales, Antigal, CODA Festival, and MILANoLTRE.

Her commissioned work SPHYNX for TanzMainz received the FAUST Prize in 2022, and in 2024 she was honored with the D&D Award for Choreography (Italy). Giovanola's artistic practice is driven by improvisation, heightened bodily perception, and a collaborative process that continually expands the possibilities of contemporary movement.



Photo: Sabrina Weniger / IDAS NRW