

SPRING 2025

# CARTE BLANCHE

THE  
NORWEGIAN  
NATIONAL  
COMPANY  
OF  
CONTEMPORARY  
DANCE

FEEL FREE >

Dear audience,

How can art inspire change, foster dialogue, and deepen empathy? These are questions that guide our work.

At all levels of the company's artistic practice, we are committed to exploring how art can empower individuals, challenge the status quo, and offer new perspectives.

I am excited to share the two new creations for 2025 featuring the 14 dancers of the company.

*HOW ROMANTIC* is a new piece by Greek choreographer *Katerina Andreou*, set to premiere on March 6th. It is a highly physical and sensory performance that delves into themes of human labor, authenticity, and the complexities of relationships and power dynamics.

Inspired by Pollack's film *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*, it emphasizes endurance, resistance, and the essential support offered by partnership between dancers and the empathetic connection forged with the audience.

Movement unfolds as a living organism, while music plays a crucial role focusing on the audience's emotional and sonic experience.

Through poetic and rhythmically absurd scenes, the performance blends strength and fragility, fueled by collective energy and mutual support. The title carries an ironic twist, challenging traditional ideas of romance and audience expectations.

*CANCEL BERTHA* by renowned Belgian choreographer *Jan Martens* premieres on May 22nd.

Martens' work unfolds as a dynamic tapestry where tradition, innovation, and cultural relevance seamlessly intertwine. Renowned for his thematic explorations, he creates spaces that celebrate individuality while fostering connections. Using rhythm structures, musical scores, and mathematics as a foundation, he creates a thought-provoking and playful performance that balances structure with spontaneity.

Together, these creations enrich our repertoire, offering audiences a varied and engaging artistic experience while celebrating the innovative spirits of *Katerina Andreou* and *Jan Martens*.

Additionally, we are excited to tour three pieces from our repertoire during spring 2025.

The 2023 creation *BIRGET; WAYS TO DEAL, WAYS TO HEAL* by Sami artists *Elle Sofe Sara* and *Joar Nango* returns to Northern Norway, where the project began.

We are delighted to perform the piece at the *Sami National Theater Beavivväs* and at *Alta Kultursal* in early February. Winner of the 2023 *Norwegian Dance Critics Award*, the piece approaches political engagement with sensitivity.

Sara and Nango subtly invite us to join a community and begin the healing process of a traumatic history between the Norwegian and the Sami people.

### MONUMENT 0.10: THE LIVING MONUMENT

by *Eszter Salamon* has been acclaimed at major European festivals, including *Ruhrtriennale*, *Festival d'Automne* and *Julidanse*. In 2025, it will be presented at the *Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles*, at *Théâtre de la Ville* in Paris, at the *Lyon Dance Biennale*. *Salamon* won the *Hedda Award* for best costume design in this mesmerizing piece.

We continue our collaboration with *Eszter Salamon*, developing a new project with Folk Film and Studio ES. *LANDSCAPING*, a video installation, draws inspiration from natural landscapes, dissolving the boundary between nature and culture. Filmed around Bergen, it merges choreography with seashores, mountains, forests, and glaciers. Bodies, colors, and materials form performative paintings, enhanced by music and cinematic techniques. This collaborative work, supported by partners across Europe and Norway, will premiere at the *Lyon Dance Biennale* in 2025 and be presented at *KODE Art Museums and Composers Homes* as part of *Bergen International Festival* in 2026.

Following a successful 2024 tour in Switzerland and France, *SOVACO DE COBRA* by Brazilian choreographer *Lander Patrick* travels to *Festival Italicá* in June. *Lander* crafts a hypnotic symphony of movement, juxtaposing drama and joy. The precision of movement and musicality shape both the composition and meaning of the piece.

These performances will be accompanied by several complementary encounters between the company and the audiences, such as artists talks, dance or

discussive workshops, and screenings of a documentary film that give context to the performances.

We believe in the importance of extending the experience of the art forms beyond the performances, and we are happy to engage our skills and human resources to make it happen.

ABJ

PHOTO: ØRSTEIN HAARA



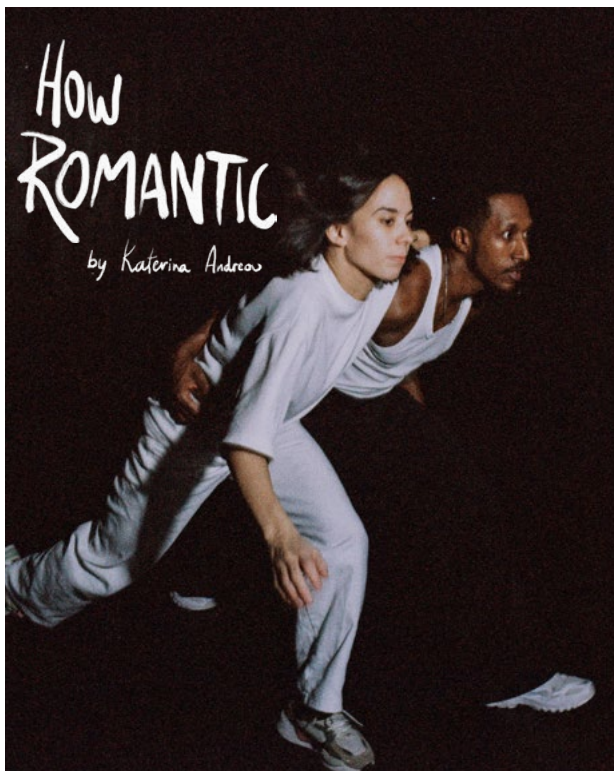


PHOTO: STIAN SENSØS

Duration 60 min

**HOW ROMANTIC** is a marathon with no finish line – a sprint towards something intangible.

*HOW ROMANTIC* is a deeply ironic commentary on how we experience struggles of life as a spectacle – both in their grand gestures and smallest details. We witness an intense marathon, echoing the dance marathons during the Great Depression in the US.

There are no winners or losers – only 14 seasoned dancers, in couples, alone, or as a herd of horses, negotiating their way through movement and sound in a relentless choreography. Through feats of strength, joy, and fatigue, they urge each other in an energetic mix of abandon and rigorous discipline. It's a collision of order and chaos in a fevered search for something real.

*HOW ROMANTIC* creates space for reflection – on power and relations, intimacy, forced entertaining and maybe the role of love as the ultimate finishing line for any race, even when it feels unattainable.

**CONCEPT & CHOREOGRAPHY**

**Katerina Andreou**

**ARTISTIC ASSISTANT**

**Costas Kekis**

**SOUND DESIGN**

**Katerina Andreou**

**Cristián Sotomayor**

**MUSIC ARRANGEMENT**

**Cristián Sotomayor**

**LIGHTING DESIGN**

**Yannick Fouassier**

**COSTUME DESIGN**

**Indrani Balgobin**

**Key dates**

**World premiere,  
Studio Bergen<sup>NO</sup>  
March 6**

**Performances,  
Studio Bergen<sup>NO</sup>  
March 7–8, 11–14**

**The Norwegian Opera  
& Ballet, Oslo<sup>NO</sup>  
March 19–22**



Co-produced by Bergen International Festival

Duration 75 min

**CANCEL BERTHA** moves to its own rhythm - a playful blend of energy, curated chaos, and unexpected creativity. The performance reflects Jan Martens' signature approach: reimagining dance as a space for individuality, connection, and subtle humor. Scenes flow seamlessly from one moment to the next, blurring the boundaries between moments of ecstatic group energy and sequences of suspended intimacy.

In *CANCEL BERTHA*, music isn't always what you hear—it's what you see and feel. True to Martens' fascination with rhythm, structure, and music scores, the dancers' movements become their own soundscape. Silence holds as much weight as motion, and patterns emerge with geometry in delightful ways.

*CANCEL BERTHA* is bold without being brash, playful, yet precise. It's a dense dance

evening that draws inspiration from polyrhythms and a love for layered storytelling. The Carte Blanche ensemble crafts a performance that balances the poppy, the avant-garde, and the deeply human.

**CHOREOGRAPHY**

**Jan Martens**

**CHOREOGRAPHIC ASSISTANT**

**Naomi Gibson**

**SCENOGRAPHY**

**Joris van Oosterwijk**

**LIGHTING DESIGN**

**Elke Verachert**

**COSTUME DESIGN**

**Indrani Balgobin**

**Key dates**

**World premiere,  
Studio Bergen<sup>NO</sup>  
May 22**

**Performances,  
Studio Bergen<sup>NO</sup>  
May 23–24, 27–31**

CARTE BLANCHE PRESENTS

# BIRGET; WAYS TO DEAL, WAYS TO HEAL



PHOTO © STEIN HAARA

By Elle Sofe Sara & Joar Nango

Co-produced by Bergen International Festival,  
The Norwegian Opera & Ballet, Nordic Next & BIT Teatergarasjen

Duration 60 min

In recent decades, several Western countries have set up commissions to investigate the history of minority groups subjected to systematic state abuse.

*BIRGET; WAYS TO DEAL, WAYS TO HEAL* is a response to the Norwegian Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which in June 2023 submitted proposals to reconcile the Sami and Norwegian people.

Birget is a Sami expression that describes a state of mastering or surviving in a changing environment. Driven by birget, Sara, Nango, and Carte Blanche invite the audience to overcome the fear of touching a heavy and challenging topic with a frisky performance that questions social and political boundaries, limitations, and today's climate of reconciliation.

IDEA AND CONCEPT

Elle Sofe Sara

Joar Nango

CHOREOGRAPHY

Elle Sofe Sara

SCENOGRAPHY

Joar Nango

COSTUME DESIGN

Indrani Balgobin

COMPOSER

Anders Rimpi

LIGHTING DESIGN

Arne Kambestad

DRAMATURG

Thomas Schaupp

CHOREOGRAPHY ASSISTANT

Alexandra Wingate

RESEARCH

Rávdná Turi Henriksen

Key dates

Alta Kultursal<sup>NO</sup>

February 4

Beaivváš Sámi Theatre,

Kautokeino<sup>NO</sup>

February 6

# SOVACO DE COBRA (SNAKE'S ARMPIT)



PHOTO: ØRSTEIN HAAARA

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**By Lander Patrick**

Co-produced by Bergen International Festival 2022

Duration 60 min

In *SOVACO DE COBRA* (English: snake's armpit), we invite you into a world where the social rules are underpinned by an unfair game which gives arbitrary and brutal results.

Using the angle of chess – informed by his fascination with the duality of this strategic and warlike game – Patrick creates an energetic performance where new rules emerge, and the pieces of the game are challenged.

*SOVACO DE COBRA* is made for nine of Carte Blanches dancers who throw themselves into the game with warmth and vitality. The performance is full of virtuosity, and sharp and crisp movements; and the dancers orient themselves in a whirlwind of rhythms, tempo, and playfulness.

**CHOREOGRAPHER**

**Lander Patrick**

**DRAMATURGE**

**Jonas Lopes**

**CONCEPT COSTUME DESIGNER**

**Lander Patrick**

**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

**Rui Daniel**

**MUSICAL DIRECTION**

**Lander Patrick**

**COMPOSER AND  
SOUND DESIGNER**

**Mestre André**

**ORIGINAL SONG**

**"Art or a fart"**

**DANCERS**

**Adrian Bartczak**

**Brecht Bovijn**

**Caroline Eckly**

**Dawid Lorenc**

**Gaspard Schmitt**

**Ihsaan de Banya**

**Mai Lisa Guinoo**

**Nadege Kubwayo**

**Noam Eidelman Shatil**

13

**Key dates**

**Festival Italicá, Sevilla<sup>ES</sup>  
June 20–21**

CARTE BLANCHE PRESENTS

# MONUMENT 0.10: THE LIVING MONUMENT



PHOTO © STEIN HAARA

By Eszter Salamon

Duration 135 min

## MONUMENT 0.10: THE LIVING MONUMENT

creates a world based on colour and slowed movement.

In a magnificent scenography the audience is taken on a meditative journey through vibrant tableaux in a dreamlike universe where time almost stands still. *THE LIVING MONUMENT* invites the audience to slow down and immerse themselves in the sensory impressions and figures that appear in the endless landscapes on the scene.

In the performance, the theatrical elements are equal and interdependent, and it develops into an installation of sound, movement and figures. The landscapes on stage makes a space for sensing and wonder, and the slow transitions between colours, grand scenography and detailed costumes make for a strong and unique visual experience.

CONCEPT, CHOREOGRAPHY  
AND COSTUME DESIGN

**Eszter Salamon**

SCENOGRAPHY

**James Brandily**

COMPOSER

**Carmen Villain**

SOUND DESIGN

**Leif Herland**

LIGHTING DESIGN

**Silje Grimstad**

COSTUME DESIGN ASSISTANCE

**Laura Garnier**

CHOREOGRAPHY ASSISTANCE

**Elodie Perrin**

**Christine De Smedt**

Key dates

**Théâtre National  
Wallonie-Bruxelles<sup>BE</sup>  
February 20–22**

**Théâtre de la Ville, Paris<sup>FR</sup>  
March 26–28**

**Biennale de  
la Danse de Lyon<sup>FR</sup>  
September 10–11**





**LANDSCAPING**

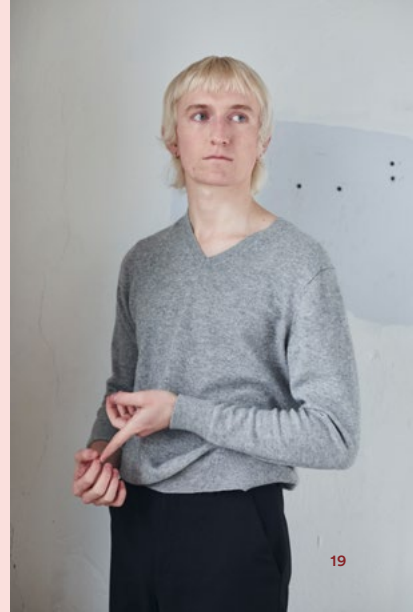
A video installation by Eszter Salamon.  
Co-produced by Carte Blanche.  
La Biennale de Lyon 6–20 september 2025



**Gaspard Schmitt**



**Brecht Bovijn**



**Aslak Aune Nygård**

19

18

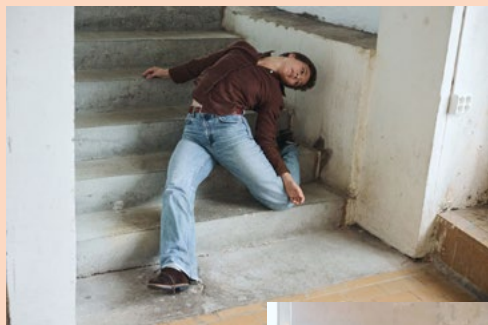


**Irene Vesterhus Theisen**



**Ole Martin Meland**

PHOTOS ØYSTEIN HAARA



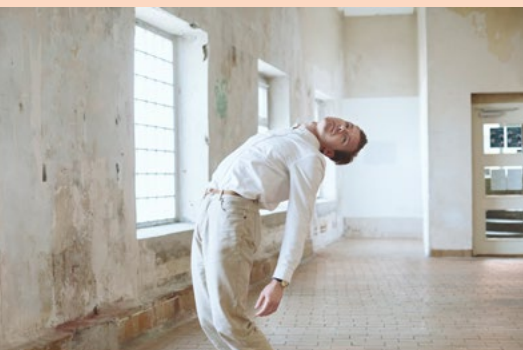
**Ola Korniejenko**

20



**Olha Mykolayivna Stetsyuk**

**Mathias Stoltenberg**

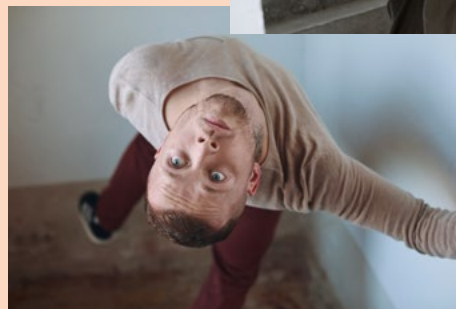


**Dawid Lorenc**

**Ihsaan de Banya**



21



**Adrian Bartczak**



**Mai Lisa Guinoo**

22

**Noam Eidelman Shatil**



**Nadege Kubwayo**



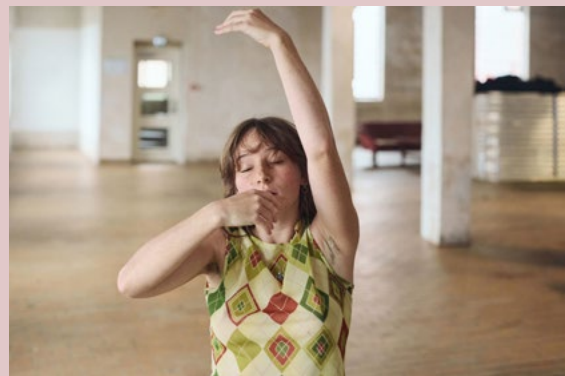
**Caroline Eckly**



PHOTOS ©VISTEN HAANA

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**Iris Auguste**



FEBRUARY

**BIRGET;  
WAYS TO DEAL, WAYS TO HEAL**  
By ELLE SOFE SARA & JOAR NANGO

February 4  
Alta Kultursal<sup>NO</sup>

February 6  
Beaivváš Sámi Theatre, Kautokeino<sup>NO</sup>

**MONUMENT 0.10:  
THE LIVING MONUMENT**  
By ESZTER SALAMON

February 20–22  
Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles<sup>BE</sup>  
*In partnership with  
Charleroi Danse and Kaaitheater*

MARCH

**HOW ROMANTIC**  
By KATERINA ANDREOU

World premiere March 6  
Performances March 7–8, 11–14  
Studio Bergen<sup>NO</sup>

March 19–22  
The Norwegian Opera & Ballet, Oslo<sup>NO</sup>

MARCH

**MONUMENT 0.10:  
THE LIVING MONUMENT**  
By ESZTER SALAMON

March 26–28  
Théâtre de la Ville, Paris<sup>FR</sup>  
*In partnership with  
Chaillot Théâtre national de la Danse*

MAY

**CANCEL BERTHA**  
By JAN MARTENS

World premiere May 22  
Performances May 23–24, 27–31  
Bergen International Festival,  
Studio Bergen<sup>NO</sup>

JUNE

**SOVACO DE COBRA**  
By LANDER PATRICK

June 20–21  
Festival Italicá, Sevilla<sup>ES</sup>

SEPTEMBER

**MONUMENT 0.10:  
THE LIVING MONUMENT**  
By ESZTER SALAMON

September 10–11  
Biennale de la Danse de Lyon<sup>FR</sup>

# How ROMANTIC

by Katerina Andros



PHOTO STIAN SERVØS

## STAY CURRENT WITH CARTE BLANCHE ACTIVITIES!

We continuously update our website with new dates for performances, workshops and open rehearsals as they are confirmed.



For more and updated information about our performances and activity – visit [carteblanche.no](https://carteblanche.no)

# CARTE BLANCHE

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GENERAL MANAGER

**Tone Tjemsland**

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

**Caroline Eckly**

PRODUCTION AND

PLANNING DIRECTOR

**M yfrid Fuglestad**

28 TOURING DIRECTOR

**Gulli Sekse**

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COMMUNICATION CONSULTANT

**Jonas Sharif Hordvik**

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

**Mona Igland**

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AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

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**Robert Roespel**

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

**Mark Simon Watts**

HEAD OF SOUND

**Gunnar Innv r**

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**Thomas Bruvik**

SOUND TECHNICIAN

**Evgeny Lysak**

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**Indrani Balgobin**

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# THE NORWEGIAN NATIONAL COMPANY OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Established in Bergen in 1989 and with its home base in Studio Bergen, the company tours and develops its artistic activities both in Norway and internationally.

Consisting of 14 international dancers, the company is solidly supported by their technical qualities, their personalities, and their incredible creativity.

Under the artistic direction of the French choreographer Annabelle Bonn ry, the company commissions choreographers involved in social questions and who express themselves through dance.

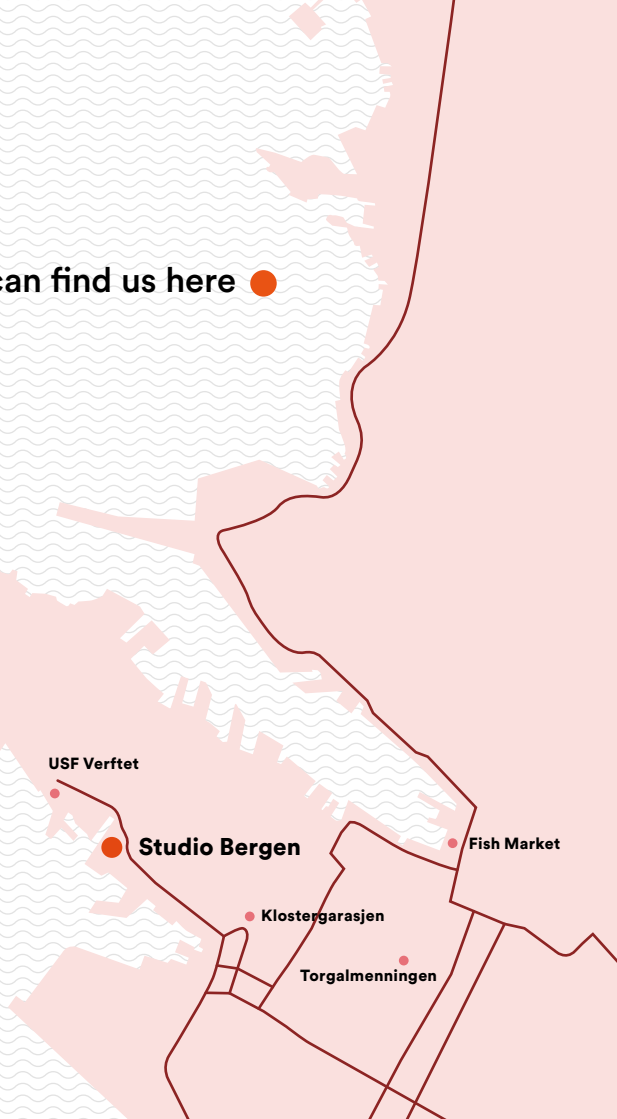
Bonn ry has expanded the company's artistic offerings to include an additional program aimed at diverse

audiences as part of its audience development and sustainability focused framework for touring. Carte Blanche also offers dance workshops, after talks and occasionally short films in conjunction with their evening performances.

The director also turns to artists concerned about the encounter between different artistic fields. Carte Blanche produces new creations every season, creating thus an exciting and unique repertoire of high quality, underpinning the company's goal to be an innovative forerunner, presenting, and developing contemporary dance in Norway and abroad.

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You can find us here ●



TICKETS  
[www.cartelblanche.no](http://www.cartelblanche.no)

 **CarteBlancheNo**  
 **cartelblancheno**  
 **cartelblanchenorway**

HOME VENUE  
**Studio Bergen**  
Nøstegaten 119  
5011 Bergen, Norway

CARTE BLANCHE AS IS OWNED AND FUNDED BY



Norwegian Ministry of Culture



Vestland  
County Council



CITY OF  
BERGEN



DESIGN HALTENBANKEN

THE NORWEGIAN NATIONAL COMPANY  
OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE

**CARTE  
BLANCHE**