

Mihai Mihalcea, alias Farid Fairuz



Until he reinvented himself as Farid Fairuz and assumed a fictional biography and another way to interact with the public space, the artist Mihai Mihalcea was one of the most active in the field of contemporary dance in Romania, after 1989. He initiated many of the projects that led to the international recognition of Romanian contemporary dance and he played a key role in the establishment of structures and institutions that have become landmarks of this area.

Between 2005-2013 he was Director of the National Dance Center in Bucharest, a public institution subsidized by The Ministry of Culture.

Education

1994-1999 - The University of Drama and Cinematography, Choreography Section, Bucharest - BA in Theatrical Arts, Speciality: Choreography

1980-1988 Choreography High School, Bucharest

Scholarship

2013 - fellow in the frame of Junge Akademie at Akademie der Künste Berlin, Performing Arts Section.

June-July 1994 Scholar in Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, in the frame of "Six Week School" Program of American Dance Festival. Courses: Voice Performing Art, Body-Mind Centering, contemporary dance techniques studied with Jeff Slayton and Ron Brown.

August 1994 - Scholarship offered by "Pepinieres europeennes pour jeunes artistes" for dance classes and workshops with Catherine Contour. The outcome was a short choreographic movie.

1990-2001 Dance classes and workshops attended:

Adina Cezar, Ioan Tugearu, Sergiu Anghel, Christian Trouillas, Josef Nadj, Jeff Slayton, Christine Bastin, Catherine Contour, Ron Brown, Raffael Lopez-Barrantes, Marc Bogaerts, Jan Linkens, Brynjar Bandlien, Donna Uchizono, Charles Linehan, Hanna Barbara.

Residences:

He has been artist in residence in Tanzquartier Wien, Centre national de la Danse Pantin, Hebbel Theatre Berlin, Centre Chorégraphique National de Franche-Comte a Belfort, La Manufacture, Atelier du Rhin - Centre dramatique regional, Colmar.

Awards

2006 - Nominated by Maison d'Europe et d'Orient Paris to "Paris-Europe 2006" for the projects developed within the National Dance Centre Bucharest.

1998 - Grand Prix and the Trophy "Eurodans' 98" at the International Dance Festival, Iasi, for the creation "The Memory of the Secret Body"

1995 First prize for the solo "Virtual dream" in the frame of National Choreographic Competition Oleg Danovschi, Constanta.

Professional experience

2014 – co-curator of Good Guys Only Win in Movies Festival, Hebbel am Ufer, 5-9 of November, Berlin

2005 – 2013 Director of The National Centre of Dance Bucharest

2004 – 2005 Artistic consultant in The National Centre of Dance Bucharest

2000-2002 Head of Dance Programmes in The Multi Art Dance Centre – Bucharest

1999 - Independent performer & choreographer under Solitude Project;

1992- 1998 Dancer & Choreographer of Marginalii Dance Group, Bucharest and Vice-President of the Cultural Association "Grupul Marginalii";

July 1998 - Assistant of the American choreographer Daniel Ezralow during the production of "Aeros" - a show featuring gold medal-winning gymnasts from the Romanian Gymnastics Federation, directed by Daniel Ezralow, David Parsons and Moses Pendleton, in collaboration with "Stomp" creators Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas.

1997 - Assistant in Resources Department at the International Centre for Contemporary Dance, Bucharest;

1992-1996 - Dancer in "Compagnie Christian Trouillas", Paris;

1990-1992 - Dancer in "Komische Oper", Berlin;

Other activities:

He created Solitude Project (NGO), a frame designed as a Cultural Association, which aims to encourage the research and the experiment in contemporary arts theory and practice and sustain the creation of environment in favor of the dialogue, reflection and debate.

The association is also designed to produce, develop and promote the artistic work created by Farid Fairuz.

Since 2011 he manages with Solitude Project Caminul Cultural (a project initiated by Brynjar Bandlien, Farid Fairuz & Manuel Pelmus) and subRahova (underRahova - a space for contemporary arts situated in a worker district in Bucharest).

1999 He initiated and organized IndependDANS - The Days of Contemporary, a festival aiming to introduce the young Romanian choreographers, organized in partnership with MAD, Smart and Teatrul Odeon Theatre in Bucharest.

1998 He initiated and organized a building audience programme "Dance at school" presenting excerpts of his performances and leading workshops in 10 high schools in Bucharest.

Workshops & classes

Mihai Mihalcea/Farid Fairuz has led classes and workshops at:

The National Dance Centre Bucharest, Tanzquartier Wien, Choreography High School "Floria Capsali" in Bucharest, Centre Chorégraphique National de Franche-Comte, Belfort, La Manufacture, Atelier du Rhin - Centre dramatique regional, Colmar, Chisinau State Opera, Music High School Dinu Lipatti Bucharest, Arad State Theatre, and he was invited as expert to run workshops in the frame of "Theatrical practice" organized by Multimedia Centre Teatru74, Targu Mures.

Works

Mihai Mihalcea/Farid Fairuz created performances, interventions and took part in projects developed and presented in France, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Austria, USA, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Portugal, Poland, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and Slovenia.

2013 -BLIND DATE - Let's don't speak at all
60 minutes performative one-to-one encounter
20/21/22 September 2013, Atelier 3, Akademie der Künste Berlin

November 2012 - Realia (Bucharest-Beirut), Solo performance presented in premiere at subRahova Bucharest, in the frame of Temps d'Images Festival in Cluj-Napoca, in Dance House Limassol, at the National Dance Centre Bucharest, Theatre - Alfred Ve Dvore/Motus, Prague, Theatre Laboratory "Sfumato"/ Antistaftic Festival Sofia, Weltecho, Chemnitz and Hebbel am Ufer Berlin.

November 2012 - Invited to exhibit the documentation of Landscape with National Habitus - intervention on gray background in a group exhibition in the frame of TRANZIT.RO/ BUCURESTI: 'KM. 0. REPRESENTATION, curated by Raluca Voinea. Works by Vlad Basalici, studioBASAR, Larisa Crunteanu, Laurentiu Galmeanu, Bogdan Ghiu & Octav Avramescu & the students Arts Academy Bucuresti, Mihai Mihalcea, Dan Perjovschi, Vlad Petri, Alexandra Pirici, David Schwartz & Mihaela Michailov, Emanuel Vasiliu

2011 - The blessed who dwell by the garbage dump - documentary outcome of an research project initiated by Farid Fairuz, related to dozens Roma families that the municipality evicted in December 2010 from a semi-central area of the city to the Pata Rât landfill, at the outskirts of the city of Cluj, close to the garbage dump.

2011 - Campaign for the Mosque of National Redemption. In a country (Romania) declared by statistics having 85,9% orthodox people and with a State apparatus which finances with amazing amounts the building of The Cathedral of National Redemption, Farid Fairuz dares to launch his campaign to raise money for his Mosque of National Redemption, at the opening of One World Film Festival, Bucharest 2011.

June 2011 - "no title" - Performance for the opening of Desire is War exhibition, curated by Anca Mihulet and Dragos Olea at The Contemporary Art Gallery of the Brukenthal National Museum, Sibiu.

2010 Farewell (or the discrete oversights of the limbic system) - group piece premiered at The National Dance Centre Bucharest and presented in Hungarian State Theatre and Paintbrush Factory Cluj Napoca, The Ludwik Solski State Drama School in Cracow and in European Festival of Contemporary Dance - Kraków/Bytom.

2009 - My song, best shoes, the cake, first flight, my friends, the passport, and the work I do..., piece created for Silesian Dance Theatre, Bytom, Poland, premiered in the frame of International Dance Festivalului Bytom

2010 - Pissoir with polenta - Performative installation in the frame of Romanian Dance History curated by Manuel Pelmus and in the frame of KNOT project in Bucharest, curated by Markus Bader, Oliver Baurhenn, Jakub Szreder, Raluca Voinea.

2008 - Landscape with National Habitus - intervention on gray background, intervention in the public space, at University Square, Bucharest

2008 - Untold - performance with 10 guests, unique representation, on the stage of The National Dance Centre.

2003 - Stars High In Amnesia's Sky, premiered in Theater am Halleschen Ufer Berlin, in the frame of Internationales TanzFest/Tanz im August, Berlin.

2002 - Memory for sale (childhood included), premiered in April 2002 at TanzQuartier Wien and presented in German Premiere at the Internationales TanzFest/Tanz im August, Berlin 2002.

2001 - You come to see the show and you'll get an extra burger!, performance presented in premiere in the frame of Romanian Dance Platform.

2000 - Hammam/Prisonier in the Thorx cage, premiered at Multi Art Dance Centre Bucharest

1998 - The Memory of the Secret Body, premiered in Bulandra Theatre Bucharest and awarded with the Grand Prix and the Trophy "Eurodans' 98" at the International Dance Festival, Iasi

1996 Choreography for the movie Return to paradise, directed by Gheorghe Preda and shown by the first Channel of The Romanian National Television

1995 - Virtual dream - solo work awarded with first prize of National Choreographic Competition Oleg Danovschi, Constanta

1994 - Simplu Balans, group piece created for Marginalii Dance Group, premiered at « L.S. Bulandra » Theatre, Bucuresti

www.faridfairuz.ro