

# Programme

## Thursday 2 February 2023

*Location: Babylon Istanbul*

19.30 – 19.45: Opening remarks

19.45 – 20.30: Keynote: Jess Thom, Touretteshero

Jess Thom is co-artistic director of Touretteshero and may or may not lead a secret double life as a superhero. Artist, writer, and activist, Jess co-founded Touretteshero in 2010. She's had tics since she was a child but wasn't diagnosed with Tourettes until her mid-twenties. With encouragement from her friends, Jess turned her tics into a source of imaginative creativity and Touretteshero was born.

21.00 – 22.00: *Urgent!* By Arada Company– World premiere

*Urgent!* is a performance theatre piece that brings together interdisciplinary experiences. In this performance, choreographer Serkan Bozkurt and the Arada Company team, mostly comprised of early career disabled artists, focus their discourse on the social exclusion experiences of disabled people and their reflection on our daily communication practices.

The performance, in which the actors and dancers will share their obstacles, successes, disappointments and goals with the audience, was specially designed for the Unlimited Forum and will meet the audience for the first time.

Choreographer: Serkan Bozkurt

Performers: Asu Dağlı, Asya Bozkurt, Buse Karaca, Fatoş Öger Aydınoğlu, Kaan Çolakoğlu, Lütfü Kerim Mazi

Production assistants: Yeliz Kılıç, Asu Dağlı, Ece Cirit

Director Assistant, Dance trainer: Saime Bozkurt

Accessible Arts Consultant: Eser Epözdemir

Dramaturgy: Egemen Kalyon, Evren Erbatur

Costume: Fulya Evrim Yavaş

Coordinator: Evrim Doğan Mercan

60' with no intermissions.

# Friday 3 February 2023

## Daytime Events

*Location: Yapı Kredi bomontiada fourth floor*

13.30 – 15.00: Panel 1: What is Access to Culture?

- Moderator: Deniz Yazgan Şenay
- Speakers: Çiğdem Aslantaş (Bongo Art Project, Ankara), Hakan Elbir (Istanbul Social Enterprise, Istanbul), Zeynep Şölen Yıldız (Accessible Everything and Theatre Co-operative), Ezgi Yalınalp (Puruli Culture & Arts, Ankara)

### Panel 1 Speakers' information:

- **Deniz Yazgan Şenay:** She is an attorney registered to the Istanbul Bar Association and graduated from Istanbul Bilgi University Law and Psychology Double Major Program and completed the Human Rights Law Master's Program in the same university. She is still studying at Bahçeşehir University Public Law Doctorate Program. Yazgan Şenay who is the Secretary General of the Istanbul Bar Association Centre for the Disabled Persons Rights, is the chairman of the board of directors of the Ceviz Autism Research and Social Defense Association.
- **Çiğdem Aslantaş** is an interior designer by training and former columnist who is now a museum entrepreneur. She founded the Museumsoul initiative to support the transformation of museums in Turkey, their ability to cooperate with global museums and develop new museums. Bongo Art Project was launched as the first project of the initiative and focused its works on the accessibility of museums. The project, primary beneficiaries were the visually impaired audience but today it includes all disability groups. It was launched on the 100th year of the Anatolian Civilizations Museum, with the support of 24 stakeholders from the public-private sector and civil society, where Turkey's first Museum Education and Experience Area for the visually impaired people was initiated. Finally, together with the Hadi İşaret team, 60 works selected from the Ankara Painting and Sculpture Museum were described in sign language through the Sign Language Museum and Art Dictionary.
- **Hakan Elbir:** After working in museums and with higher education institutions on several international exhibition projects, he founded Istanbul Social Enterprise (ISE) that primarily works in the fields of arts, culture and science to build-up the infrastructure to lead transformational change for people and communities. Dialogue in the Dark exhibition opened on 20 December 2013 at İstanbul Gayrettepe Metro station as the first project of ISE. It was followed by Dialogue in Silence which developed into the 'Dialogue Museum'. More than 500.000 visitors experienced both exhibitions, where 50 disabled people were employed. He founded Muse Projects Community Interest Company to generate measurable social impact by doing business differently for forward thinking and inclusive society in London in 2018 and launched Dialogue in the Dark London in Hackney in December 2019 and opened the Dialogue Hub, which hosts Dialogue Experience, a British Sign Language Coffee Shop and Dialogue Gallery in Waterloo in April 2021. So far the space trained and employed 14 deaf and hearing impaired people as baristas and 10 blind and partially sighted people as tour guides.
- **Zeynep Şölen Yıldız:** After graduating from Koç University, Department of Psychology and Media and Visual Arts, she started her PhD studies at Koç University, Department of Design, Technology and Society. Trying to understand how accessibility can be designed on a more social justice basis with the support of technology, Yıldız is interested in

literature and writes short stories and children's stories, and also leads the researches department at Accessible Everything.

- **Ezgi Yalinalp:** After studying Sociology and Radio-Television and Cinema, she worked as the Program Coordinator of Ankara International Film Festival. She also took part in the organizations of different film festivals around Turkey. In 2012, she co-founded Puruli Culture&Art ([www.puruli.org](http://www.puruli.org)), which aims to improve access to cinema and culture. She worked as the Director of Accessible Film Festival, the annual event of Puruli Culture&Art which aims making cinema accessible for all. She also managed the coordination of European Union funded project 'Accessible Cinema: Breaking the Vicious Circle' in 2021-2022. Currently she continues her works under Puruli Culture&Art.

15.00 – 15.45: Coffee break and mini concert by the Kaan Çelen Trio

- **Kaan Çelen**, born in 1994, lost his left arm functions as a result of a doctor's error during his birth. At the age of 15, he started playing drums with a physiotherapist's suggestion. He had the opportunity to work with many renowned musicians throughout his jazz education, which started at the age of 17, and he completed key training programs in Turkey and around the world. He had the opportunity to give concerts in various cities of Turkey, especially in Istanbul, and his first international appearance was in Greece in 2016.

Çelen will perform with **Volkan Topakoğlu** on Contrabass and **Önder Focan** on guitar. In addition to his ground-breaking album NA-Zİ-LE's tunes, they will also present jazz standards that impacted him along his journey.

15.45 – 17.15: Panel 2: Accessible Art: is it a Myth?

- Moderator: Neil Webb, Director Theatre and Dance, British Council, UK
- Speakers: Kimberley Harvey (Director of Youth Dance Programme, Candoco Dance Company, UK), Marko Pejovic (Executive Director, Off the Frame/Van okvira, Serbia), Anastasiya Voytyuk (Director, Unbeaten Path, Ukraine), Ketevan Zazanashvili (Founder and President of 'Georgian National Wheelchair Dance Sport Federation' / Artistic Director at 'Tbilisi Inclusive Dance Co', Georgia)

#### Panel 2 Speakers' information:

- **Neil Webb:** Neil has been Director of our Theatre and Dance team since 2012. He is responsible for managing the team and leading the performing arts programme across the British Council's global network. He leads on the British Council's partnership with Unlimited, the UK's commissioning programme for disability arts. He is on the programming panel for the Made in Scotland showcase. He also sits on the Advisory Committee for the IETM International network for contemporary performing arts. Neil is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley (Politics and Japanese) and City University in London (Arts and Cultural Management). He also trained in ballet and contemporary dance and is a 2006/2007 Fellow of the Clore Leadership Programme.
- **Kimberley Harvey** has been Director of the Youth Dance Programme at Candoco Dance Company since 2020. However, she has been involved with the company for over 20 years in various ways, including as an Associate Artist and teaching both nationally and internationally. Kimberley is also an independent dance artist performer, working as a choreographer and teacher. As performer, Kimberley works mainly in contemporary dance across a variety of settings and contexts, but she also has experience in physical theatre with companies such as ThisEgg. Kimberley has her own dance company, Subtle Kraft Co. Their work centres around relationships in their various forms with connection, communication and curiosity at the heart of everything they do.

- **Marko Pejovic:** After an education and career in the field of psychology and psychoanalytic psychotherapy, Marko focused on performing arts. As a co-author of several projects that implemented inclusive principles in contemporary dance and theatre, he and his colloquies were focused on developing teamwork between artists and members of various marginalised groups (disabled people, veterans of wars in former Yugoslavia, users of psychiatric services...). He worked as a dramatist and was rewarded for several dance and theatre productions. During research for his MA programme Theory of Arts and Media, he simulated the process of factor analysis on 18 dance works and created a matrix to dance analysis based on six factors. His works were published in magazines, journals and publications. He is the executive director of the festival of socially engaged theatre "Off the Frame/Van okvira".
- **Anastasiya Voytyuk** is a musician and cultural manager based in Lviv, Ukraine, playing and promoting bandura - Ukrainian instrument. She is the director of the NGO Unbeaten Path, the producer of the inclusive professional performance 'The Sight' and the co-founder of the international festival of inclusive theatre 'The Way', which has been taking place in Ukraine since 2001. She is also member of the advisory board of international inclusive theatre festivals in Poland & Ukraine. During the war Anastasiya started with friends and volunteers a shelter for refugees in Lviv in a local library which is also an official place of the organization.
- For the past seven years, **Ketevan Zazanashvili** has worked as an inclusive dance instructor and para-dance coach with the Georgian National Paralympic Committee. In 2014, Ketevan and her wheelchair dance partner won the 'Georgia's Got Talent' competition which substantially boosted public interest in para-dance and inspired her to found her own organizations—the Georgian National Wheelchair Dance Sport Federation and the Tbilisi Inclusive Dance Company. With these organizations being the first of their kind in the region, Ketevan is a trailblazer in the world of inclusive dance and performing arts. Ketevan is determined to foster inclusion through para-dance and inclusive arts in Georgia.

17.15 – 18.00: Networking and mini concert by Kaan Çelen Trio

**Registration link for 3 February daytime events:** <https://forms.office.com/e/wXGYuxnktu>

## Evening Event

*Location: Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Bomonti Campus, Second floor.*

20.30 – 22.00: *Embodying Fragments* - Dance with Different Bodies

'My eyelid is slowly closing. It's 11:00. Here we go, someone says, hovering over my bed. The field is as it should be. Clean, cold and blue. Silverfish sticking out of my left breast, untidy, with algae on the hook. I see the world in my eye drops as it goes down, it softens. *Embodying Fragments* carries the embodied clues of the life I cannot describe with the bodies of my dreams.' Tuğçe U. Tuna

'Dance with Different Bodies' was founded in Istanbul in 2000 by Tuğçe Ulugün Tuna, a dance artist, choreographer, academic and transformative activist. Within the scope of the project, it has been carrying out regular workshops specially designed for children and adults and, since 2001, it has been performing together with its artists in various interdisciplinary artistic projects. In addition to being a pioneer in its field in Turkey, Dance with Different Bodies is a community whose movement research methods are shared in international organisations, and which attracts attention with its performances. Tugce Ulugün Tuna continues her works with various workshops and shows, focusing on

the diversity and transformation in the intellectual, sensory and plastic structure of the body, through Dance with Different Bodies, which she defines as 'my strategy of liberating dance from the body.'

Concept and Choreography: Tuğçe Ulugün Tuna

Repetiteurs: Pınar Akyüz, Hilal Sibel Pekel

Dancers: Sedat Akçam, Pınar Akyüz, Erdiñ Anaz, Gülçin Erdiş, Aybike İpekçi, Kerim Keküç, Muhsin Öngel, Umut Özdaoğlu, Gülsen Ürek, Eda Tavacı, Tuğçe U. Tuna, Aynur Yıldırım.

Sound Design: Vahit Tuna, Ah Kosmos!, Tuğçe U. Tuna

Light Technical: Hilal Sibel Pekel, Güray Doğru

60', no intermissions.

**Registration link for 3 February evening event: <https://forms.office.com/e/zqRVbxCWpN>**

## Saturday 4 February 2023

13.00 - 14.30: Workshop: Dance with Different Bodies – The Other Body

The workshop will propose kinaesthetic experimental approaches that centre on the body as a 'bridge' in different contexts.

Location: MSGSÜ Bomonti Campus, second floor.

Participants are advised to wear clothes that support movement.

The workshop capacity is limited to 20 people. You must be +18 to attend the workshop. Please do send an email to [iletisim@atafestival.com](mailto:iletisim@atafestival.com) to register to the workshop.

13.00 - 15.00: Accessible Lines - From Illustration to Visual Description: An Experiment

Developed and organised by disabled illustrator, comics artist and designer Hatiye Garip; the workshop aims to make the work of students and illustrators more accessible for blind and visually impaired people through inclusive design and audio description.

Participants are asked to bring with them three printed or digital illustration they have drawn before. Paper and pencil will be provided however personal tablets, phones, laptops, etc. are also welcomed.

Location: Yapı Kredi bomontiada, 4th floor

The workshop will be held in Turkish and its capacity is limited to 15 people. You must be +18 to attend the workshop. Please do send an email to [iletisim@atafestival.com](mailto:iletisim@atafestival.com) to register to the workshop.