

Performing landscapes

A co-production between WhyNot, Expanded Contemporary Dance, Academie voor Theater en Dans (ATD).
Special thanks to de Tolhuistuin.

Performing Landscapes / WhyNot

Sixteen students of Expanded Contemporary Dance of the Amsterdam Academy for Theatre and Dance present the results of their research into the body in the landscape: an immersive dance choreography in the garden of the Tolhuistuin. Guided by choreographers Elisa Zuppini and Dario Tortorelli, students spent multiple weeks exploring urban and rural areas, to experience how different surroundings influence the way we move, whether it restricts or improves this movement. They were inspired by the performance Landscaping, which was performed last summer in the Amsterdamse Bos. Dance platform WhyNot united choreographers with a landscape architect, a scenographer, and a composer to create a performance walk through the forest. The audience is submerged in the landscape. Through subtle disrupting interventions which can come from any direction, your senses will be put on high alert.

WhyNot is a platform for contemporary dance and performance, connecting dance with visual arts, architecture, the landscape and the city. WhyNot explores the relationship between the body and its surroundings, through thematic events in collaboration with partners like the Stedelijk Museum, Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, Arcam, the Tolhuistuin, the Van Gogh Museum, EYE, Cinedans, Paradiso, Het Amsterdamse Bos, Bimhuis, Mediamatic, De School, W139, and Julidans. The biennial WhyNot Festival hosts a variety of interdisciplinary creators to connect creative fields (with one another and to experiment with new formats.

The choreographers

Elisa Zuppini: For *Performing Landscapes*, Elisa Zuppini researches ways of relating to the environment that are counter forcing each other, proposing realities of hyper connection and alienation, of making and destroying, of listening and neglecting. The work aims to highlight a certain confusion about our current relation to nature while also investigating fresh modes of affect between the bodies and the landscapes. This process is inspired by the previous creation 'Landscaping' where Elisa explored these ideas in collaboration with Nica.

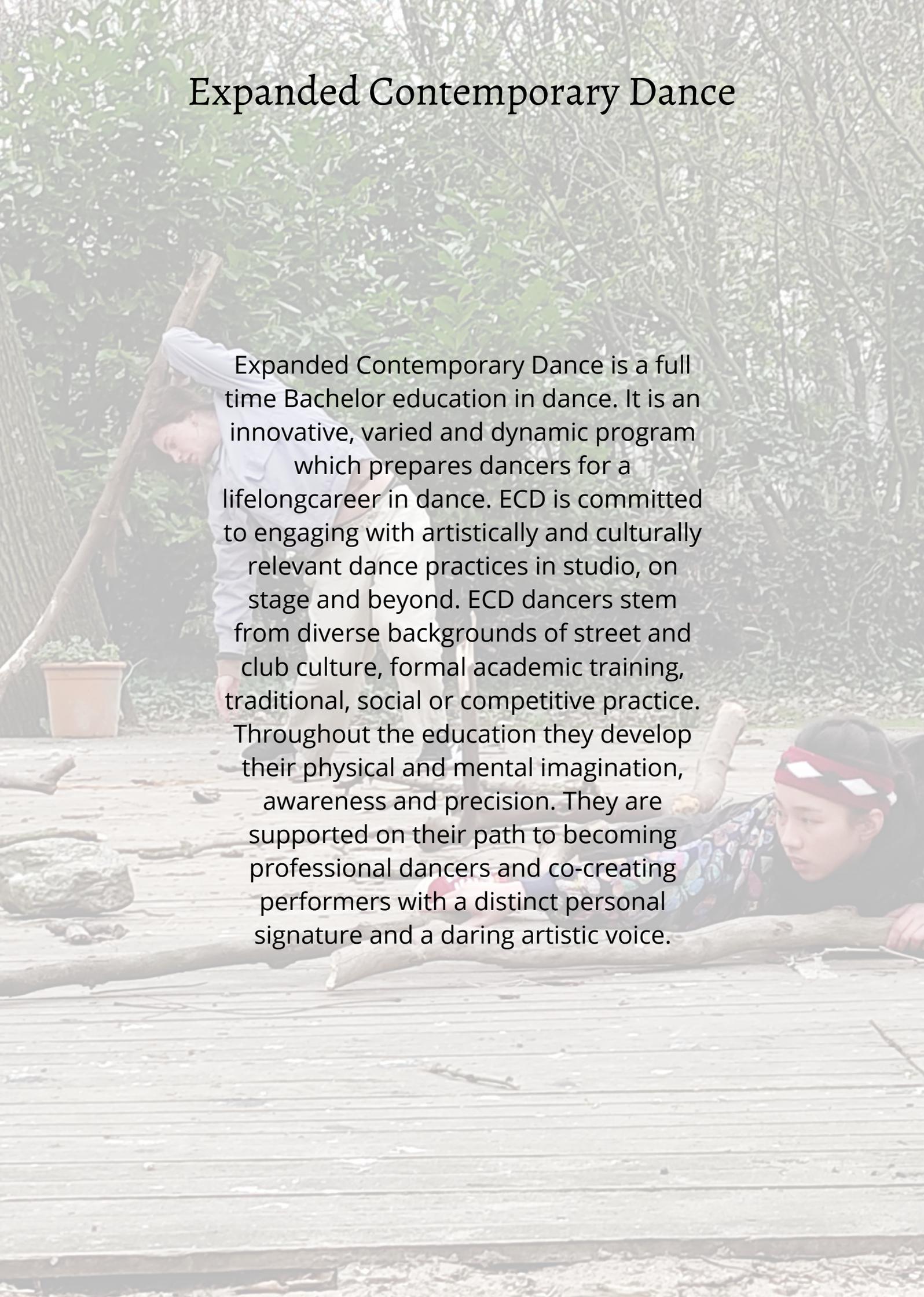
Dario Tortorelli: In this exploration, I imagined the body of the performers as an endless transforming landscape. How this landscape-body could relate to another and to the garden.

Simple and repetitive movements were selected to create the composition. Tridimensional body, infinite-body, soft-body, playful-body, shifting-body, nowhere/everywhere-body ... were some of the keywords used to define our movements.

To eventually establish a balance between the performers and the environment, we imagined each body being connected through an invisible network.

Zooming in and out of this network, the movement in the landscape could gradually become more tangible or then dissolve.

Expanded Contemporary Dance



Expanded Contemporary Dance is a full time Bachelor education in dance. It is an innovative, varied and dynamic program which prepares dancers for a lifelong career in dance. ECD is committed to engaging with artistically and culturally relevant dance practices in studio, on stage and beyond. ECD dancers stem from diverse backgrounds of street and club culture, formal academic training, traditional, social or competitive practice. Throughout the education they develop their physical and mental imagination, awareness and precision. They are supported on their path to becoming professional dancers and co-creating performers with a distinct personal signature and a daring artistic voice.

Credits

Performance: Salya Berraf, Wan-Yu Chen, Elias Clark, Eivinas Dziena, Hannah Fernandes Badura, Alberte Buch Gøbel, Balder Stuestøl Hansen, Dovile Krutulyte Umami Renteria Wouters, Ana Margaride, Tasso de Sousa, Erikas Žilaitis, Meriç Tuncer, Swali Mazzaggio, Alina Lugovskaya, Johan Hogsten, Ida Vu

Choreography: Elisa Zuppini, Dario Tortorelli, together with the students.

Music: Oceanic/Job Oberman

Artistic advice: Keren Levi

Advisor Elisa Zuppini: Nica

Production ECD: Dorothea Sinnema

Production Tolhuistuin: Valerie Bollegraf

Co-production: WhyNot, Expanded Contemporary Dance, AHK.

Special thanks to de Tolhuistuin, Valerie Bollegraf and all ECD Teachers