



Tomi Paasonen, born 1970 in Helsinki, Finland, is a choreographer, artistic director, dancer, curator and mentor.

Mr. Paasonen danced as a soloist at the Hamburg Ballet of John Neumeier (1989-1994), at Lines Ballet by Alonzo King in San Francisco (1994-1995) and The Joffrey Ballet in Chicago (1995-1997). His dance career was cut short due to an accident in 1997. Consequently he co-founded KUNST-STOFF, a San Francisco based experimental interdisciplinary physical theatre, dance and arts-events production-company. In the interdisciplinary millennial spirit, it brought together dancers and performers with different backgrounds, from ballet dancers, contact improvisers to performance artists and subcultures, mixing fine arts, new technology, science and performative actions in theatres, galleries, public spaces and in nature. It also cross-pollinated many communities and acted as a forum for multiple voices.

In 2002 he moved to Berlin, where he launched PAA (Public Artistic Affairs) and worked internationally as a choreographer and stage director branching out into other visual fields such as photography, performative installations and costume/ set design.

His eclectic dance-, opera- and other projects have a generous aesthetic language as he often designs his pieces around materiality and its interactions with the body. The productions are often rooted in autobiographical layers, provided by the theme-specific casts he chooses for his pieces. His practice of working both with professional dancers, performers and laymen, ranging from differently abled performers, prisoners, sexual- and other minorities and people with different kinds of bodies and backgrounds, has led him to develop an expansive array of working methods.

During the years 2013-2018 while his parents were passing away, he was Artistic Director of ITAK in Finland, an organisation, creating infrastructure for dance and contemporary performing arts, based in Kuopio, Finland. His activities included the programming of dance productions for several venues in the region, granting production resources for local choreographers, producing and mentoring about a dozen local productions per year. Additionally he created

international co-productions, was twice in The National Dance Forum planning team, developed educational, social, audience development programs and workshops, planned and hosted the annual Muuntamo Symposium. And foremost, curated two annual festivals: Lonely in the Rain? -festival presenting a mix of international, national and local productions. And the Paikallisliike festival in Kuopio, a platform for dance art created in Eastern Finland adjacent to the Kuopio International Dance Festival.

Upon returning back home to Berlin in 2019, he began archiving his life's work as a preparation for his comeback to the stage. 2020-2021 he created his very first solo pieces in the form of a trilogy: Retrospectrum - 5 solos for 5 decades, Antibody and Lost and Found, with the main themes: past, present and future.

The connection with his own body and its past, awakened a new artistic phase reconnecting with his ballet past. In 2022 he created his first two ballets from a queer point of view with "Attitude", "Pas de Q" and "Happy Hour".

Tomi has been awarded with the critic's Newcomer of the Year in San Francisco 1998, "Theatre Event of the Year 2000" in Finland for his piece Olotila - State of Being. Awarded the "Pro Dance Stipend" in Finland. KUNST-STOFF has been awarded with the Bay Guardian Goldie Award - Company of the Year in San Francisco and his piece "W" was nominated for the Isadora Duncan Award for best piece of 2004 in San Francisco. Critics Choice "Collaboration of the Year 2007" by Arnd Wesemann / Ballett/Tanz for the piece "Interface". His piece "Monogram" won 2nd price at the International Solo Dance Festival in Stuttgart in 2009. His work has been performed and produced throughout Europe, in New York, Chicago, Houston, San Francisco, Brazil, Hong Kong and Tokyo.

Works by Tomi Paasonen 1997-2020 <https://vimeo.com/493173883>

Full chronology:

Productions 1991-2000: <https://vimeo.com/371389652>

Productions 2000-2005: <https://vimeo.com/371412845>

Productions 2006-2010: <https://vimeo.com/376518036>

Productions 2011-2018: <https://vimeo.com/382107687>

CV

Choreographer – Director – Curator – Artistic Director – Dancer – Teacher

TOMI PAASONEN

Brunnenstrasse
44 10115 Berlin
+49 171 269 3089

tomi.paa@gmail.com

www.paasonen.com

<https://vimeo.com/user7138839>

LANGUAGES

Finnish
English
German
Swedish

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

2013-2018

Artistic Director of ITAK – Regional Dance Centre of Eastern Finland / Kuopio, Finland

2002- on going

PAA - Public Artistic Affairs / Berlin – Artistic Director, curator and producer, Berlin, Germany

1998-2013

KUNST-STOFF / San Francisco – co-founder, choreographer, artistic director, curator and producer, San Francisco, USA

CURATOR

2013-2018

Annual Lonely in the Rain? international festival for contemporary dance, performance and improvisation in Joensuu & Outokumpu, Finland, including presenting works by Ivo Dimchev, Frank Willens, Jeremy Wade, Sonja Jokiniemi, Ivo Serra, Masi Tiitta, Zonk'a, Sanna Kekäläinen, Andreas Constantinou, Dialogue Dance Company, Ari Numminen, Alex Deutinger and Alexander Gottfarb, Maria Nurmela, Simon Mayer, Ulla Mäkinen, Taneli Törmä, Ryuichi

Fujimura, Martin Hansen, Luke George, James Batchelor, Antti Lahti, Luke George Campbell and many more.

2013-2018

Paikallisliike festival, platform for local productions adjacent to the Kuopio Dance Festival in Kuopio, Finland, including presenting works by Sara Gurevitsch, Sonja Jokiniemi, Johanna Tuukkanen, Sannamaria Kuula, Johanna Karlberg, Anna-Maria Väisänen, Eevi Tolvanen, Joonas Halonen, Mari Laamanen, Milla Virtanen, Jaakko Toivonen, Minni Hirvonen, Lasse Forsgren, Ville Nylén, Inka Hakkarainen, Pauliina Aladin, Henna Hartikainen, Johanna Rossi, Cecilia Moision, Johanna Keinänen, Riikka Tolonen, Jukka Ristolainen, Anna Venäläinen, Mirva Mäkinen, Tuomas Juntunen, Mari Kortelainen and many more.

2013-2017

Annual Muuntamo Symposium curation, planning and hosting

2013-2018

Sotku Theatre (Kuopio) and Poleeni Cultural Centre (Pieksämäki) planning of dance program

2013-2018

Deciding on artist's grants in Eastern Finland

2016 & 2018

In planning committee of Kiertoliike National Dance Forum in Jyväskylä (2016) and Tampere (2018), Finland

MENTORING

2018 - 2019

Vilja Mihalovsky BA Dance, Context, Choreography and her graduation piece "the truth & other stories" at HZT, Berlin

2013-2018

Numerous productions by dance artists in Eastern Finland

2017

Yuko Matsuyama's graduation piece for MA Choreography studies at College of Dramatic Art Ernst-Busch, Berlin for her piece "SPUR{EN} – Between Dark and Light

2013 - 2014

Artistic advisor for Ivo Serra's graduation piece "Meta Horse" at BA Dance, Context, Choreography at HZT, Berlin

CHOREOGRAPHY / DIRECTION / STAGE WORKS

2025

Zeitgeist, 35 min. Eden /Dock11, Berlin

Dornika Concert, 30 min, Whole Festival, Ferropolis / Volksbühne Berlin

Happy Hour, 80 min. Dock11, Berlin

2024

Les Sylphides, 68 min. Itak Näyttämö, Kuopio, Finland

2022

PAS DE Q, 82 min. Sophiensaele, Berlin

TAHRA - *STAIN*, 63 min. Tehdasteatteri, Turku, Finland

ATTITUDE, 63 min. Dock11, Berlin

2021

LOST AND FOUND, 68 min. Dock11, Berlin

GREEN SCREEN DANCES, 5 dance films for still camera and green screen

2020

ANTIBODY, 35 min. Hybrid Festival, Dock11, Berlin

RETROSPECTRUM – 5 SOLOS FOR 5 DECADES, 80 min. Dock11, Berlin

2018

SATU BALETTI, 80 min. Zodiak – Centre for New Dance, Helsinki, Finland

DASSELBE, 50 min. Uferstudios, Berlin, Germany

2017

LAUANTAITANSSIT, 60 min. Valve theatre /Jojo Oulu Dance Centre, Finland

2016

WCBT – World Cup Bling Troopers, 4h. Anti Festival Kuopio & Tahko, Finland

2015

MeMeMe, 45 min. Kiisu Event Space Outokumpu, Sotku Theatre Kuopio, Finland

REKOLAN SATU - 50 min. Dock11, Berlin, Germany

2014

2nd NATURE, 90 min. Sotku Theatre Kuopio, Valve Theatre Oulu, Zodiak – Centre of New Dance, Helsinki, Jyväskylä City Theatre, Finland

2013

GIGA Hz, 35 min - ODC Theater, San Francisco, USA

YUME NO MINATO (Harbour of Dreams), 70 min. Suntori Hall, Blue Rose Room, Tokyo, Japan

2012

JAHRESZEITEN, 45 min. Theater Rambazamba, Berlin, Germany

DIGITALE VOLKSKUNST - SPINNEN, 45 min. Dock11, Berlin, Germany

THOSE GOLDEN YEARS, 30 min. Dock11, Berlin, Germany

2011

VOL.AT.ILIT.Y, 70 min. Barker Teatteri, EU Cultural Capital Programme, Turku, Finland

MONOGRAM - A Signature Piece - solo series, 60 min. Pannuhalli, Zodiak - Centre for New Dance, Helsinki, Finland

NOTHING TO DECLARE (Contemporary Opera), 45 min. Alminsali, Finnish National Opera, Helsinki, Finland

2010

(the)LID, 90 min. Mousonturm/HAU3/Hellerau-Dreseden, Germany

TRAUMFÄDEN, 60 min. Theater Rambazamba, Kulturbrauerei, Berlin, Germany

NO TIME FOR REVOLUTION, 45 min. Theaterdiscounter, Berlin, Germany

BUCH ASCHE., 90 min. Staatsoper Bonn, Germany

POINT OF DEPARTURE, 12 min. Dominican University San Rafael, USA

2009

WINTERREISE, 120 min. Theater Rambazamba, Kulturbrauerei, Berlin, Germany

MONOGRAM, 10 min. Internationale Solo Tanz Festival am Rotebühlplatz, Stuttgart, Germany

2008

WOW ¥€\$, 75 min. Tacheles - Goldener Saal, Berlin, Germany

HYBRID DISLOCATION, 90 min. Tacheles - Goldener Saal, Berlin, Germany

OUT OF HAND, 45 min. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Main Stage, San Francisco, USA

SOLO FOR YANNIS, 12 min. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Main Stage, San Francisco, USA

2007

IM MOBILIE, 50 min. Dock11, Berlin Germany

INTERFACE, 45 min. Dock11, Berlin, Germany

BECAUSE, 40 min. Dock11, Berlin, Germany

MACROPHONE, 45 min. Logen, Bergen International Festival, Norway

2006

CAT'S CRADLE, Interactive Installation at Burning Man, Nevada, USA
BEST BEFORE, 80 min. Dock11, Berlin, Germany

2005

ETC..., 40 min. ODC Theatre, San Francisco, USA
BEFORE & AFTER, 5 min. Garbaty Centre, Berlin, Germany
D.I.D. - a choir piece for one man, 65 min. Dock11, Berlin, Germany

2004

MeMoRe - searching for the red thread, 90 min. Alte Weberei, Berlin, Germany
ORPHAN, 20 min. Groß Leuthen Castle, Brandenburg, Germany
DE TOUR, 10 min. Dock11, Berlin, Germany
"PRESENTATION", 65 min. Dock11, Berlin, Germany

2003

RE (Repetition and difference), 25 min. Dock11, Berlin, Germany
"O", 20 min. Disturbances Symposium, Royal Opera House, Copenhagen, Denmark
"W", 35 min. Kamp Kunst-Stoff, Eel River, USA

2002

LA CHUTE DE LA MAISON USHER – THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER, Opera directed by Tomi Paasonen, 80 min. Kiasma Theatre, Helsinki, Finland
SUPER VISION, 37 min. Cowell Theatre, San Francisco, USA
IKARUS - ABFLUG TEGEL (Icarus – Departure Tegel), 100 min. with prisoners at JVA Tegel, Berlin, Germany
PARA NEU, 40 min. Tanztage '02, Sophiensaele, Berlin, Germany

2000

TUBE 58,6, 10 min. Decompression Festival, San Francisco, USA
OLOTLA (State of Being), 100 min. Zodiak Theater, Helsinki, Finland
ENDLESS, 45 min. Burning Man Festival, Nevada, USA
OBSCENES, 13 min. Gay and Lesbian Dance Festival, San Francisco, USA
SWANSONG, 40 min. Kunst-Stoff production, San Francisco, USA
TUBE 58,5, 13 min. S.F. Art Institute Spring Salon, San Francisco, USA

1999

STAR-STRUCK, 7 min. Continuum, San Diego, USA
DEEPENDS, 25 min. Burning Man Festival, Nevada, USA
TUBE 58, 80 min. Kunst-Stoff Production, San Francisco, USA
SLIPPING, 3:30 min. Brady Street Theater Benefit, San Francisco, USA

1998

DESTINATION DREAMLAND, 45 min. Brady Street Theater, San Francisco, USA

MEGA Hz, 22 min. Brady Street Theater, San Francisco, USA

"X", 21 min. Summerfest/Dance'98, Theater Artaud, San Francisco, USA

CLOSE, 7 min. Gay and Lesbian Dance Festival, Dance Mission Theatre, San Francisco, USA

TUBE 57, 70 min. Jon Sims Center Residency Program, San Francisco, USA

WAVELENGTH, 10 min. Brady Street Theater, San Francisco, USA

1997

FAR AND CLOUD, 12 min. Dance Chicago Festival, Chicago, USA

PORTRAIT OF DORIAN GRAY- DREAM SEQUENCE, 15 min. Bailiwick Theatre, Chicago, USA

1995

WHILE WAITING, 25 min. Dance Envisions The Cure Festival, Cowell Theater, San Francisco, USA

1993

STILLE NACHT (Silent Night), 35 min. Kampnagel Fabrik, Hamburg, Germany

1992

AUS SELMAS NOTITZBUCH (From Selma's Notebook), 25min. Kampnagel Fabrik, Hamburg, Germany

1991

PROPER 22 min. Kampnagel Fabrik, Hamburg, Germany

TEACHING / WORKSHOPS

1998-2019

Classes in advanced classical and contemporary ballet and contemporary dance at:

San Francisco Dance Center, San Francisco, USA

Staatsoper Ballett Hannover, Germany

Opernballett Heidelberg, Germany

Opernballett Freiburg, Germany

Staatsoper Oldenburg, Germany

Marameo studio Berlin, Germany

Dock 11 studio Berlin, Germany

Centro Cultural Vergeiro de São Paulo, Brazil

Architanz Tokyo, Japan

Dominican University
San Rafael, USA

2007-2019

Workshops for Contemporary Improvisation Methods at:
Architanz – Tokyo, Japan
KUNST-STOFF Arts - San Francisco, USA
Centro Cultural Vergeiro, São Paulo, Brazil
San Francisco Dance Center, USA
Zodiak - Centre for New Dance, Finland
ITAK – Regional Dance Centre of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland
Savonia University of Eastern Finland
Jojo – Oulu Dance Centre, Finland
Riveria // North Karelia College Outokumpu, Finland

2008-2014

Video Dance Workshops at:
ITAK – Regional Dance Centre of Eastern Finland
KUNST-STOFF Arts, San Francisco, USA
Centro Cultural Galeria Olido, São Paulo, Brazil

2009-2013

Dance workshops and classes for dancers with Down syndrome and other disabilities, Theater Rambazamba, Berlin, Germany

2000

Dance workshop for people with disabilities, Zodiak Center for New Dance, Helsinki, Finland

FILM / VIDEO WORKS

2021

GREEN SCREEN DANCES, 5 dance films for still camera and green screen
1 DANCING WITH THE STARS, 03:51
2 MERCURY, 03:09
3 IN LIMBO, 04:24
4 TV SCREEN, 04:39
5 CONSEQUENCES OF LIMINAL CIRCUMSTANCES, 04:55

COMEBACK, 13 min. Filmreihe von Mira Popova, Performance: Tomi Paasonen

2013

4 SOLOS FOR 4 TATTOOS, 20 min.

2010

HULLUT PÄIVÄT - CRAZY DAYS, 1 min. Honorary Mentioning at São Paulo film festival

2007

THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME, 4 min, digital video

2002

UNITED, 3 minutes, digital video

2001

FOLIE, 9 min. digital video

1997

NUDERUDE, 20 min. Super 8mm to video

1994

FRAUENGOLD, 10 min. Super 8mm to video

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS

2011

LIIKKEELLÄ LIIKKEESSÄ - MOVING IN MOTION, Photo series published in "Nykykoreografin Jalanjäljissä" book by Hannele Jyrkkä

2010

HAPPINESS MACHINES - RISE Berlin Gallery, Group Exhibition, Berlin

2008

POETIC MADNESS AND THE ROMANTIC IMAGINATION - RISE Berlin Gallery, Group Exhibition, Berlin

2002

GALA DRESS - Solo Exhibition, an intimate collaboration with a 70 year old disabled woman Tuuli Helkky Helle. Exhibition shown at RISE Berlin, Access et Paradox Open Art Fair Paris, Fort Mason Center - San Francisco, Lasipalatsi Galleria Helsinki, and City Gallery of Forssa and Fullmoon Dance Festival Pyhäjärvi.

1999

META MORPH - photo series exhibition New Mission Gallery, San Francisco

1998

RECYCLES -project, exhibition Brady Street Gallery, San Francisco

DANCING & PERFORMING FOR OTHERS

2021

Performing in Mira Popova's short films: "Comeback", "Dead Even" and "ScreensHot"

2019

Dancer in Frank Willens's production "Radiant Optimism"

2013

Momentum #130 - Solo for Tomi, chor: Favela Ortiz

2005-2007

Dancer in Felix Rückert's piece "Secret Service", touring across Europe

1995-1997

The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, Director: Gerald Arpino

Performing works by

G. Arpino, Alonzo King, Randy Duncan, Margo Sappington, Laura Dean, Mehmet Sanders, "The Chinese Conjuror" in Leonide Massine's "Parade" and "l'Après-midi d'un Faune" by Vaslav Nijinskij

1994-1995

Lines Contemporary Ballet, Director: Alonzo King

1989-1994

Hamburg Ballet, Director: John Neumeier

1992-1994

Soloist Contract with Hamburg Ballet. Director: John Neumeier Solo roles in J. Neumeier's Othello, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Des Knaben Wunderhorn, Fenster Zu Mozart, A Cinderella Story, Peer Gynt, The Sleeping Beauty, Requiem, Mattheus Passion, Mahler's Symphony III, Romeo und Julia, Der Nussknacker, Trilogy M.R., Synphonia Concertante by Lar Lubovich, Meinungslose Wieden by Mats Ek.

DANCE EDUCATION

1987-1989

Hamburg Ballet School John Neumeier, Balletmaster: Truman Finney

1987

Representing Finland in European Broadcasting Union's International Ballet Competition for Young Dancers in Schwetzingen bei Heidelberg, Germany.

1985

Solo Performance at the Kuopio International Dance Festival

1981-1987

Finnish National Ballet School, Director: Maj-Lis Rajala

FEATURED ON TELEVISION / DOCUMENTARIES

2013

Documentary on Tokyo TV on the making of the production "Yume no Minato"

2009

Documentary about Olotila performances in Hong Kong/Hong Kong TV

2004

Portrait for ZDF/3Sat about Olotila at Simple Life Festival in HAU2, Berlin
Documentary/Portrait for Swedish speaking television in Finland

2002

Portrait for Finnish Television of the process of making Gala Dress photo series together with Tuuli Helkky Helle

2000

Documentary of the making of "Olotila", Försti-filmi, Finland

1992

A Portrait for Finnish National Television Y.L.E.

1987

Suomi's Children, A documentary directed by Lamont Johnson (USA)

1985

A Portrait for Finnish National Television Y.L.E.

1982

Live TV-broadcast of the ballet The Blue Pearl, Finnish National Opera House

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2025

Berlin Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und gesellschaftlichen Zusammenhalt for "Happy Hour"

Berlin Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und gesellschaftlichen Zusammenhalt for "Zeitgeister"

2024

Arts Promotion Center Finland, funding for "Les Sylphides"

2022

Hauptstadtkulturfonds Berlin funding for "Pas de Q"

Berlin Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa funding for "COMEBACK TRILOGY" "Retrospectum", "Antibody" und "Lost and Found"

Berlin Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa funding for "Attitude"

Finnish Cultural Fund and Arts Promotion Center Finland funding for "Tahra / Stain"

2021

Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa Förderung für das Soloprojekt „Lost And Found“

Dachverband Tanz Deutschland / Distanzen Solo funding for The Distanz Project - 5 dance films still camera and green screen

2020

Berliner Senat für Kultur und Europa funding for "Retrospectum – 5 solos for 5 decades"

2018

Grants from Alfred Kordelin Foundation, Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation, Arts Promotion Centre Finland and Zodiak Center for New Dance production grant for the Production of "Satubaletti"

2014

Grants from Kone Foundation, The Arts Promotion Centre Finland and The Finnish Cultural Foundation (North Savonia Fund) for the production of "2nd

Nature"

2011

Grants from Kulttuurirahasto, Taiteen keskustoimikunta, Svenska kulturfonden, Kone Foundation and Environmental Ministry of Finland for the production "Vol.at.ilit.y"

2009

Monogram wins 2nd price for choreography at the International Solo Dance Festival in Stuttgart Rotebühlplatz
Honorary Price for the short video HULLUT PÄIVÄT - CRAZY DAYS, at São Paulo film festival

2008

Hauptstadtkulturfonds - Berlin grants for production "Hybrid Dislocation"
Ministry of education of Finland grant for "Olotila" performances in Paris

2007

BalletTanz Editor Arnd Wesemann Critics Choice for Jahrbuch'07 'most important collaboration of the year for production 'Interface'

2006

'Finnish National Artist' Grant for 1 year
Burning Man Art Grant

2005

San Francisco Goldie Award, Kunst-Stoff 'Dance Company of the Year 2005'
Finnish Cultural Foundation's Grant for the production of "Best Before"
Grants from Arts Council of Finland and Goethe Institute

2004

"W" nominated for Isadora Duncan Award for best piece in San Francisco 2003
Hauptstadtkulturfonds - Berlin, Nordscen and Nordisk Kulturfond grants for the production "MeMoRe"

2002

'Pro Dance' stipend for achievements in the field of dance in Helsinki, Finland

2001

'Finnish National Artist' Grant for 6 months

2000

'Theatre Event of the Year' Award for the piece "Olotila - State of Being" of the year 2000 in Finland

1998

'Newcomer Of The Year 1998' in San Francisco by S.F. Examiner critic's choice
"X" in the top ten list of best pieces of the year in San Francisco, according to
'The San Francisco Examiner'