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The Company

Our Mission and Vision

- To bring the best quality ballet as entertainment to all:
 - Regional theatres
 - Performing arts festivals
 - Hospitals and hospices
 - Care and nursing homes
 - Anywhere there is a space to dance
- To dispel the myth that ballet is dull and dusty.



photo: Bernie Ng

Background

JSLN Dance Company was founded in 2012, originally as JuSt Live daNce Productions by Sören Magnus Niewelt and Jessica Sarah Larbig, with a vision of bringing dance to a wider public and to demonstrate the versatility of dance and dancers.

Artistic Director Niewelt has a strong belief that dancers must be versatile in all genres of dance in order to bring life to his own exciting choreography. Although a classically trained dancer himself (Hamburg Ballet School and Australian Ballet School), his works use the purity of classical ballet combined with other dance forms for the art of storytelling through movement.

Initially, during the first season in Berlin, Niewelt and co-founder Larbig used the company as a platform for young, newly graduated dancers, presenting a number of project based productions. These performances included whole programmes as well as many social projects in and around Berlin including charity galas and performances in senior citizen homes and hospices.

JSLN Dance Company Portfolio

The second season, 2013/2014, saw JSLN Dance Company move to Singapore as a full-time company, supported by a private funder. Asia, particularly Singapore is a place both Niewelt and Larbig have a great fondness for, having lived and worked there previously, and saw an opportunity for accessible dance performances for all. It was also seen as a part of the world where a great number of talented young dancers exist without the opportunity to perform within their home locality. JSLN chose to work with young Asian dancers in Singapore, enabling them to grow as performers.

During the second season, many pieces were created, forming a significant part of the company repertoire today. Performances during this season included full programmes and projects collaborating with musicians and visual artists, as well as the start of JSLN Dance Company's international tours. These included taking performances to the Shenzhen Fringe Festival and to Malaysia.

The third season, 2014/2015, saw Niewelt and Larbig move to Beijing where the company became project based again. China, like South East Asia was a region where young, well trained dancers were unable to develop as performers due to lack of opportunity. JSLN Dance Company created new works during this season with local dancers, performing these and classical repertoire at galas in and around Beijing and also to the Solo International Performing Arts Festival in Solo, Indonesia.

In early 2015, choreographer Niewelt and first artist Larbig returned to their native Germany continuing their work in the international dance scene from their new base in Augsburg, Bavaria under the revised name of JSLN Dance Company.

July/August 2015 saw JSLN Dance Company's biggest project to date where a new work for four dancers was created for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and performed daily through the Fringe period.



photo: Cinderella / 'Swan Lake Fantasy'

The Core Team

Sören Magnus Niewelt: Artistic Director



photo: Bernie Ng

Founder and choreographer Sören Niewelt was born in 1981 and received his early training from the age of 10 at the Hamburg Ballet School under the direction of John Neumeier and completing his training at the Australian Ballet School.

Following his graduation from the Australian Ballet School, Niewelt's performing career saw him dance as a soloist in classical and modern dance companies in Ireland, Germany, Japan and Brazil. After a serious knee injury left him unable to dance at the highest level, Niewelt became ballet master for the dance company at the Stadttheater, Gießen, Germany, and then a temporary ballet master at Singapore Dance Theatre.

In 2012, Niewelt with co-founder and first artist, Larbig started JSLN Dance Company in Berlin, allowing him to develop his own choreography independently.

From the inception of JSLN Dance Company, he has worked with dancers from varied backgrounds allowing him to express his own inimitable creative style in a huge diversity of performance spaces ranging from theatres to churches, open air venues, art galleries to name but a few.

Niewelt's most recognisable works are his fresh, elegant, neoclassical pieces where every movement has a tale to tell.

Jessica Sarah Larbig: Principal Dancer



photo: Markus Pfeiffer



photo: Bernie Ng

Co-founder and first artist Jessica Larbig was born in 1983 and received her Bachelor in Modern Dance at the Academies in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Frankfurt, Germany.

Following graduation, Larbig joined Danceworks Rotterdam under artistic director Ton Simons, touring for four years with the company to Russia, Romania, Hungary, Cyprus, Indonesia and throughout the Netherlands before the company fell prey to government funding cuts.

Larbig joined Singapore Dance Theatre as a permanent guest artist, dancing in many of the great classical ballets and met Niewelt during this time.

As a dancer, Larbig often found herself typecast due to her contemporary dance training but her petite physique, speed of movement and pure classical lines have allowed her the ability to express herself in any dance genre with equal beauty and clarity.

In the quest for greater freedom of artistic expression, Larbig relocated with Niewelt to Berlin, to build JSLN Dance Company where she is Principal Dancer.

Larbig's own choreography also forms part of JSLN Dance Company's repertoire and shares with Niewelt a talent for storytelling through movement. Her work tends more towards contemporary dance with flowing and intricate choreography which has a mesmerising appeal.

Loretta Wong: Company Manager

Loretta Wong joined JSLN Dance Company in 2015 as their company manager with the aim of managing and building relationships with performing arts venues and organisations. She is also responsible for preparing funding proposals along with the general day to day running of the company, allowing the artistic team the freedom to create dance in the confidence that the business concerns are well looked after.

Loretta has had a fulfilling career in chemistry over 26 years after making the choice to not follow a career in dance at the age of 18. She has however maintained a love of dance all her life after taking her first ballet class at the age of four, continuing with classes and has taught and coached dance students both in the UK and in Singapore.

JSLN and Loretta were introduced by a mutual friend while the company was based in Singapore and she was working as the Process Chemistry Development Manager at the Institute of Chemical and Engineering Sciences. Upon returning to the UK after a six year contract in Singapore, she was invited by Niewelt and Larbig to manage JSLN Dance Company, using the project management and interpersonal communication skills gained during her career as a scientist.



posterdesign: Ryo Miyahara

JSLN Dance Company Portfolio

Repertoire

Classical		Neo Classical		Modern	
Swan Lake Fantasy	2015	Transitions of (I)dentity	2015	Humigami	2015
Coppelia (excerpt)	2013	Together Ap-Art	2014	Facts no Fiction	2014
Le Corsair (Pas de Deux)	2013	Not Just Words	2014	Qualia #	2014
Sleeping Beauty (Variation)	2013	Pressure	2014	Chez Mario	2014
Sleeping Beauty (Pas de Deux)	2012	Cruel Gardens	2013	New Grounds	2014
Raymonda (Variation)	2012	Cellissimo	2013	Thundering Silence #	2014
		Vitruvian	2013	(I)Dentity	2013
		Equation of Evasion	2012	I is All #	2013
		Let's Groove!	2012	Transformer	2013
		Zen & Silence	2012	60 Toes	2013
		Before is After is Before	2012	Majulah!	2013
				Zwei Geteilt	2013
				The Displaced	2013
				Smithereens of Two #	2013
				Panta Rei	2013
				Two Hands Together	2013
				Rolls Bayce	2012
				Smithereens #	2012
				Tarantella	2012
				Saudades #	2012

All work is choreographed or staged by Sören Niewelt except those marked with #, which are choreographed by Jessica Larbig.

List of Performances

Title	Month / Year	Location	Remarks*
Season IV 2015/2016			
Variations of Pointe	05-06/2016	South-England, U.K.	JSLN South-England Tour 2016
Transitions of (I)dentity	11/2015	Augsburg, Germany	@Kulturhaus abraxas
Mixed Programme	11/2015	Augsburg, Germany	Gala Italiana 2015
Transitions of (I)dentity (excerpts)	10/2015	Augsburg, Germany	Hochzoller Kulturtage 2015
Season III 2014/2015			
Transitions of (I)dentity	08/2015	Edinburgh, Scotland	Edfringe 2015
Transitions of (I)dentity (excerpts)	07/2015	Augsburg, Germany	Subklew Gala 2015
Transitions of (I)dentity (excerpts)	06/2015	Waltrop, Germany	Extra Schicht 2015
Swan Lake Fantasy	02/2015	Beijing, China	@Tianqiao Theater
Le Corsair & Humigami	12/2014	Beijing, China	Gala 2015
Together Ap-Art	09/2014	Solo, Indonesia	SIPA 2014
Le Corsair & Together Ap-Art	09/2014	Beijing, China	Gala 2014
Chez Mario	08/2014	Singapore	Yellowren 2014
Season II 2013/2014			
Images – Where do they take us?	04/2014	Singapore	10 years The Arts House
Facts no Fiction @ Mario's	03/2014	Penang, Malaysia	3 Ways Dance Series
New Grounds-In Memory Of...	02/2014	Singapore	@Aliwal Arts Center

JSLN Dance Company Portfolio

Title	Month / Year	Location	Remarks*
Season II 2013/2014 (continued)			
New Grounds	01/2014	Singapore	Gabrielli Art Exhibition 2014
Schwarzschild Radius (in collaboration with SA)	12/2013	Singapore	@The Substation
(I)Dentity (in collaboration with SA)	11/2013	Shenzhen, China	Shenzhen Fringe 2013
WE Are!	10/2013	Singapore	@ION Art Gallery
Studio Sneak Peek	09-10/2013	Singapore	@JSLN Studio
Cruel Gardens (with Flamenco Sin Fronteras)	09/2013	Singapore	@Drama Theater
Querbeet Improv	08/2013	Singapore	Yellowren 2013
National Day Special	08/2013	Singapore	@JSLN Studio
Passports	08/2013	Singapore	@Geylang Art Gallery
Studio Opening Gala	08/2013	Singapore	@JSLN Studio
Season I 2012/2013			
The Displaced	06-07/2013	Singapore	Community Arts Project 'Displacements'
Moments of Inspiration II	02/2013	Berlin, Germany	@Theaterhaus Mitte
Moments of Inspiration I	12/2012	Berlin, Germany	@Glashaus / Berlin Arena
Short Notice	11/2012	Berlin, Germany	@Acud Theater
Before is After is Before	10/2012	Berlin Germany	Marameo Showcase 2012

*The section 'remarks' gives either information about the festival of which the performance was part of, or the theatre, in which the performance as a full production of JSLN Dance Company took place.

Press Reviews

Transitions of (I)dentify, 2015/Scotland

TV Bomb – September 2, 2015

“It is the last day of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and things in the city have already wound down significantly. However, the four dancers from the JSLN Dance Company perform undaunted and



with the utmost professionalism, despite their tiny audience.

Although contemporary dance is quite well represented at the Fringe, there has been little as connected to classical ballet as JSLN’s new work, *Transitions of (I)dentify*, Choreographed by [Sören Magnus Niewelt](#), who is also the company’s artistic director, it explores the inner struggle that accompanies the journey to discovering who we are, towards our true identity.

The work comprises a number of sections—solos, duets, trios and ensemble pieces—which are extremely well executed by the four dancers. The work as a whole is nicely held together by a number of recurring thematic moves: a simple yet effective technique. The unfussy costumes give the dancers the look of classical sculpture, accentuated sometimes by the use of cold blue lighting.

The dancers are all very good, well matched and work very well as an ensemble. [Jessica Larbig](#) is particularly accomplished, her movements controlled, flowing and refined. However, it is as a group that they are really noteworthy, connecting with each other at all times, their movements nicely aligned, almost acting together as a single entity. There is a lot of energy and commitment behind the choreography, but at the same time the dancers make it look all quite effortless.

This was certainly a good choice to end the Fringe on: a very satisfying piece of contemporary ballet. **JSLN Dance is definitely a company to look out for in future.”**

Author, Robert Dow

Together Ap-Art, 2014/Indonesia

Antaranews – September 12, 2014



"The delegation from Germany, ' *Just Live Dance* ' showed contemporary ballet that fascinated thousands of spectators at 'Solo International Performing Arts Festival' (SIPA) [...] in Solo, Central Java on Thursday night.

Dancer and choreographer Soren Magnus Niewelt and contemporary ballet dancer Jessica from Germany, presented graceful movements and relied on the flexibility of their bodies.

In fact, the two dancers', sometimes acrobatic movements, interspersed with musical violin accompaniments, made the audience enthralled and the performing artists received festive applause.

In addition, the two choreographers depicted the movement of an adventurer who has talent and versatility.

Their style of dance, classical ballet with contemporary techniques, is quite unique.

According to Soren Magnus, his classical background and Jessica's neo-classical one, combine to dance about emotion in togetherness and loneliness."

Jakarta Post – September 13, 2014



"German ballet dancers and choreographers Soren Magnus Niewelt and Jessica Sarah Larbig from the Just Live Dance group were given first shot to dazzle the audience. Their 20-minute performance, titled Together Apart, captured the locals' attention.

"I didn't fully understand the meaning of the dance but they presented a very good routine," one local resident, Fitriana, said.

Niewelt said the warmth of the reaction to their piece was beyond his expectations.

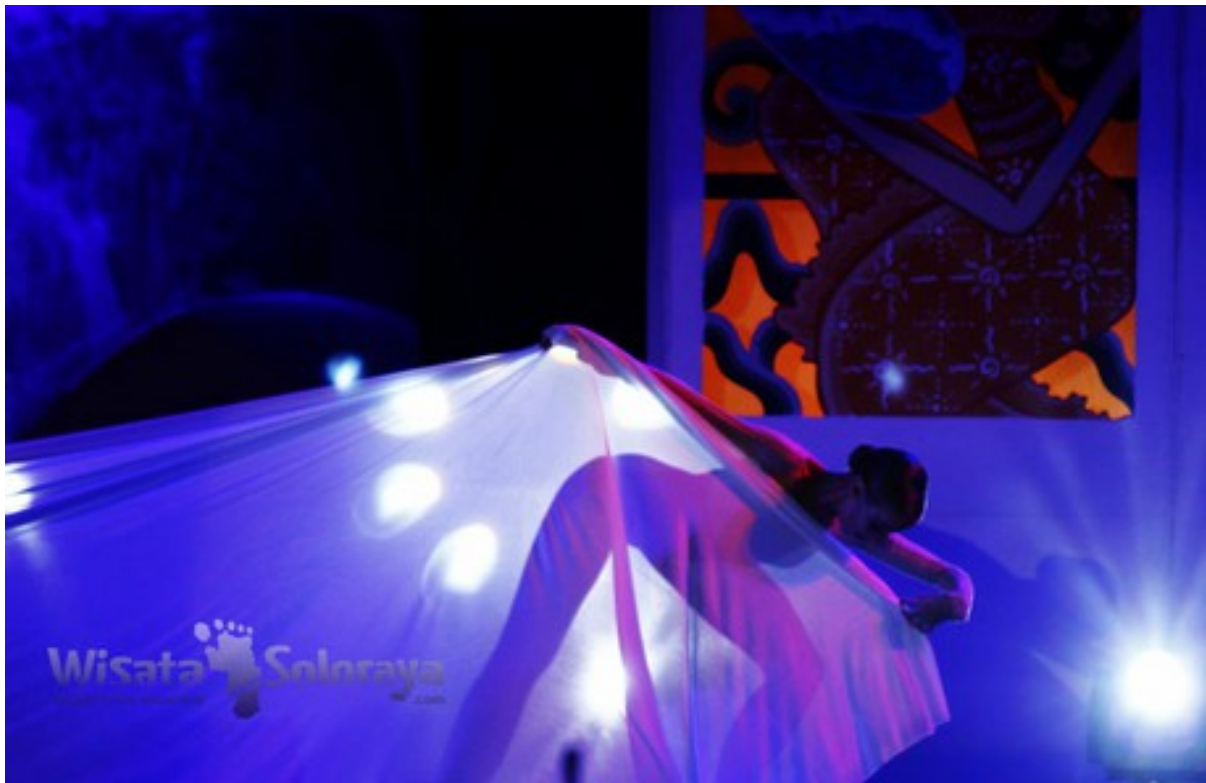
"Neither Jessica nor I expect anything whenever we travel and dance, but today was awesome," Niewelt said after their performance."

Together Ap-Art (continued)

Jakarta Post Travel - September 16, 2014



"A beautiful contemporary ballet performance by German pair Soren Magnus Niewelt and Jessica Sarah Larbig, calling themselves Just Live Dance, enlivened the stage shortly afterward."



'Together Ap-Art'
photo: Fitra

WE Are!, 2013/Singapore

Artitude - October 21, 2013

artitude

"The Singapore based dance company, Just Live Dance Productions have teamed up with the folks at Pop and Contemporary Fine Art, and together they present WE ARE.

Our minds are tingling to imagine what will happen when these talented performers move, twist, turn, and float into Morris' colourful exhibition which is already high on the sense-tingling scale. The performance will explore the definition of identity. Who are we if we take away our passport, name and nationality? Who are you?

Such deep philosophical questions can be explored through both classical and contemporary dance interpretations, and Just Live Dance invite us to experience the dancers' interpretations and different approaches towards these topical issues."

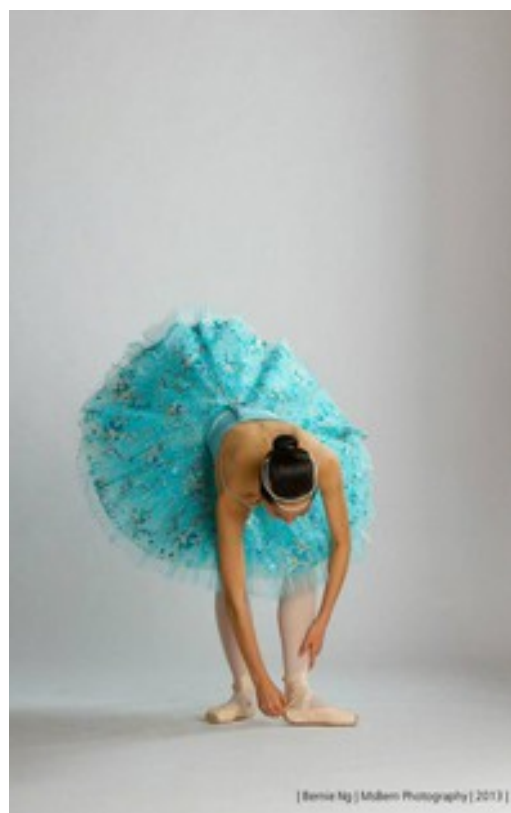


photo: Bernie Ng

Displacements, 2013/Singapore

The Finder - June 2013

"German-born Sören Niewelt brings an influx of skills to Displacements. With experience in steering his own ballet school in São Paulo, Brazil for eight years, Sören recently opened his own agency and company in Singapore, Just Live Dance Productions, with the support of his partner, Jessica Larbig. Sören shares why he believes Displacements offers expats living and working in Singapore and the wider local communities of Singapore a platform to come together as one.

"The fact that, as expats, we can create works in collaboration with local schools and local talent shows the connection Singapore has with the global community. The integration of many artists from different backgrounds and nationalities - which this event spurs on - is what makes this initiative and Singapore so special."

Sören believes that Displacements will help you see the dramatic change that has occurred in the Lion City art scene within the last 10 years and understand more fully why Singapore is now the place to be."



Short Notice, 2012/Germany

B.Z. - November 6, 2012





"[...] As artist and owner of a dance agency, he [Soren Niewelt] cannot heal the illness, but wants to do something for the victims of cancer nonetheless.

*"The piece is about patients and their loved ones, how they deal with the disease", he explains.
"We are transforming their fight into dance on stage."*

The ticket income of the two performance nights will be going to benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Wedding, which takes care of families with sick children."



*'Chez Mario'
photo: Weiteck Chee*

Happy Feet, 2012/Germany

B.Z. - January 2, 2013

B.Z.

"At first, the seniors look a little bit skeptical at the bald dancer in ballet shoes. But when he lifts his dance partner Jessica Larbig (28) with one fluid motion, whilst turning a well-executed pirouette around himself, the diabetes and stroke patients of the day-clinic suddenly smile their pains away.

[...] "*For sick people it is often impossible to go to the theater or the opera*". That is why Soren Niewelt comes directly to the hospital with his dance show.

[...] The two ask the audience to join: "*Dance brings movement. So we animate the spectators to join gestures of arms and hands, each how they can manage. That works even while sitting down.*"



Contact and more Information

e Mail: *jsldancecompany@yahoo.com*

Telephone: +49 821 4082 3866

Mobile: +49 173 562 5775

Address: Hirschstraße 44
86156 Augsburg
GERMANY

Website: *www.jsldancecompany.de*

Videos: <https://vimeo.com/user32565629>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/JuStLivedaNce

Twitter: twitter.com/JSLNDanceCo



photo: Markus Pfeiffer

Gallery



photo: Pfeiffer/Transitions of (I)dentify



photo: Andy Tan/Cruel Gardens



photo: Bernie Ng/Equation of Evasion

JSLN Dance Company Portfolio



photo: Johnson/Displacements



photo: Bernie Ng/60 Toes

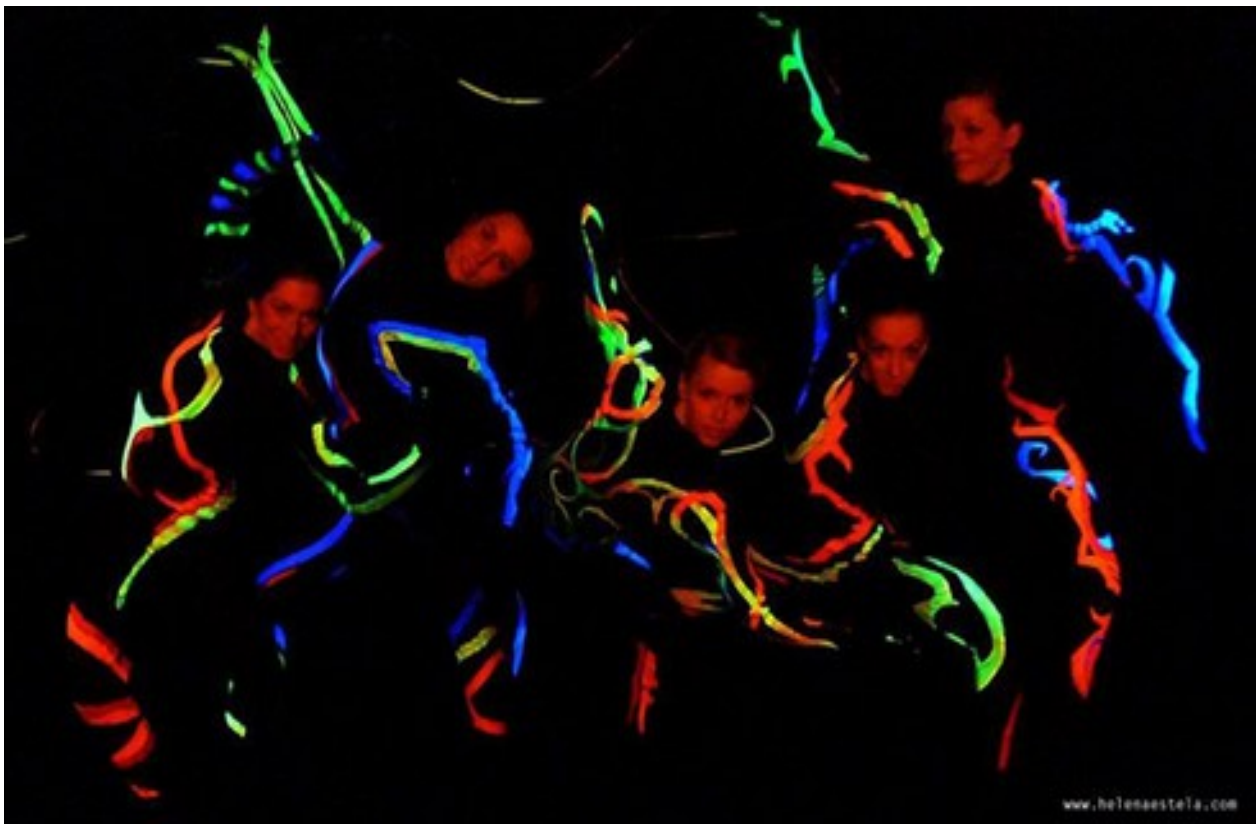


photo: Helena Estrela/Panta Rei