



Kim Baraka

Contemporary dance artist

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Bara-kadance (KVK-registered)

Orteliusstraat 70H

1057 BD Amsterdam

Netherlands

EDUCATION

BEIRUT DANCE STUDIO (dir. Nada Kano)

Professional training in contemporary ballet

Beirut, Lebanon, 2008 - 2014

GIBNEY DANCE CENTER

Self-directed summer intensive, working with various contemporary/modern dance and somatic methods including contact improvisation, Gaga, embodied anatomy, and Klein technique

New York City, USA, May – Aug 2015

HENNY JÜRRIENS STUDIO

Regular professional classes and workshops (ballet, contemporary, Gaga and Countertechnique)

Amsterdam, Netherlands, April 2021 – present

VICTOR CORDON STUDIOS (Portuguese National Ballet Company)

Regular professional classes and workshops (ballet/contemporary)

Lisbon, Portugal, 2017 – 2019

WORKSHOPS, INTENSIVES, ETC

COUNTERTECHNIQUE ONE BODY ONE CAREER (11 day intensive), 2023 and 2022

PEEPING TOM (3-day workshop led by Lauren Langois) Amsterdam, 2021

FORSYTHE IMPROVISATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES (4-day workshop led by Amy Raymond) Amsterdam, 2021

[AITANA CORDERO](#) (2-day workshop) Lisbon, 2018

[CARLOS OSATINSKY](#) | [FERNANDO NICOLÁS PELLICCIOLI](#) (2-day workshop) Lisbon, 2017

CONTACT IMPROVISATION FESTIVAL (3-day workshop/exchange) Lisbon, 2017

[YALDA YOUNES](#) (ongoing practice) yoga in the Krishnamacharya tradition, with a focus on deep release, alignment, and breath, online, 2020 - present

[TIFFANY MILLS](#) (5-day intensive) New York City, 2016

Shorter workshops included ones led by dancers from companies such as: Sasha Waltz, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Batsheva Dance Company, Ballet Preljocaj, Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, and choreographers such as Maura Morales (Germany), Sidra Bell (NYC), Gabrielle Lamb (NYC), Ali Chahrour (Lebanon), etc.

PERFORMANCE

Company member at [THE PILLOW PROJECTS](#) (dir. Pearlann Porter)

Pittsburgh PA, USA, 2016 – 2017

- "Now: playing", Kelly Strayhorn Theater (Dec 2019)
- *Improvisational Post-Jazz*, The Space Upstairs (2016-2019)
Series of improvised performances with live musicians
- "The Jazz Lab Series", The Space Upstairs, (March-April 2017)
Series of collaborative performances with science lectures, live music, chalk art, and poetry

Company member at [BEIRUT DANCE COMPANY](#) (dir. Nada Kano)

Beirut, Lebanon, 2008 – 2014

- "Borderline", Monnot Theater, Beirut (June 2014)
- "Un-re(a)lating", Madina Theater, Beirut (Feb 2013)
- "Element-Terre", premiered at Unesco Palace, Beirut (Sep 2009) — **finalist at the VIth Francophone Games**
- "L'étreinte", premiered at Madina Theater, Beirut (Nov 2011)
- "Beyrouth O Beyrouth" (choreography Raza Hamadi), Zakharif in Motion International Dance Festival, Amman, Jordan (April 2011)
- "Attraction", Aleppo, Syria; Beirut; Saida (Lebanon) (March-August 2009)
- "A corps perdu", Madina Theater, Beirut (May 2008)

SLECTION OF FREELANCE PERFORMANCE WORK

- "[Tempest](#)" invited solo (dir. Sofia Garcia-Miramón), Plein Theater, Amsterdam (Dec 2024)
- "[Swamp Willies](#)" (dir. Emily Jo), Landjuweel Festival, Ruigoord (Aug 2024)

- [“Abyss”](#) (dir. slowdancer), Sexyland, Amsterdam (Aug 2024)
- [“Cobalt”](#) short film (collab.with Julia Rijssenbeek, 2024), Winner Best European Short Film 2024, Nominated InScience Festival
- [“Play Harder”](#) (collaboration with fashion designer Katharina Spitz), Fashion Clash, Maastricht (Nov 2022)
- [“Scattered Complexity”](#) (dir. Veronika Kolomazníková), Zid theater, Amsterdam (Sep 2022, May 2023)
- *Regular Instant Composition performances*, 4bid Gallery @OT301, Amsterdam (2022-2023)
- *“Improvisation on Paintings”*, Culturele Zondag at De Hallen, Amsterdam (Dec 2020)
- [“Último Slow”](#) (dir. Rui Catalão), Dias de Marvila, Lisbon (Oct 2018)
- *“The Gaslight”* (dir. Kaylin Horgan), The Space Upstairs, Pittsburgh, PA (Nov 2016) – immersive crime mystery
- *“Is This a Man’s World?”* (dir. Sarah Jeffers), The Space Upstairs, Pittsburgh, PA (April 2017)
- *“Post-Valentine Cabaret”* (dir. Ella Mason), Off the Wall Theater, Carnegie, PA (March 2017)
- *“A tempo: The 3rd Act”* short film (dir. Maria Abdel Karim, 2012) – acting, choreography, and performance

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

RULE-BASED HUMAN-ROBOT IMPROVISATIONAL INTERACTIONS

Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam (2021 -- present)

Collaborative project with Utrecht University researchers, within the NWO-funded [Acting Like a Robot](#) umbrella project, aimed at applying ideas from dance and theater into robotics.

Publications: Alcobilla-Troughton, I., Baraka, K., Hindriks, K., Bleeker, M. [“Robotic Improvisers: Rule-Based Improvisation and Emergent Behaviour in HRI”](#). In Proceedings of ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI'22), March, 2022.

Alcobilla Troughton, I., von Kentzinsky, H., Bleeker, M., Baraka, K., [““Improvisation ≠ Randomness”: a Study on Playful Rule-Based Human-Robot Interactions”](#). In Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN'23).

CONTACT-BASED HUMAN-ROBOT DANCE (joint work with Isabel Valverde et al.)

INESC-ID, Lisbon (2015)

Programmed and explored interactive dance involving movement and contact modalities between dancer(s) and human-safe manipulator robot, Baxter. The result of this exploration led to a short movie [“Baxter learning how to dance”](#) which won the **“Most uncanny” award** at the 2015 Robot Movie Festival (Pittsburgh, PA, USA).

CHOREOGRAPHY

- *“Sound body”* (work in progress), dance piece with looping voice as a main character.
- *“Membrain”* (work in progress), informal showings at Centro em Movimento (Lisbon) and The Space Upstairs (Pittsburgh)
- *“Struction”* (May 2017) Lightlab Performance Series, Pittsburgh, USA, Traça (Lisbon) and Fabrika (Beirut).
- *“Ya aashiqat al ward”* (Nov 2012), presented Music Hall, Beirut, Lebanon
- Miscellaneous choreography work for various movies and commercials

ARTISTIC COACHING

- *“Spit + Scotch Tape”* (Rebecca Lilich-Krueger, 2024), part of If I Can’t Dance, I Can’t Be Part of Your Revolution

TEACHING

REGULAR CLASSES

- Professional ballet at Austin Community Ballet, Austin, USA (Oct 2020 – Mar 2021)
- Ballet, contemporary, and stretching at Jazzy Dance Studios, Lisbon (2018-2019) – various levels
- Open movement and Improvisation at ACCCA, Companhia Clara Andermatt, Lisbon (Apr 2018 – Feb 2019)
- Beginner/Intermediate ballet for underprivileged kids in Beirut, as well as classes for kids and adults within Beirut Dance Studio (2009-2012)

GUEST TEACHING

- The Pillow Projects, Pittsburgh, USA (Jul 2019)
- Stichting Triplets, Amsterdam (Oct 2021)
- First Street Studio, Austin, USA (Jan 2021)

WORKSHOPS

- Movement Improvisation Tools workshop as part of Beirut Physical Lab initiative (Jan 2024)
- Movement and Improvisation workshop series (3-4 days), repeated over four years between Amalgam, Artlab, and Houna Center (Beirut, Lebanon, 2017-2019)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Founder of [Impromptu](#), a platform dedicated to the art of improvisation in all its forms (2024—present)
- Head of board of **Stichting Triplets**, a foundation committed to advocate for a healthier performance scene in Amsterdam
- Member of **Co-Dance**, a dance collective based in Atelier Real, Lisbon, focusing on creating and sharing dance work and promote independent performance artists (2018-2019)
- Ballet teacher at **Ayadina**, NGO for bringing artistic education to underprivileged areas of Beirut (2009)

LANGUAGES

French (native) – English (fluent) – Arabic (fluent) – Dutch (intermediate/B2) – Portuguese (intermediate) – Spanish (conversational)

OTHER

Parallel to my dance practice, I am an assistant professor in Social Artificial Intelligence at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. My research work focuses on developing algorithms for efficient and smooth interactions between robots and humans, including choreographers and dancers. I teach Bachelor and Master courses on Interactive Robotics and Machine Learning. You can find more information about my scientific work on my [website](#).