

INTRODANS

Welcome to End of Season 2026

Every year, Introdans heralds the summer with a new End of Season programme — a festive evening of reflection, anticipation, and a celebration of the power of dance. This year, we do so entirely in black and white, with virtuosic and vibrant ballets by acclaimed (inter)national choreographers.

The programme features a variety of works. From the acclaimed *Susto* and the humorous *SH-BOOM!* by Paul Lightfoot & Sol León — works from 1994 that remain as relevant as ever — to the Introdans première of the duet *Mano a Mano* by Iratxe Ansa and Igor Bacovich. The evening also includes the optimistic *Floating Flowers* by Po-Cheng Tsai and the dynamic *Promenade* by choreographer Robert Battle. We present the iconic solo *Caught* by choreographer David Parsons, and close the evening with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's monumental *In Memoriam*.

“For this annual dance celebration, we selected older and new ballets that fit the black-and-white theme perfectly. Each work balances light and dark in its own way. Yin and yang — a strikingly beautiful evening in balance.” – Roel Voorin Holt, artistic director

“With this End of Season we celebrate dance and close the season festively with highlights from Introdans’ recent repertoire. We also put a number of dancers in the spotlight, as they are ending their dance careers at Introdans after many years. During End of Season they will shine one last time and showcase their talents.” – Marieke van ’t Hoff, executive director

Enjoy this special evening!

Roel Voorin Holt and Marieke van ’t Hoff
Board of Directors, Introdans

Programme

***SH-BOOM!* – Sol León and Paul Lightfoot**

SH-BOOM! is one of the earliest works in the oeuvre of Sol León and Paul Lightfoot. For this 1994 piece, they drew inspiration from the satirical black-and-white drawings of Spanish painter Francisco de Goya. In this little gem, they masterfully combine the dark (irony) and light (humour) sides of life.

Changement – Inbal Pinto

***Floating Flowers* – Po-Cheng Tsai**

Floating Flowers (2014) is inspired by a traditional Taiwanese ceremony during the Ghost Festival, in which floating lanterns are set adrift on water to honour gods and ward off misfortune. For Po-Cheng Tsai, this was a ritual he performed as a child alongside his father. After his father's passing, he lost the meaning of the custom. It was precisely this loss that led him to create *Floating Flowers*: a tribute to his father and a way to let go of old memories.

Promenade – Robert Battle

Promenade (2000) is a dynamic, playful satire on social norms and values. Set to a deconstructed tango, the American choreographer stages a formal social dance in folk-dance-like patterns. As the piece progresses, animal accents creep into the controlled partnering: the dancers lick themselves, peck like chickens, and stamp their feet on the floor. The energy crackles across the stage. It is no wonder *The New York Times* called *Promenade* a 'high-energy workout'.

Caught – David Parsons

The iconic solo *Caught* (1982) is an impressive tour de force — a fusion of dance and technology in which the dancer appears to float through space before magically coming to a standstill. Born from the human fascination with flight, *Caught* is a dance that presents itself in snapshots, as isolated images that carry you into higher realms.

Susto – Sol León & Paul Lightfoot

The acclaimed *Susto* (1994) is a playful choreography in which dancers swirl to the sounds of Beethoven's famous 5th Symphony around and beneath a stream of sand flowing uninterrupted from a funnel. The beauty and humour of this thirty-year-old work continue to resonate fully.

Interval

Mano a Mano (Introdans première) – Igor Bacovich and Iratxe Ansa

The duet *Mano a Mano* carries the motto 'a tightrope walk between you and me'. It is performed to the rich music of Astor Piazzolla's *Otoño Porteño*. Igor Bacovich and Iratxe Ansa — who earlier this season created the successful *Promises* for Introdans — had long harboured a wish to explore this music in a choreography, and with this ballet they have fulfilled that ambition. They created the work in 2025 for Theater Osnabrück in Germany, and it is being performed by Introdans in the Netherlands for the first time during this End of Season.

In Memoriam – Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui

In Memoriam (2004) is a contemporary masterpiece about loss and memory, as a tribute to the ancestors of choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. The rustling skirts and rushing video imagery propel the dancers forward in this meditative performance. Grief and consolation wrapped in a warmly comforting embrace, as the press described it.

About the choreographers

Sol León and Paul Lightfoot

Sol León and Paul Lightfoot are two of the most prominent choreographers in the Netherlands. Since 1989 they have created choreographies together, primarily for the Nederlands Dans Theater, where they met a short time before and were defining dancers for many years. The duo has made more than fifty choreographies for NDT, performed all over the world. Introdans has three of their works in its repertoire, two of which can be seen this evening.

Po-Cheng Tsai

Taiwanese choreographer Po-Cheng Tsai has built an international reputation with his company B.DANCE. His work combines Asian traditions, martial arts, and contemporary dance into visually striking and theatrical performances. Alongside his work for B.DANCE, Tsai has created pieces for companies including Gauthier Dance and Tanz Luzerner Theater. His work has been awarded at various international choreography competitions.

Robert Battle

Robert Battle is a renowned American choreographer and former artistic director of the world-famous Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Battle is known for his dynamic, rhythmic, and powerful choreographies, often inspired by contemporary sports, ancient rituals, and urban dance. Eleven of his works are in Introdans' repertoire, and they are praised for their combination of strength, resistance, and rousing energy.

David Parsons

The work of American choreographer David Parsons is energetic, athletic, and accessible. His choreographies — Introdans has five in its repertoire — combine physical power, technical precision, and a healthy dose of humour. Through clever interactions between the dancer and elements such as light and technology, he creates a visual spectacle in which rhythm and pure expression take centre stage.

Iratxe Ansa and Igor Bacovich

Iratxe Ansa — who as a dancer at NDT and elsewhere was renowned for her remarkable versatility and natural creativity — has worked as a freelance choreographer since 2010. Igor Bacovich danced with, among others, Krisztina de Châtel and Nanine Linning. In 2019, Bacovich and Ansa co-founded Metamorphosis Dance, based in Madrid. Their choreographic work is characterised by an intense physical language and a methodology that enables them to connect dancers both physically and emotionally to the choreography.

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui

Leading choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui has a unique ability to transform weighty themes such as otherness, collectivity, the search for identity, faith, and desire into impressive narratives, expressed through a poetic and often hypnotic dance style. He bridges many different dance forms. Cherkaoui's virtuosic dance language, his musicality, and his courage to let silence speak, align well with Introdans.

Farewell to our dancers

Dancers Giuseppe, Ruben, Nienke, and Nina conclude their long dance careers at Introdans with the End of Season 2026 programme.

Giuseppe Calabrese

At Introdans since August 2013

"When I was sixteen, I made a very conscious choice to pursue a career in dance. It was a pivotal moment in my life, and now I find myself at another such turning point. I will miss the stage and the audience. But my warmest memories are of working with other dancers and choreographers in the studio. Fortunately, I won't have to leave that behind entirely, as I will continue at Introdans as a ballet master. I look forward to helping dancers bring out the best in themselves in this new role."

Nienke Wind

At Introdans since August 2012

"Dance means an enormous amount to me. It will take some adjustment to no longer be engaged with it every day — mentally and physically. I will miss my colleagues most of all. You work so intensively together and share both the joys and the hardships. One of my highlights at Introdans was performing the role of Marie in The Nutcracker last year. A sort of icing on the cake of my career. And now I look forward to spending more time with my family."

Ruben Ameling de Leeuw**At Introdans since August 2012**

“It feels strange to think that soon I won’t simply walk the corridors of Introdans or dance in the studio anymore. I look back on a wonderful dance career, with tours in New York, Saint Petersburg, Beijing, and of course the Netherlands. I will miss the daily work with the dancers in the studio. Fortunately, I also feel a great curiosity about what lies ahead. I will pursue a degree in interior architecture and styling, and continue as a dance teacher and coach. Passing on my passion for dance gives me great satisfaction.”

Nina Dijkman**At Introdans since August 2017**

“Saying goodbye to Introdans feels bittersweet. It is sad, but at the same time I look back on a beautiful career. The first ballet I danced at Introdans was Hans van Manen’s Polish Pieces. I was also able to dance it in my final season, which for me brings things full circle. I look forward to the next chapter with new challenges. Whether it’s a dance class or playing dance games on the Nintendo with my niece and nephew — dance will always remain a part of my life.”

Credits**SH-BOOM!**

choreography Sol León and Paul Lightfoot

music The Ink Spots *If I didn’t care* and *Do I Worry?*, Stan Freberg *John and Marsha*, Turner Layton & Clarence Johnstone *S’posin’*, Olavi Virta *Sininen huvimaja (Blue Pavilion)*, Arturo Cuartero *Nana a luisito*, The Mills Brothers *Sixty Seconds Got Together*, Vera Lynn *Auf Wiederseh’n*, *Sweetheart*, Stan Freberg *Sh-Boom*

set and costume design Sol León and Paul Lightfoot

lighting design Tom Bevoort

costume workshop Hermien Hollander

staged by Jorge Nozal

rehearsal directors V rine Bouwman, Giuseppe Calabrese, Marlena Wolfe

duration ± 25 minutes

world premi re 24 June 1994, NDT, The Hague

Introdans premi re 22 June 2023, Arnhem

Changement

Inbal Pinto

Floating Flowers

choreography Po-Cheng Tsai

music Zo  Keating *Legends (Reverie)*, *We Insist*

costume design Po-Cheng Tsai

lighting design Otto Chang

costume workshop B.Dance

rehearsal director Marlena Wolfe

duration ± 10 minutes

world premi re 21 June 2014, B.Dance, Hannover (DE)

Introdans premi re 26 December 2017, Arnhem

Promenade

choreography Robert Battle

music John Mackey *Breakdown Tango* (special composition, not commercially available)

costume design Corn  Gabri ls

lighting design Burke Wilmore

costume workshop Hermien Hollander
rehearsal director Marlena Wolfe
duration ± 10 minutes
world première 2000, Parsons Dance Company, Milwaukee (US)
Introdans première 18 October 2008, Arnhem

Caught

choreography David Parsons
music Robert Fripp *1984*
lighting concept David Parsons
lighting design Howell Binkley, adapted by Joop Caboot
costume design David Parsons
rehearsal director Giuseppe Calabrese
duration ± 5 minutes
world première 1982, David Parsons, New York City (US)
Introdans première 30 March 2002, Arnhem

Susto

choreography Sol León and Paul Lightfoot
music Beethoven *Symphony no. 5, Allegro con brio*
set design Paul Lightfoot
costume design Sol León
lighting design Tom Bevoort
costume workshop Martine Douma
staged by Olivier Coeffard
rehearsal directors Véline Bouwman, Marlena Wolfe
duration ± 11 minutes
world première 4 March 1994, NDT, Amsterdam
Introdans première 21 October 2005, Arnhem

Mano a mano

choreography Iratxe Ansa, Igor Bacovich
music Astor Piazzolla *Otoño Porteño* from *Las Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas*
costume and lighting design Iratxe Ansa, Igor Bacovich
rehearsal directors Giuseppe Calabrese, Marlena Wolfe
duration ± 8 minutes
world première 18 June 2026, Introdans, Doetinchem

In Memoriam

choreography Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui
assistant choreography Nicolas Vladyslav, Damien Jalet
music A Filetta; performed by Jean-Claude Acquaviva, François Aragni, Jean-Dominique Bianco, Pierre-Antoine Casta, Paul Giansily, Jean-Vincent Servetto, Maxime Vuillamier; *U Sipolcru, Paghjella, Sirinatu, L'Attesa, E Lode di u Sipolcru, Makharia, A Sintenza, U Lamentu di Ghesù*
film Gilles Delmas
costume design Hedi Slimane
lighting design Dominique Drillot
costume workshop Introdans, Martine Douma, Merlijn Koopman
guest rehearsal directors Aymeric Aude, Gioia Masala
rehearsal directors Giuseppe Calabrese, Marlena Wolfe
duration ± 40 minutes
world première 26 December 2004, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, Monaco (MC)
Introdans première 27 February 2010 (excerpt), 26 December 2010 (duet), 30 September 2016 (full version), Arnhem

A Filetta

In Doetinchem, Eindhoven, Gouda, and Hengelo, the vocals in *In Memoriam* are performed live by the renowned Corsican vocal ensemble A Filetta, under the direction of Jean-Claude Acquaviva. The polyphonic singing, evoking centuries-old sounds, lends the work a ritual, almost sacred dimension.

In the foyer: *Traces* installation

Arnhem-based Fillip Studios created a unique sound and light installation for the performance *Traces* by Fernando Melo from the programme *Less is More*. Experience the interactive installation up close in the foyer during this End of Season.

Become a Friend

Did you enjoy the show? Become a Friend of Introdans and support us! introdans.nl/word-vriend

Share your thoughts

Let us know what you thought of the performance!

Email your experience to welkom@introdans.nl.

More information

Visit introdans.nl/end-of-season-2026 for all photos and videos of End of Season. Check the cast list at introdans.nl/rolverdeling-end-of-season-2026

Photo credits

campaign image End of Season 2026: Hans Withoos

campaign images 2026–2027 season: Pieter Henket

production photos: Hans Gerritsen, Filip Van Roe

portraits of choreographers: Brecht Van Maele, Hans Gerritsen, NoBodies portretten, B.dance

rehearsal photos: Sjoerd Derine

portraits of directors and dancers: Janita Sassen

photos A Filetta: Hans Gerritsen and Introdans

Farewell dancer films

Inge Theunissen (IT Moves)

**shown in Apeldoorn only*

Print

Regalis