

Living-room dancers – online archive



Ana and Joaquin, ballroom dance and line dance, Barcelona, 2010

Content

Credits	3
Introduction	4
Living-room dancers, the performance (creation 2008)	6
Living-room dancers, online archive	7
Why does one dance ?	8
Cie Nicole Seiler, Lausanne (CH)	9

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Introduction

I created the performance *Living-room dancers* in 2008 in Lausanne, Switzerland. Since its creation it has been touring around the world and shown in 25 different cities, staging passionate non-professional dancers from different backgrounds, cultures, dance styles and age groups.

Each time the project was shown it was recreated and adapted on spot, mostly with local dancers. The site specific performance was always completed with a filmprojection and/or a video installation. After years of touring I have collected about 100 interviews and film material, an incredible treasure of voices from all over the world. Why do you dance? Why is dance important to you? The dancers participants from *Living-room dancers* express their devotion and passion for dance not through movement, but in words.

This collection is now accessible to all on living-room-dancers.com.



Adele and Ruslan, kasakstan folkdance, Moscow, 2018.



Injy, belly dance, Cairo (EG), 2017



Colombine and Gaby, salsa, Paris (F), 2015



Amanda, Lwanda and Loyiso, gumboots and african dance, Cape Town (SA), 2015

Living-room dancers, the performance (creation 2008)

Dance is their passion : they dedicate a good deal of their free time to it. « They » are the protagonists of *Living-room dancers*, creation in the form of a choreographic walk through the city. Encountered through announcements postings or by word-of-mouth, these passionate individuals practice tap-dancing, electro, salsa, tango, improvisation, samba or even pole-dancing.

In *Living-room dancers*, each one inhabits a private apartment that has been transformed into a dance-floor for the evening. These normally very intimate moments are perceptible from street-level with the help of binoculars and MP3 players. Along with the guided city tour, a video installation which presents portraits of each of the various dancers in the performance, is projected in a participating theater. The performance and the videos confront private and public spaces, while playing with our appetite for voyeurisme and exhibitionism.

For more information about the original project :

<https://www.nicoleseiler.com/fr/projets/living-room-dancers/>



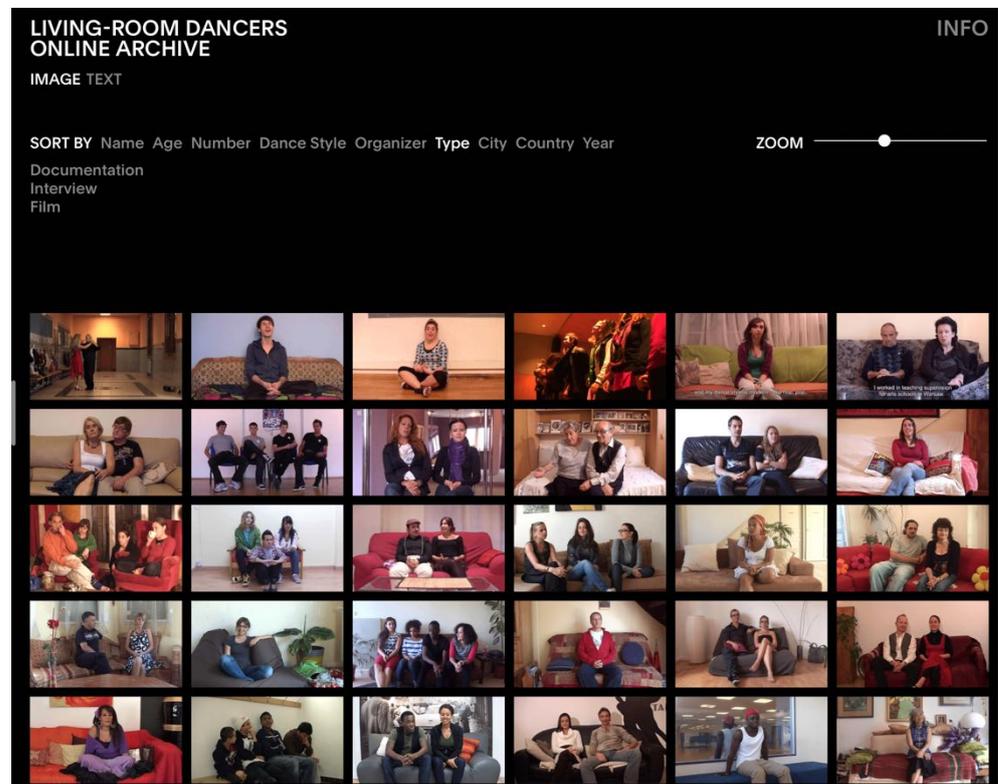
Living-room dancers, performance, Nyon, 2012

Living-room dancers, online archive

The online archive takes form as a website. Over 100 interviews and film documents are displayed online. In addition of the interviews, there're also short documentations of the performances of each city.

The construction of the website is minimalistic and easy to access. Visitors can sort the collection by name or age of the participant, size of the dance group, dance style, organizer of the performance, type of media, city, country and year.

As the project is still touring the collection will be updated and will be growing constantly.



Why does one dance ?

Touring Living-room dancers for 10 years and meeting all those amateur dancers around the globe has given us a glimpse of the answer.

All those people, from all over the globe, from different culture, backgrounds, age groups, cultures, lifestyle or socio-economic levels... They all answer similarly: dance is vital, it's a sport, it's a mean to get in contact with yourself, with your body, as well as other, as a social gathering. It a way to let off steam, it gives energy...

The Living-room dancers online archive is an advocacy for dance.

It's a serendipitous study on a non-verbal and universal art.



Ana, hip-hop, Saignelégier (CH), 2015



John, expressive dance, Cape Town (SA), 2015

Cie Nicole Seiler, Lausanne (CH)

The Nicole Seiler company was founded in 2002 in Lausanne (Switzerland).

The choreographer's artistic approach has led her to varied formats, and since the inception of the company she has created 30 projects: stage shows, video works, site-specific works, performances and installations. Since 2004, the company has been touring internationally. As of the end of 2020, it will have given over 750 presentations, in more than 400 venues and forty countries, in Europe, North America, South America, Africa, Asia, Russia and Australia.

Since 2010, Nicole Seiler has been exploring the complex links woven by two of a show's essential elements: image and sound. This formal research has resulted in several projects in relation to the description of dance and movement. *Amauros*, a stage project created in 2011 and adapted as a video installation in 2014, plunges the spectator into obscurity, their imagination stimulated by precise description and evocative sound effects. *Un Acte sérieux* (2012) is a playful interactive performance that reveals the infinite strata of the language of dance. *Small explosion with glass and repeat echo* (2012) was the company's first show to be entirely described for a visually impaired and blind audience. *Sekunden später...* (2017) is a stage project that makes use of description as a surreal effect. *Palimpsest* (2018) takes the concept even further. This collection of geo-tagged sound pieces, accessible via smartphone, makes visible in the public space a history of the choreographed locations, via meticulous audio description alone.

The company's repertoire, made up of diverse forms, also includes site-specific projects: *K Two* (street performance, 2007), *Living-room dancers* (apartment performances and films, 2008), *Willis* (choreographic installation in a forest, 2014) created at the °far festival in Nyon (CH), and presented in 2015 at the Fabriques festival in the Jean-Jacques Rousseau park (F).

Since 2018, Nicole Seiler has been including voice in her working method. More than the link between voice and body, she considers the body as a complete instrument, as vocal as it is choreographic. This is evidenced by pieces such as *The rest is silence* (stage project, 2020) and *Wouah!* (stage project for young audiences aged 4 and up, 2020).

The Nicole Seiler company produces its own shows in collaboration with Swiss and international theatres and festivals. It receives regular support from public funding bodies (Ville de Lausanne, le Canton de Vaud, Pro Helvetia), as well as private foundations (Loterie Romande, Fondation Ernst Göhner, Thomas Stanley Johnson Foundation, Sophie and Karl Binding Foundation, CORODIS, etc.).

The full repertoire, as well as video recordings of all shows mentioned here, are available on www.nicoleseiler.com.