



## BIOGRAPHY

Lillian Stillwell works internationally as a freelance choreographer and is Dance Director and Chief Choreographer at Theater Münster in Germany. Her signature choreographic language unites physical and emotional virtuosity with precise musicality to tell stories in which we recognize ourselves.

Her work includes dance evenings, interdisciplinary productions and operas as well as experimental projects which she realized with her company SNOW productions in Basel, Switzerland from 2019 – 2022. Her choreography has been seen at theaters throughout Europe including Theater Basel, Opera Graz, Opera Zurich, Philharmonie Luxembourg, Royal Opera Copenhagen and the Dutch National Opera & Ballet, as well as at many city and state theaters in Germany.

She has created numerous dance evenings with Tanz Münster at Theater Münster since 2022 that have been critically acclaimed and enthusiastically received by audiences. She “set an exclamation mark with her enthusiastically received opening,” with *FURIEN (Westfälische Nachrichten)*, created OSLO, called “a brilliantly conceived and danced work,” by *Die Deutsche Bühne*, and was praised for her musicality, virtuosity and innovative approach to “pushing the choreographic material further with a captivating, playful result,” in *SEXES (Kultur.west)*. Under her leadership, Tanz Münster has diversified and increased audiences through new outreach formats, initiated numerous interdepartmental collaborations, built institutional partnerships in the city and region and received widespread recognition for its sustainability measures.

Lillian Stillwell completed her classical ballet training at Ballet Arts Minnesota in the U.S.A. before graduating with a BA in Dance *summa cum laude* from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Her dance career began with a traineeship at the Milwaukee Ballet and ended at Staatstheater Kassel in Germany as a long-time dancer with Johannes Wieland. While freelancing in New York City and later in Germany, she worked with choreographers including Pam Tanowitz, Alexandra Beller, Rootless Root, Yossi Berg / Oded Graf, Gerald Casel, Emily Johnson and Shapiro and Smith.

Lillian Stillwell holds an Executive Masters of Arts Administration at Universität Zürich. Her thesis *Dance Programming and Social Sustainability: Is there an “Ideal Formula” for Institutions?* was written under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Elisabeth Bronfen, Universität Zürich and Prof. Dr. Christina Thurner, Universität Bern. Lillian Stillwell has been a Mentor in the German Cultural Council’s Initiative for Women in Leadership in Culture & Media and a panelist and jury member for various institutions and contests.

Current highlights include the sold-out run of AFTERLIFE AFTERLOVE AFTERDEATH, the interdisciplinary work JEANNE D’ARC featuring Theater Münster’s opera chorus and percussionists, the commission I COULD BE THE ONE for the Conservatory for Music and Performing Arts, Frankfurt (HfMDK) and Tanz Münster’s guest performance of THE FOUR SEASONS (2023) to open the *Tanztage Hameln* festival.