

Training course Jan Fedinger

Gestures of light

With contributions from

Aina Alegre and Jan Martens

Training proposed with the the
Biennale de la danse de Lyon
and the CCN of Grenoble

19 > 22.09.2025

Centre national de la danse

à Lyon

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JAN FEDINGER

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Description of the training course

The aim of this training course is to familiarise the participants with light as a choreographic tool for the creation of [dance] performances. To be able to use light creatively, to formulate or to communicate ideas related to light to other collaborators. Light as a medium is no stranger to the creation of dance performances. On one side light is necessary to render anything visible on stage, on the other hand its potential is greatly used by artists to add an additional layer of discourse to performances. By controlling how the audience sees or experiences the performance, artists achieve through light another level of poetic depth and steer the emotions of the audience. Especially in dance the abstract qualities of light often add to the visual quality and sensorial experience of the performance on stage. This increasing awareness of the potential of light in performances can be seen in many contemporary performances, while technical developments have made light much more available to a wide array of artists. In order not to get lost in the spectacular attributes of light on stage, we approach the use of light in this training course from an explicitly artistic point of view, that leaves the technology at the side. The focus is on researching tools that help imagining light as a creative layer in the process of creation of performances. The central question is what do you do with light, how do you use it artistically. The *modus operandi* is based around a variety of exercises that are aimed to feed creative processes. Most of the exchange will happen in discussions, conversations and physical exercises, centred around the examination of performances and other visual inputs. Aina Alegre and Jan Martens, frequent collaborators of Jan Fedinger, will share their views on the subject.

Intervenor

JAN FEDINGER

Jan Fedinger is a visual artist that uses light as his primal medium of expression. His works have been described as transmedia art, hybrid theatre or enhanced / augment scenography. With a background in theatre, especially dance they are however deeply influenced by live and alive art on stage. Jan Fedinger's work comprises performative installations and installative performances, light art and lighting design, performing, photography, drawings and furniture design. His work has been shown across Europe and beyond in the context of theatre and visual art. He is seeking to create environments that have not yet been perceived but that have only been dreamed of. In the performances Jan Fedinger is proposing this manifests itself in the attempt of a theatre of presences where light, sound and spacial features take the role of human performers, questioning the role and importance of the human actor within the global environment. Next to his autonome work he has collaborated with artists such as Aina Alegre, Jan Martens, Jefta van Dinther, Daniel Linehan, Mélanie Perrier, Thiago Granato and Alban Richard. Jan Fedinger has been a founding member of "reflecting light", a research group of international lighting designers that seeks to map and formulate the increasing performative role of light in performing arts contexts. Since 2021 this research has been embedded into KASK - Royal Conservatory for the Arts in Gent, Belgium and publishes infrequently the *reflecting light* fanzine that often feature contributions of Jan Fedinger. From 2025 to 2026 the CCN de Grenoble (France) supports Jan Fedinger's work as « *Artist Associé* » for more information please consult.

Guest collaborators

AINA ALEGRE

As a choreographer and dancer, Aina Alegre has been creating shows and performances in a wide variety of formats since 2010. She sees choreographic creation as a way of opening up imaginary worlds around the body. Through dance she explores different relationships to the collective body, and her choreographic work is conceived as an “orchestration” of movement, sound, light and space. Her writing is as much choreographic as it is musical : for several years now, Aina Alegre has had a musical signature, choreographing music and imagining music for the eyes. Through her creations, she also conducts research into the notions of memory and archive that run through all her work. Since 2023, Aina Alegre is co-director of the CCN de Grenoble with the dancer Yannick Hugron.

JAN MARTENS

Jan Martens studied at the Fontys Dance Academy in Tilburg and graduated in 2006 from the dance department of the Artesis Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp. Since 2010 he has been making his own choreographic work which, over the years, has been performed with increasing regularity before a national and international audience. The work of Jan Martens is nurtured by the belief that each body can communicate, that each body has something to say. That direct communication expresses itself in transparent forms. His work is a sanctuary in which the notion of time becomes tangible again and in which there is room for observation and emotion as well as reflection. To achieve this result he creates not so much a movement language of his own, but shapes and reuses existing idioms in a different context so that new ideas emerge. In each new work he tries to redraw the relation between audience and performer. Jan Martens is associated artist with DE SINGEL Antwerp, La Comédie de Clermont-Ferrand, Opera Ballet Vlaanderen, Maison de la danse in Lyon and Lyon Dance Biennale. Jan Martens is one of GRIP's artistic leaders. GRIP is a dance organisation led by choreographers Femke Gyselinck, Cherish Menzo, Steven Michel and Jan Martens himself.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Target audience: choreographers, dancers, lighting designers, visual artists.

Maximum number of participants: 16 maximum

Prerequisites

— A desire to create live shows,

— Basic knowledge of lighting technology is an advantage but not necessary.

A corpus of texts will be sent to participants ten days before the start of the training course.

TRAINING COURSE DURATION

Total duration : 20 hours

Dates and times:

19.09

7 pm > 8 pm : *THE DOG DAYS ARE OVER 2.0* by Jan Martens

Célestins, Théâtre de Lyon, 4, rue Charles Dullin 69002 Lyon

20.09

10 am > 1 pm & 2 pm > 5 pm : training course in the studio at the CN D in Lyon

7 pm > 8 pm: *Fugaces* by Aina Alegre

Théâtre de la Croix-Rousse, place Joannès Ambre, 69004 Lyon

21 & 22.09

10 am > 1 pm & 2 pm > 5 pm : training course in the studio at the CN D in Lyon

TRAINING COURSE LOCATIONS

— Centre national de la danse,

40 ter rue Vaubecour – 69002 Lyon, France

The premises cannot accommodate people with reduced mobility.

We invite you to contact the CN D team to consider together other possibilities of access to the services and resources of the CN D.

— Célestins, Théâtre de Lyon

4, rue Charles Dullin 69002 Lyon, France

— Théâtre de la Croix-Rousse

place Joannès Ambre, 69004 Lyon, France

Pedagogical objectives

The aim of this course is to provide strategies and techniques to imagine and then use light as a creative medium in the process of creating live performances.

— Acquire the tools for reflection, conceptualisation and observation for the creation of lighting in an artistic project;

— Develop the ability to understand and analyse light as an element of dialogue between the various components of a performance;

— Be able to formulate choices and find the means to act.

Teaching methods and resources

- The course will combine theoretical and practical approaches;
- Various media will be used: photographs, filmed images, artists' monographs, analysis of works;
- Theoretical sessions will be led by guests chosen for their expertise;
- The training course includes attending two performances scheduled as part of the Lyon Dance Biennale, with tickets paid for by the CN D.

Assessment methods

- Self-evaluation will take place at the beginning and end of the training course;
- A follow-up certificate will be delivered to each participant at the end of the training course;
- A training and learning assessment questionnaire is sent to participants after the course.

Fees

350€ for participants not benefiting from financial assistance

800€ for participants benefiting from financial assistance

How to register

By 9.09.2025, fill in the online form accessible via the CN D website page dedicated to the training course. You will be asked to upload a CV.

If you are eligible for funding, please anticipate your registration and contact the administrative contact person who can help you prepare your application (AFDAS, France Travail, Adami, etc.).

Applications are examined in order of arrival and according to the coherence of the course if there are prerequisites.

Your enrolment will be definitive once your application has been validated and your payment has been received.

Contacts

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