

Mihai Mihalcea (known as Farid Fairuz between 2010-2019)

Mihai Mihalcea is an artist and choreographer based in Bucharest.

He initiated and co-founded to key structures and projects which led to the international recognition of Romanian contemporary dance scene such as Multi Art Dance Center, subRahova, Căminul Cultural program.

He co-founded the first group of independent dancers post '89 in Romania - "Grupul Marginalii" [The Marginals Group]. Between 2005-2013 he worked as Director of the National Dance Center in Bucharest, an institution he co-founded, which became one of the most formative structures for a generation of local artists and choreographers.

The choreographic works he made under his name between 1994-2009 have been presented in institutions and festivals such as Tanzquartier Wien, Tanz im August, Paris Quartier d'Été, Springdance, Bucharest National Theater, La Filature Mulhouse, and have been highlighted in press such as Le Monde, Berliner Zeitung, Liberation, Ballet-Tanz International, Dance Theatre Journal, La Repubblica etc.

In 2010 he assumed a fictive artistic identity, Farid Fairuz, under which he continued his work until 2019 and made choreographic works and performances, live and for camera, presented both in the context of visual arts and of contemporary dance at: Kunsthalle Gent, Black Box Theater Oslo, Rencontres Choreographiques de Seine-Saint-Denis, Hebbel Am Ufer (HAU) in Berlin, The Paintbrush Factory in Cluj, The National Dance Center in Bucharest, The Contemporary Art Gallery of Bruckenthal Museum in Sibiu. The artistic production he made as Farid Fairuz was acquired by The National Museum of Contemporary Art (MNAC) Bucharest.

Since 2019 he started to work under his real name and also work as Artistic Director at The National Centre for Dance Bucharest (cndb.ro).

Education

1994-1999 - The University of Drama and Cinematography, Choreography Section, Bucharest - BA in Theatrical Arts, Speciality: Choreography

1980-1988 Choreography High School, Bucharest

Scholarships

2013 – fellow in the frame of Junge Akademie at Akademie der Künste Berlin

1994 – Scholar in Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, in the frame of "Six Week School" Program of American Dance Festival.

1994 – Scholarship offered by "Pepinieres europeennes pour jeunes artistes"

Residencies:

Tanzquartier Wien, Centre national de la Danse Pantin, Hebbel Theatre Berlin, Centre Chorégraphique National de Franche-Comte a Belfort, La Manufacture, Atelier du Rhin - Centre dramatique regional, Colmar.

Awards

2014 - CNDB Award for the contribution to the construction of contemporary dance and the development of choreographic culture

2006 – Nominated by Maison d'Europe et d'Orient Paris to "Paris-Europe 2006" for the projects developed within the National Dance Centre Bucharest

1998 – Grand Prix and the Trophy "Eurodans' 98" at the International Dance Festival, Iasi, for the creation "The Memory of the Secret Body"

1995 First prize for the solo "Virtual dream" in the frame of National Choreographic Competition Oleg Danovschi, Constanta.

Professional experience

2019 – present – Artistic Director of The National Centre for Dance Bucharest

2013 - co-curator alongside Hebbel Am Ufer team for the festival 25 YEARS AFTER:

GOOD GUYS ONLY WIN IN MOVIES - Artistic positions from Bucharest and Chisinau

2011-2013 – Curator, and manager of caminul Cultural, a project created and curated together with Manuel Pelmus, Brynjar Bandlien;

2005 – 2013 Director of The National Centre of Dance Bucharest

2004 – 2005 Artistic consultant in The National Centre of Dance Bucharest

2000 – 2002 Head of Dance Programmes in The Multi Art Dance Centre – Bucharest

1999 – Independent performer & choreographer under Solitude Project;

1992 – 1998 Dancer & Choreographer of Marginalii Dance Group, Bucharest and Vice-President of the Cultural Association "Grupul Marginalii";

July 1998 - Assistant of the American choreographer Daniel Ezralow during the production of "Aeros" – a show featuring gold medal-winning gymnasts from the Romanian Gymnastics Federation, directed by Daniel Ezralow, David Parsons and Moses Pendleton, in collaboration with "Stomp" creators Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas.

1997 – Assistant in Resources Department at the International Centre for Contemporary Dance, Bucharest;

1992-1996 – Dancer in "Compagnie Christian Trouillas", Paris;

1990-1992 – Dancer in "Komische Oper", Berlin;

His works have been presented in:

Rencontres Choreographiques Internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis (2015), Temps d'Images, Cluj (2015,2012), Timisoara Performing Arts Festival (2015), Good Guys Only Win In Movies festival, Hebbel Am Ufer (HAU) Berlin (2014), Perform Festival, Iasi (2014), Antistatic Festival, Sofia (2014), Romanian Pulse Festival, Prague (2014) etc, Teatri di Vita, Bologna,

Exhibitions

2022 – solo show in the frame of TRIUMF AMIRIA LOVE LETTER TO IRINA BUJOR / TRIUMF AMIRIA LOVE LETTER TO MIHAI MIHALCEA, at Kunsthalle Bega, Timisoara
Curator: Kilobase Bucharest, June 10 – July 23, 2022

2021 – Group exhibition Triumf Amiria: Museum Workings at Zina Gallery Cluj Napoca
Date: 9 Jul 2021 – 15 Aug 2021, Artists: Alex Bodea, Apparatus 22, Georgiana Dobre, Irina Bujor, Jasmina Al-Qaisi, Kjersti Vetterstad, Mihai Mihalcea, Raj Alexandru Udrea, Veda Popovici), Curator: Kilobase Bucharest

2021 – group exhibition YOU FEEL ~ AND DRIFT ~ AND SING TRIUMF AMIRIA.
Museum of Queer Culture [?], Bucharest

2016 – “Convulsion Ltd.: Further thoughts from new associates” group show at EASTWARDS PROSPECTUS Gallery, Bucharest

2013 – “œconomy, an already tumultuous landscape where phantasms cross” group show at OBERWELT E.v, Stuttgart

2012 – “KM0. Representation” group show at Tranzit.ro, Bucharest

2011 – “Desire is War” group show at The Contemporary Art Gallery of Brukenthal Museum, Sibiu

Workshops & classes

Mihai Mihalcea/Farid Fairuz has led classes and workshops at:
University of Arts, Iasi, Goldsmiths College London, The National Dance Centre Bucharest, Tanzquartier Wien, Choreography High School “Floria Capsali” in Bucharest, Centre Chorégraphique National de Franche-Comte, Belfort, La Manufacture, The Biennial for Emerging Arts Bucharest, Atelier du Rhin - Centre dramatique regional, Colmar, Chisinau State Opera.