



Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament  
de Cultura



## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

**Creation | Thinking | Body 6th ed.**

**creation | mamela nyamza**

Africa Moment presents the sixth edition of its Creation | Thinkin | Body training program aimed at professionals specialized in performing arts, the body, live arts and music, which will take place from **September 1 to 7, 2025 at Graner - Center for the Creation of Dance and Live Arts of Barcelona, in Spain.**

This sixth edition of the training program is taught by creator **Mamela Nyamza** and proposes a focus of specialization in creation:

Mamela Nyamza's choreographic work is characterized by being deeply political, autobiographical and committed to social transformation. As a South African choreographer and dancer, she has followed a path of rupture and reinvention of dance language since her beginnings as a classical performer trained in prestigious institutions. Her performing practice dismantles the hegemonic discourses that have historically defined the body on stage, using dance as a tool of denunciation and critical expression. For Nyamza, the body is a political territory, a space of memory, resistance and discourse. Her works—brave, expressive, and provocative—address pressing issues such as gender, sexuality, structural racism, patriarchy, violence, and colonial heritage. They do so from an embodied perspective, intertwining the personal and the collective, and making visible what has been systematically excluded from the centers of symbolic and cultural power. Many of her creations are explicitly autobiographical and draw from her experience as a black woman, lesbian, mother, artist and activist in contemporary South Africa. Through her body on stage, Mamela Nyamza reconfigures the role of dance as a performing art: not as a form of entertainment, but as a vehicle for social justice, awareness and change.

The training will be taught with the assistance of Mamela Nyamza's company dancer, **Kirsty Ndawo**

Creation | Thinking | Body, the first professional training program in living arts with a non-Eurocentric perspective in the entire state, promotes research and experimentation in creative practices and techniques, and seeks to generate spaces for meeting and creative dialogue between all participants, making available a unique and avant-garde training proposal.



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## **Mamela Nyamza**

Mamela Nyamza is one of the most idiosyncratic and powerful voices in South African contemporary dance. Choreographer, dancer and activist, her expressive and courageous works forcefully address urgent social problems. His transgressive piece 'Black Privilege' was presented for its national premiere at the Mercat de les Flors within the framework of Africa Moment 2020. In 2024, Africa Moment joins forces with the Estación Alta festival to premiere in Spain his acclaimed choral work 'Hatched Ensemble' with great successes. Trained in classical ballet at the Zama Dance School and the Tshwane University of Technology, Nyamza furthered her training at the Alvin Ailey School in New York as a visiting professor. It was there that she began her radical criticism of the canon of classical and contemporary dance, deconstructing its methods, logic and aesthetics from a corporal, political and feminist perspective. She has been recognized with numerous awards throughout her career. In 2020 and 2022 she was resident choreographer at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris for the international production 'Le Vol du Boli', directed by Abderrahmane Sissako, in collaboration with Damon Albarn and Fatoumata Diawara. In June 2022 she was appointed curator of the artistic program "Africa" at the Staatstheater Mainz in Germany. Mamela Nyamza's repertoire has been seen on renowned stages on the international scene: The Barbican / Dance Umbrella, La Batie, Zurcher Theaterspektakel, Festival Alcantara, Wiener Festwochen, Tanzhaus nrw / Tanzmesse, Kunstenfestivaldesarts, among others.

**Kirsty Ndawo** is a South African performer with over a decade of experience in theater and dance, recognized for her versatility and talent. Since its inception, she has performed on local and international stages, participating in notable festivals and tours throughout Canada, Egypt and Beirut. In 2012 she received the Standing Ovation award at the National Arts Festival for Okuya Phantsi Kwempumlo, directed by Mamela Nyamza. She has worked with companies such as KickstArt Theatre, Flatfoot Dance Company, Cirque du Soleil and MAAS Theater en Dans, starring in works such as West Side Story, Chicago and Hamlet. She has also developed her role as a choreographer and filmmaker in pieces such as Shadow and Triptych. She is currently a key member of Mamela Nyamza's Hatched Ensemble, with whom she tours Europe and Africa. In 2024/2025, her role as facilitator and rehearsal director also stands out. Her career reflects commitment, creativity and artistic excellence.

With the collaboration of Graner - Center for the Creation of Dance and Live Arts of Barcelona, and the support of the Department of Culture of the Generalitat of Catalonia, and the National Institute of Performing Arts and Music of the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Spain.



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## TERMS OF THE CALL

25 places are called for the professional training 'Creation | Thinking | Body' (6th edition) that will take place from September 1 to 7, 2025 at El Graner - Center for the Creation of Dance and Live Arts of Barcelona, in Spain

**Full availability is required for the entire program.**

To apply, [fill out this form](#) before June 20, 2025 at 23:59 CEST

### RECIPIENTS:

- Performing arts professionals and/or body, sound, and word professionals: artists, dancers, actors, people who work and think about the body, performers etc..
- Teachers and instructors of performing arts, dance, interpretation
- Musicians, sound creators, sound professionals, voice, instrument
- Researchers of the arts of movement and thought

### CALENDAR:

From September 1 to 7, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a lunch break. On September 7 there will be an open gathering with the public from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### FULL PROGRAM COST:

140 euros total\*

\*This final cost already has a subsidized part based on the original value.