

Kim Baraka

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### Dance education

- Professional classical and contemporary dance training at **Beirut Dance Studio**, Beirut, Lebanon (2008 - 2014)
- Summer intensive classes at **Gibney Dance Center**, New York, USA, working with different contemporary methods including movement research, post-modern, Gaga, Simonson, and others.
- Multiple workshops and intensives in Europe, the USA and Lebanon, including dancers from companies Sasha Waltz, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Ballet Preljocaj, Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, Dance Theater of Harlem, and choreographers such as Maura Morales, Sidra Bell, Tiffany Mills, Pearlan Porter, Aitana Cordero, etc.

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### Dance performance experience

- Dancer at **Beirut Dance Company**, working with choreographer **Nada Kano** (Beirut, Lebanon, 2008-2014)  
Most notable performances are:
  - *"Borderline"*, Monnot Theater, Beirut (June 2014)
  - *"Un-re(a)lating"*, Madina Theater, Beirut (Feb 2013)
  - *"'Element Terre' and 'L'étreinte' "*, Madina Theater, Beirut (Nov 2011)
  - *"'L'étreinte' and 'Beyrouth O Beyrouth' "*, Monnot Theater, Beirut and "Zakharif in Motion" International Dance Festival, Amman, Jordan (April 2011)
  - *"Element-Terre"*, Unesco Palace, Beirut; this piece was selected as a **finalist for the VI<sup>th</sup> Francophone Games** held in Lebanon (Sep 2009)
  - *"Attraction"*, Aleppo, Syria; Monnot Theater, Beirut; Saida citadel, Lebanon (March-August 2009)
  - *"A corps perdu"*, Madina Theater, Beirut (May 2008)
- Dancer at **The Pillow Projects**, working with director **Pearlan Porter** (Pittsburgh PA, USA, 2016-2017)
  - *Improvisational Post-Jazz*, The Space Upstairs, Pittsburgh, PA (2016-2017)  
Monthly improvised performances with live musicians
  - *"The Jazz Lab Series"*, The Space Upstairs, Pittsburgh, PA (March-April 2017)  
Series of collaborative performances with physics lectures, live music, chalk art, and poetry
- Dancer in *"Último Slow"*, directed by **Rui Catalão** (in progress) to presented October 2018 as part of Dias da Marvila, Lisbon, Portugal
- Freelance projects
  - *"The Gaslight"*, The Space Upstairs, Pittsburgh, PA (November 2016)  
Immersive crime mystery dance performance. Choreography by **Kaylin Horgan**
  - *"Is This a Man's World?"*, The Space Upstairs, Pittsburgh, PA (April 2017)  
Collaborative performance on gender issues. Choreography by **Sarah Jeffers**
  - *"Post-Valentine Cabaret"*, Off the Wall Theater, Carnegie, PA (March 2017)  
Choreography by **Ella Mason**
- Danced, choreographed and acted in several ads, photography shoots and short movies, including award-winning *"A tempo: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Act"* (2012) by Maria Abdel Karim
- End of year showcases at **Beirut Dance Studio**, with primary roles in: *"The Beauty and the Beast"* (2011), *"The Little Mermaid"* (2009), *"Snow White"* (2008), *"The Rehearsal"* (2005), *"Alice in Wonderland"* (2004)

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### Research experience

Programmed and explored interactive dance involving movement and contact modalities between one or more dancers and a human-safe manipulator robot, Baxter (joint work with Isabel Valverde, Ana Moura Santos, and Nuno Leite). The result of this exploration led to a short movie *"Baxter learning how to dance"* which won the "Most uncanny" award at the 2015 Robot Movie Festival (Pittsburgh, PA, USA)

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### Choreographic experience

- *"Struction"* (May 2017): Premiered at the Lightlab Performance Series, Pittsburgh, USA. Also presented in at Traça (Lisbon) and Fabrika (Beirut).

- *“Ya aashiqat al ward”* (Nov 2012), presented at Music Hall, Beirut, Lebanon

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#### Teaching experience

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- Regular Movement and Improvisation classes at ACCCA, Companhia Clara Andermatt, Lisbon, Portugal (started April 2018)
- Four-day Movement and Improvisation workshop, Amalgam, Beirut, Lebanon (Aug 2017)
- Regular ballet classes from underprivileged kids in Beirut, as well as classes for kids and adults within Beirut Dance Studio (2009-2012)

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#### Community involvement

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- Member of **Co-Dance**, a dance collective based in Atelier Real, Lisbon, focusing on creating and sharing dance work and promote independent performance artists.

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#### Languages

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French (native) – English (fluent) – Arabic (fluent) – Portuguese (intermediate) – Spanish (basic)

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#### Other interests

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- I am also a researcher in the field of Artificial Intelligence. My research work focuses on developing algorithms for efficient and smooth interactions between robots and autistic children in the context of therapy sessions.
- My musical background includes 6 years of classical guitar training.
- My acting background includes training and performances with director Betty Taoutel.
- I have a strong interest in Analytic Philosophy, including philosophy of science and mathematics, as well as epistemology.