



SIMONA DEACONESCU

Biography

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Simona Deaconescu works across genres and formats, examining social constructs at the border of fiction and objective reality, sometimes with irony and dark humor. Her work explores future scenarios of the body, creating spaces in which nature, history, and technology meet, and the notion of choreography extends beyond the human body.

She holds a BA and an MA in Choreography from The National University of Theatre and Film Bucharest and a BA in Film Directing from Media University Romania. Developing research-based artworks, Simona Deaconescu was selected by European Projects Moving Digits, Biofriction, and Modina. She has been an artist in residence with PACT Zollverein (DE), Forum Danca (PT), Lavanderia e Vapore (IT), La Briqueterie — Val-de-Marne Choreographic Development Centre (FR), Cultivamos Cultura (PT), Tanzhaus NRW (DE), Trafo House (HU), among others.

Simona Deaconescu is the founder of Tangaj Collective, an interdisciplinary production company, and the co-founder of the Bucharest International Dance Film Festival. In 2016, she received the National Centre for Dance Award, and in 2022, Simona Deaconescu became an Associate Artist at the Dance Centre in Bucharest. The same year, her research on historical mass dances earned her a selection as a Forecast Mentee, under the guidance of Mathilde Monnier and a Dance Research NRW Scholarship. Simona was nominated as an Aerowaves Artist two times in 2018 and 2022. In 2025 she is selected as one of the Top 10 Moving Balkans artists.

She creates performances addressing ecofeminist topics and marginal histories such as "BLOT - Body Line of Thought" (with Vanessa Goodman), "Ramanenjana" (with Gaby Saranouffi), "Collective Cadence" (with Grigore Burloiu), "Choreomaniacs", "Daughters", "Counterbody" presented in various venues and festivals in Europe, Canada, Mexico, South Africa, and Madagascar. Latest selections include the PuSh Festival, The Scotiabank Dance Centre, Plastic Orchid Factory (CA), CoFestival (SI), Choreographic Centre Burgenland (AT), Polish Dance Theatre (PL), Derida Stage, Antistatic Festival (BG), Iridescent Festival, The National Theatre in Bucharest (RO), Vitlycke – Centre for Performing Arts (SE), Teatro de la Ciudad Esperanza Iris (MX), Radialsystem, Off Europa, Internationale Tanzmesse, tanzhaus nrw (DE), among others.

Working collectively with groups of artists, researchers, and scientists, she develops performative and multimedia installations as the ongoing living archive "Women at Work — Crossroads, Rhythms, and Continuities" (with Flor Firvida Martin), "Isolation in a series of Liminal States", "Virtual Living Room" (with Kadri Sirel), "Zona Martiska", "Retro Walk Decades to the Sun", presented at SAC Gallery, HEI — House of European Institutes, The National Museum of Contemporary Art, The National Art Museum, Fix Art Hall (RO), tanzhaus nrw (DE), Castello de la Mandria (IT), ExTeresa Arte Actual, Gotxikoa Gallery (MX).

Simona Deaconescu creates and curates dance films, exploring performative ways of making cinema, and is recognized for her two iconic shorts, "Sonder" and "Silent Places," selected in the most important dance film festivals around the world as Dance Camera West, San Francisco Dance Film Festival (USA), Cinedans Festival (NL), POOL — Internationale, TanzFilmPlattform (DE), Loikka Dance Film Festival (FI), Light Moves Festival (IE), Videodanza Buenos Aires (AR), Physical Cinema Reykjavik (IS), etc.

Upcoming productions include *The Choreography of Water*, a group work in collaboration with visual artist Ioana Vreme Moser, and *Future Alternates*, a second project with Canadian choreographer Vanessa Goodman. Additionally, a new chapter of the *Women at Work* multi-screen video installation will feature women from Ecuador, completing the existing selections from Mexico and Romania. This expanded installation will be presented as part of a large-scale exhibition at The Museum of Contemporary Art of Romania. Future tours of BLOT are planned for festivals and venues across the Balkans and Central Europe, as well as multiple cities in the British Columbia region.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION

2010 - 2012	MA CHOREOGRAPHY	THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF THEATRE AND FILM BUCHAREST
2007 - 2010	BA DANCE	THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF THEATRE AND FILM BUCHAREST
2006 - 2010	BA FILM DIRECTING	MEDIA UNIVERSITY IN BUCHAREST

SCHOLARSHIPS

2022	Tanzrecherche NRW Scholarship	NRW KULTURsekretariat Wuppertal	DE
2021	Forecast Nominee	Forecast Berlin	DE
2014	danceWEB Scholarship	ImPulsTanz Festival Vienna	AT

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

2025	Top 10 Artists	Moving Balkans	EU
2024	Emerging Producer	Aerowaves Europe Start-Up Forum	EU
2023	MODINA Artist	Modina European Network	Collectiva Cadence EU
2022	Associated Artist	The National Centre for Dance Bucharest	RO
2022	Aerowaves Twenty22	Aerowaves Europe	Choreomaniacs EU
2022	Forecast Mentee	Forecast Berlin	Ramanenjana DE
2021	International Cooperation Award	The National Centre for Dance Bucharest	BIDFF Festival RO
2020	Biofriction Artist	Biofriction European Network	BLOT EU
2019	MODI Artist	Moving Digits European Network	virtual (living) room EU
2019	Emerging Choreographer	Springboard Danse Montreal	CA
2019	Aerowaves Twenty18	Aerowaves Europe	Counterbody EU
2018	Loikka Award	Loikka International Dance Film Festival	Sonder FI
2016	CNDB Award	The National Centre for Dance Bucharest	RO

RESIDENCIES

2024	Artistic Residency	Trafo House	Budapest	HU
2023	Artistic Residency	CCMex - Centro Cultural de Espania in Mexico	Mexico City	MX
2022	Artistic Residency	PACT Zollverein	Essen	DE
2022	Research Residency	The French Institute Madagascar	Antananarivo	MG
2020	(RE)DANCE Residency	The National Centre for Dance Bucharest	Bucharest	RO
2020	Artistic Residency (virtual)	Plastic Orchid Factory	Vancouver	CA
2020	Research Residency	Cultivamos Cultura	Sao Luis	PT
2019	Artistic Residency	Altofest Festival	Matera	IT
2019	Research Residency	Sõltumatu Tantsu Lava	Tallinn	EE
2019	Artistic Residency	Tanzhaus NRW	Dusseldorf	DE
2019	Artistic Residency	Lavanderia e Vapore	Torino	IT
2019	Artistic Residency	La Briquetterie Val-de-Marne	Paris	FR
2018	Artistic Residency	Forum Dança	Lisbon	PT
2018	Artistic Residency	Altofest Festival	Naples	IT
2017	Artistic Residency	Gabriela Tudor Foundation	Timisoara	RO
2015	Artistic Residency	eXplore Dance Festival	Bucharest	RO
2014	Artistic Residency	Battery Dance Studios	New York	USA
2014	Artistic Residency	WASP - Working Art Space and Production	Bucharest	RO

PERFORMATIVE WORKS

2024	COLLECTIVE CADENCE	Lecture performance, 60' Producers: Tangaj Collective, MODINA Presenters and residency support: Trafo House, The National Centre for Dance in Bucharest, Kino Sika, tanzhaus nrw Financiers: AFCN, Creative Europe		EU
2023	WOMEN AT WORK — CROSSROADS, RHYTHMS, AND CONTINUITIES	Video installation and lecture performance, 80' Producers: ARPAS, Goethe Institute Timisoara, FAPT Festival Presenters: /SAC @ Malmaison, House of European Institutes Supporters: The National Centre for Dance in Bucharest, Ciudad Bretonio, Centro Cultural de Espana in Mexico City Financiers: AFCN, Municipality of Timișoara through the Projects Center, Part of the official program of Timisoara European Capital of Culture		RO / MX
2022	RAMANENJANA	Performance, 60' Producers: Tangaj Collective, Forecast, The National Dance Centre Bucharest Presenters: Radialsystem, I'TROTA International Dance Festival Supporters: IFM Madagascar, Goethe Zentrum Antananarivo, AF Madagascar Financiers: AFCN, Canada Council for the Arts, Romanian Cultural Institute, Goethe Institute Bucharest and Berlin, The French Institute Bucharest and Berlin		RO / DE / MG

2022	BLOT - BODY LINE OF THOUGHT	Performance, 43' Producers: Tangaj Collective, Action at Distance, The National Dance Centre Bucharest Presenters: Plastic Orchid Factory Vancouver Supporters: Cultivamos Cultura Lisbon, Biofriction Financiers: AFCN, Canada Council for the Arts, Creative Europe	RO / CA / PT
2021	ISOLATION IN A SERIES OF LIMINAL STATES	Performative Installation, 2h Producers: Tangaj Collective, /SAC Malmaison Financiers: AFCN, ARCUB	RO
2021	VIRTUAL (LIVING) ROOM	VR Installation, 22' Producers: Tangaj Collective, Hochschule Düsseldorf – University of Applied Sciences, LAVAlabs Studio Dusseldorf, Söltumatu Tantsu Lava Financiers: AFCN, Creative Europe	RO / DE / EE
2020	CHOREOMANIACS	Performance, 42' Producers: The National Dance Centre Bucharest Financiers: AFCN	RO
2019	DAUGHTERS	Performance, 40' Producers: Tangaj Collective, The National Centre for Dance Bucharest Financiers: AFCN	RO
2019	ZONA MARTISKA	Installation, 50' Producers: COORPI Presenters: Castello de la Mandria Supporters: Paratissima Art Fair Financiers: Compania de Sao Paulo, Ente di gestione Parchi Reali, Regione Piemonte	IT
2018	RETRO WALK DECADES TO THE SUN	Performative Installation, 3h Producers: Tangaj Collective, Experimental Project Presenters: National Museum of Contemporary Art, The National Museum of Art Arad, Fix Art Hall Supporters: Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering Financiers: AFCN, ARCUB	RO
2017	SPACES ALIVE	Site-specific Installation Series, durational Producers: AV Motional Supporters: Mo'Real Universe/ IndexAR, Asociația Culturală „Nouă Ne Pasă”, Calup, Centrul de Teatru Educațional REPLIKA, Rezidența BRD Scena9, Expirat, Muzeul Național al Hărților și Cărții Vechi, Revista Arta, Revista Zeppelin Financiers: AFCN, ARCUB	RO
2017	COUNTERBODY	Performance, 40' Producers: Tangaj Collective, The National Centre for Dance Bucharest Financiers: AFCN	RO
2016	AFTERTASTE	Performance, 60' Producers: Tangaj Collective, 4Culture, WASP- Working Art Space and Production Presenters: eXplore Dance Festival Financiers: AFCN	RO
2014	BIRDVILLE	Performance, 40' Producers: Tangaj Collective, Battery Dance Company, 4Culture, Life Long Burning, WASP – Working Art Space and Production, Point Theatre Presenters: eXplore Dance Festival, Nova Festival Financiers: AFCN, ARCUB	RO / USA

TOURING

Festivals / Platforms / Venues

internationale tanzmesse (DE), Cofestival (SI), tanzhaus NRW (DE), ExTeresa Arte Actual (MX), Trafo House (HU), Zagreb Dance Week Festival, Zagreb Dance Centre (HR), puSh International Performing Arts Festival, Scotiabank Dance Centre, Left of Main (Vancouver, CA), Living Things Performing Arts Festival, Mary Irwin Theatre (Kelowna, CA), Toplocentrala (Sofia, BG), European Dance House Network Showcase, Muzeul Miklosi (Timisoara, RO), Teatro de la Ciudad Esperanza Iris - FIDCDMX (Mexico City, MX), St Annes Theatre (Hilton, SA), Stable Theatre (Durban, SA), HERE:2023 Festival, Vitlycke – Centre for Performing Arts (Tanumshede, SE), Colibri Theatre (Craiova, RO), Quinzena de Dança de Almada, Auditório Fernando Lopes-Graça (Almada, PT), Derida Dance Center (Sofia, BG), Faber, (Timisoara, RO), D.ID Dance Identity Festival, Choreographic Centre Burgenland (Eisenstadt, AT), Polish Dance Theatre (Poznan, PT), Tranzit House (Cluj - Napoca, RO), l'Trota Dance Platform (Antananarivo, Diego Suarez, Majunga, MG), Radialsystem (Berlin, DE), The National Theatre (Bucharest, RO), Streettheatrefestival (Ludwigshafen am Rhein, DE), Spring Forward Festival (Elefsina, GR), EN-KNAP (Ljubljana, SI), HKD-Croatian Cultural Centre (Rijeka, HR), The 13th Dance in Vancouver Biennial (Vancouver, CA), Athens Digital Arts Festival (GR), Antistatic Festival of Dance and Performance (Sofia, BG), FACTT Festival (Lisbon, PT), Off Europa (Leipzig, DE), Spill Open (Ipswich, UK), Plastic Orchid Factory (Vancouver, CA), Moving Digits Exhibition (tanzhaus NRW, Dusseldorf, DE), Athens Digital Arts Festival (GR), Istanbul Fringe Festival (Istanbul, TK), Springboard Danse Montreal (Usine C, Montreal, CA), Castello de la Mandria (Turin, IT), Platforma Festival (Klaipeda, LT), Caleido Festival (Bucharest, RO), Altofest Festival (Naples, Matera, IT), Springforward Festival (Sofia, BG), eXplore dance festival (Bucharest, RO), LIKE CNDB Festival (Bucharest, RO), Art Encounters Festival (Istanbul, TK), Ars Electronica Festival (Linz, AT), Lange Nacht der Bühnen (Linz, AT), DODOTDOT (Vienna, AT), Nova Festival (Bucharest, RO), CNDB Romanian Dance Showcase (Bucharest, RO), Internetics Festival (Bucharest, RO), FAPT Festival for Dance and Performance (Timisoara, RO), perform(a)dance Festival (Brasov, RO), Infinite Dance Festival (Oradea, RO), Babel Festival (Targoviste, RO), The National Museum of Contemporary Art of Romania (Bucharest, RO), The National Museum of Art (Arad, RO), A5 Gallery (Bucharest, RO), Fix Performing Arts (Iasi, RO), The Museum of Maps and Old Books of Romania (Bucharest, RO), LINOTIP - Independent Choreography Center (Bucharest, RO), Marin Sorescu National Theatre (Craiova, RO), Reactor for Creation and Experiment (Cluj-Napoca, RO), The Brush Factory (Cluj-Napoca, RO), Háromszék Dance (Sfantu Gheorghe, RO), Independent Exterior Showcase (Bucharest, RO), Downtown Dance Festival (New York, USA), Access Theatre (New York, USA)

FILMOGRAPHY

Festival Selection

2024	UNREST	Short fiction film, 17' Producers: Tangaj Production, tangaj Collective, Haute Film Festival selection: Anonimul International Short Film Festival, Romanian Film Days, Este Film Festival
2016	SONDER	Short Dance Film, 12' Producers: Tapioca Film Festival selection: Dance Camera West (SUA), Aestetica Short FF (UK), Cinedans Festival (NL), Loikka Dance Film Festival (FI), San Francisco Dance Film Festival (USA), Bestias Danzantes (CL), Encore Dance on Film (SUA), Agite y Sirva (MX), Dance Film Festival Brussels (BE), Detroit Dance City Festival (SUA), Greensboro Dance Film Festival (USA), Kolkata Shorts International Film Festival (IN), Light Moves Festival of Screendance (IE), Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema (SUA), The Outlet Dance Project (SUA), Videodanza Buenos Aires (AR), FIVM - VideoMovimiento International Festival (CO), Chania Dance Days (GR), Seyr Festival (IR), Physical Cinema Reykjavik (IS) Awards: Loikka Award for Best International Short - Loikka Dance Film Festival (FI), Special Mention for Best International Short - Bestias Danzantes (CL)
2014	SILENT PLACES	Short Dance Film, 12' Producers: Tapioca Film, Stalker Film, Somnia Film Festival selection: Loikka Dance Film Festival (FI), Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema (USA), Ammutinamenti Film Festival (IT), POOL – Internationale, TanzFilmPlattform (DE), San Francisco Dance Film Festival (USA), Bucharest International Experimental Film Festival Off Competition (RO), Leeds International Film Festival (UK), Stuttgart Film Winter Festival Off Competition (DE), Bestias Danzantes (CL) Awards: Special Mention for Best International Short - San Francisco Dance Film Festival (USA)

OTHER

Curating / Producing / Teaching

2014 - PRESENT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND MANAGER

Bucharest International Dance Film Festival | Festival Manager | 2015 - 2023

- creating the artistic vision of the festival, each based on a different team
- conceptualizing and planning the festival
- securing funding and managing the budget
- hiring and managing staff
- facilitating artist and industry relations

Tangaj Collective Association | President | 2014 - present

- artistic coordination and long-term cultural strategy
- concept development and key collaborators
- securing funding and managing the budget
- project development
- managing the production
- national and international touring

4Culture Association | Project Manager | 2014 - 2015

- project manager for X Platform - International Residency and Showcase Platform for Interdisciplinary Artists
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2016 - PRESENT TEACHING LECTURING FACILITATING

2023

- Body-Image Exploration Techniques (Workshop, The Academy of Dance and Performance CNDB, Bucharest, RO)
- Dansmania - Site-Specific Dance Film Lab (Workshop, Frames and Forms Project, Timisoara, RO)
- Performative Microcosm (Lecture, Tranzit House, Cluj-Napoca, RO)

2022

- Body-Image Exploration Techniques (Workshop, Alliance Francaise, Antananarivo, Majunga, Diego Suarez, MG)
- Dancemancias (Lecture, The National University of Theater and Film, Bucharest, RO)
- A Journal of an African-European Collaboration (Lecture, Goethe Pavillion, Bucharest, RO)
- From Research to Stage (Lecture, CNDB, Bucharest, RO)

2021

- Dance and Technology in the Covid-19 Era (Lecture, The Three Days Lab, CNDB, Bucharest, RO)

2020

- A Balancing Act (Lecture, Moving Digits Online Seminar)

2018

- Empowering Romanian Contemporary Dance With Romanian New Cinema (Lecture, Loikka International Dance Film Festival, Helsinki, FI)
- Bodies in Hyperaction (Workshop, M Studio, Sfantu Gheorghe, RO)
- Bodies in Hyperaction (Workshop, Reactor, Cluj-Napoca, RO)
- Bodies in Hyperaction (Workshop, Fix Theatre, Iasi, RO)
- One[R] Dance Film Lab (Workshop, Platforma Festival, Klaipeda, LT)

2017

- One[R] Dance Film Lab (Workshop, Bestias Danzantes Festival Santiago de Chile, CL)

2016

- Counterbodies (Workshop, The Brush Factory, Cluj-Napoca, RO)
 - One[R] Dance Film Lab (Workshop, Dotdotdot Festival, Vienna, AT)
 - Counterbodies (Workshop, The Fix Theater, Iasi, RO)
 - One[R] Dance Film Lab (Workshop, Ambasada, Timisoara, AT)
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2016 - PRESENT CURATING

2023 - 2016: Dance Film Screenings at Szepertine Dance Film Festival Budapesta, Platforma Festival, WASP-Working Art Space and Production, The Brush factory, Tranzit House, Ambasada, Linotip - Independent Choreographic Centre, Fix Theatre

2016: Bucharest Capital of Culture Candidacy Project for 2021, commissioned by ARCUB - The Center for Cultural Projects of Bucharest Municipality

2016: The Digital Body Exhibition | Artists: Apotropia (IT), Camilla Levy Daniel (AG), Christian Faubel (DE), Emilia Izquierdo (UK), Francesca Bonfatti (IT), Johanna Nuutinen (FI)