



Looking for the sounds of body

Oulu UAS Dance offers a wide variety of dance styles in an urban Nordic atmosphere close to the nature.



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TEXT: PETRI KAUPPINEN, LANGUAGE ADVISOR: ALAN PEMBSHAW

A German exchange student, Magdalena Hofmann spend a full academic year in the Oulu UAS's dance department.

Magdalena Hofmann became hooked on dancing when attending the social couple dance classes in high school. Since then this vibrant young artist has been expanding her perspective of dance into a wide variety of styles including street, contemporary and modern dance. "I've always enjoyed the flow of movement and that forces me to learn more about the possibilities of human body. I'm eager to explore how to express myself through movement", Magdalena crystallizes with lively gestures.

Right now, Magdalena is in her second semester of exchange. She decided to spend two out of four semesters on exchange. After a year in Finland, she

will return home to the University of Trossingen and expand her two-year masters studies with one more semester which will allow her to finish all required studies.

When Magdalena scanned through the options for exchange she noticed that often schools won't provide information about their studies in English. That's why she was pleased with the web pages of Oulu University of Applied Sciences (Oulu UAS). There is all the basic information that you need to apply as well as a lot of practical information that helps arriving students with everyday issues.



In Oulu, Magdalena has been studying a lot of different dance styles such as ballet, urban dance, jazz, contemporary dance, authentic jazz, disco and many others. “One of the strengths of this dance department is the wide variety of dance styles that are communicating and mixing with each other.” In addition to dance technique training, Magdalena has been participating in artistic productions and a video project, as well as improvisation and composition classes.

At present, Magdalena is rehearsing a contemporary ballet work in which she is performing as a musician. “I want to create landscape of sounds by playing piano, but not in the conventional way. I want to go into the piano and improvise with the instrument looking for sounds.”

Magdalena Hofmann has truly enjoyed her exchange year here in Oulu. “Finland is an easy country to adjust to. It’s just like moving to another city within Germany. The only difference is the language, which sometimes can be a barrier. I was lucky to spend a proper winter here. I’ve even tried ice swimming which was definitely worth experiencing.”

MAGDALENA HOFMANN

- A Dancer and a musician who was born in Murnau am Staffelsee, a small town near the Alps in the southern Germany.
- She is a graduate student at the University of Music, Trossingen, majoring in Music & Movement Rhythmic-Performance.
- Magdalena holds a B.A in music- and movement-oriented social work from Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule, Regensburg.

Magdalena Hofmann (right) on stage in the fall 2017. The production "Tuntematon" was a remarkable part of Finland's 100 years anniversary celebration in Oulu UAS choreographed by Outi Räsänen.



OULU UAS'S DANCE DEPARTMENT

- The department of media and performing arts offers exchange programmes in English in the fields of media, music and dance.
- The curriculum of the B.A in dance focuses on dance pedagogy and teaching.
- Students can complete 30 credits per semester.
- The basic structure of the four-year dance studies is:

First year: Common studies of couple dance (including social dance styles, ballroom and swing dance), Urban dance styles (such as jazz, commercial dance), contemporary dance, ballet and folk dance

Second and third year: Specific dance studies, where students can specialize in one of the offered dance styles.

Fourth year: Practical vocational training and bachelor's thesis.