

# OVERVIEW



## Fernando Suels Mendoza

Dancer

Choreographer

Dance teacher

Fernando Suels Mendoza was born in Venezuela in 1968. In 1987, he began his dance studies in Caracas with José Ledezma, completing his training at the Instituto Superior de Danza and the Danzahoy dance school. During this period, he participated as a dancer in productions directed by choreographers José Ledezma, Luis Viana, and Luz Urdaneta.

From 1991 to 1995, he studied dance and earned his degree as a professional dancer at the **Folkwang Universität der Künste in Essen, Germany**. During this time, he worked, among others, with the German choreographer and dancer **Susanne Linke**. After completing his studies, he was selected to participate in the "Postgraduate Program" under Professor Jean Cebron, also at the Folkwang University in Essen.

Fernando Suels Mendoza was a solo dancer with the **Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch** from 1995 to 2018. He participated in the creation of 14 of Pina Bausch's works and performed numerous roles in pieces from the repertoire. In 1998, Fernando Suels took part in the creation of a second version of Pina Bausch's *Bluebeard's Castle*, produced by the Aix-en-Provence International Festival of Lyric Art in co-production with the Théâtre du Châtelet, under the musical direction of **Pierre Boulez**.

For many years, he has shared his experience and knowledge with new generations of dancers during rehearsals or UTOPINA repertoire workshops. In 2016, Fernando Suels Mendoza was part of the rehearsal direction team for the transmission project of Pina Bausch's *Für die Kinder von gestern, heute und morgen* at the **Bavarian State Ballet**. In 2019, during the addition of Pina Bausch's *Iphigenie auf Tauris* to the repertoire of the **Semperoper Ballet in Dresden**, he transmitted the roles of Pylades and Scythian to ballet members. In 2022, at Opera Ballet Vlaanderen, he served as rehearsal director for Pina Bausch's *The Rite of Spring*. He was also engaged for a revival of the piece, with the premiere scheduled for January 2026.

Additionally, last year, Fernando Suels Mendoza participated in rehearsals of *The Rite of Spring* with students from the School of Dance at Taipei National University of the Arts (Taiwan) as a member of the rehearsal direction team. The premiere took place in December 2024.

Alongside his activity as a dancer with Tanztheater Wuppertal, Fernando Suels taught modern/contemporary dance both in Europe and beyond. Notable institutions include Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch (Wuppertal, Germany), Conservatoire Supérieur Musique et Danse de Lyon (France), Tampa City Ballet (Florida, USA), Accademia Nazionale di Danza (Rome, Italy), Opera Ballet Vlaanderen (Antwerp, Belgium), Semperoper Ballet (Dresden, Germany), École Du Nord (Lille, France), Kibbutz Gaaton (Israel), National School of Dance (Athens, Greece), Universidad de Antioquia (Colombia), and Taller Nacional de Danza (San José, Costa Rica).

In 2018, Since 2018, Fernando has pursued an independent career as an artist, choreographer, dancer, and dance teacher, while continuing to perform as a guest with Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch. He choreographed and danced in the production *Al Igual Que Tú* with the flamenco company Eva Yerbabuena in Seville, Spain, and was recently a guest teacher and choreographer at Tampa City Ballet in the United States. He also danced in the 2025–2026 production *Don Giovanni / Requiem* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, staged by Kirill Serebrennikov, which premiered on April 27, 2025, at the Komische Oper Berlin, Germany.

He is currently involved in the ongoing project *Antigone* by Sophocles, directed and choreographed by Alan Lucien Øyen (Administrator of Winter Guests, Norway), commissioned by Fondazione Teatro di Roma, with a premiere scheduled for July 22, 2025, at Teatro Argentina in Rome, Italy.

In the field of film, he has participated in productions by **Pedro Almodóvar**, **Wim Wenders**, and **Peter Lindbergh**, among others. In 1998, Fernando danced in *A Meeting Between Japanese fashion designer Yohji Yamamoto and Pina Bausch* as part of the Pina Bausch Festival in Wuppertal.



## Dance studies

1994 - 1995 Postgraduate studies in dance. Folkwang Universität der Künste Essen, Germany. (Prof. Jean Cebron „Solotanz“ Master Studio)

1994 Final artistic examination for stage dance, Folkwang Universität der Künste Essen, Germany.

1991 - 1994 Dance study Bühnentanz, Folkwang Universität der Künste Essen, Germany.

1987 - 1991 „Caracas Contemporary Dance School“, „Taller de Danza de Caracas“, Venezuela.

## General studies

1985 - 1990 “Universidad Católica Andrés Bello”, Diploma licentiate in journalism. Caracas, Venezuela.



## Dancer

Ongoing project - Antigone of Sophocles. Director & choreographer: Alan Lucien Øyen (Administrator of Winter Guests, Norway). commissioned by Fondazione Teatro di Roma. Premiere: July 22nd, 2025. Teatro Argentina, Roma, Italy.

2025 - 2026 Don Giovanni/Requiem, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Staging: Kirill Serebrennikov. Premiere: April 27th, 2025. Komische Oper Berlin, Germany.

2021 - 2024 "Al Igual Que Tú" Flamenco company "Eva Yerbabuena"

2021 - 2024 "White&Black" solos and duo dances in production  
co-created with Giorgia Maddamma

2020 - 2024 "In Perpetuum" solo dance

2018 - present Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch. Guest performances  
with the company

2015 "In terms of time" Tim Etchells, founder of Forced Entertainment,  
Sheffield, England

1995 – 2018 Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch. Participated in the  
creation of 14 pieces by Pina Bausch, and took on roles in many repertory  
pieces.

**Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch - Premieres - Participated in the creation of:** (click on the name of the piece for more information)

Saison 1995/96

**Nur Du**

Saison 1996/97

**Der Fensterputzer**

Saison 1997/98

**Masurca Fogo**

Saison 1997/98

**Herzog Blaubarts Burg** (Musical direction: **Pierre Boulez**)

Saison 1998/99

**O Dido**

Saison 1999/2000

**Wiesenland**

Saison 2000/01

**Água**

Saison 2001/02

**Für die Kinder von gestern, heute und morgen**

Saison 2002/03

**Nefés**

Saison 2003/04

**Ten Chi**

Saison 2004/05

**Rough Cut**

Saison 2005/06

**Vollmond**

Saison 2006/07

**Bamboo Blues**

Saison 2008/09

**"... como el mosquito en la piedra, ay si, si, si ..."**

## **Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch. Danced in:**

(Click on the name of the piece for more information)

[Iphigenie auf Tauris](#)

[Le Sacre du printemps](#)

[Die Sieben Todsünden](#)

[Blaubart. Beim Anhören einer Tonbandaufnahme von Béla Bartóks Oper](#)

[»Herzog Blaubarts Burg«](#)

[Komm tanz mit mir](#)

[Café Müller](#)

[Kontakthof](#)

[Arien](#)

[Keuschheitslegende](#)

[1980 – Ein Stück von Pina Bausch](#)

[Bandonéon](#)

[Nelken](#)

[Auf dem Gebirge hat man ein Geschrei gehört](#)

[Viktor](#)

[Ahnen](#)

[Palermo Palermo](#)

[Das Stück mit dem Schiff](#)

[Danzón](#)

[Nur Du](#)

[Der Fensterputzer](#)

[Masurca Fogo](#)

[Herzog Blaubarts Burg](#)

[O Dido](#)

[Wiesenland](#)

[Água](#)

[Für die Kinder von gestern, heute und morgen](#)

[Nefés](#)

[Ten Chi](#)

[Rough Cut](#)

[Vollmond](#)

[Bamboo Blues](#)

["... como el mosquito en la piedra, ay si, si, si ..." \(Comme la mousse sur la pierre\)](#)



## Rehearsal Director

- 2025 - 2026 REPRISE - Pina Bausch Foundation & Opera Ballet Vlaanderen, Antwerp, Belgium. Director of Rehearsals for "Le Sacre du Printemps", a piece by Pina Bausch (1975).
- 2024 - 2025 Pina Bausch Foundation & Taipei National University of the Arts, School of Dance, Taipei, Taiwan. Rehearsal director for "The Rite of Spring", a piece by Pina Bausch (1975).
- 2021 - 2022 Pina Bausch Foundation & Opera Ballet Vlaanderen, Antwerp, Belgium. Rehearsal director for "The Rite of Spring", a piece by Pina Bausch (1975).
- 2019 Pina Bausch Foundation & Semperoper Ballet, Dresden, Germany. Rehearsal director for the role of Pilades in the Dance / Opera "Iphigenie auf Tauris", by Pina Bausch (1974).
- 2016 Pina Bausch Foundation & Bayerisches Stadtballet, München, Germany. Rehearsal director for the role created by Fernando within "Für die Kinder von gestern, heute und morgen", a piece by Pina Bausch (2002).



## Dance teacher

Fernando Suels Mendoza's teaching practice began at the end of the eighties whilst he was part of the cast of the company Taller de Danza de Caracas, directed by Jose Ledezma. He taught modern dance classes at the school of Ballet Arte de Caracas, under the direction of Lidija Franklin, and at the Instituto Superior de Danza de Caracas.

Since establishing himself in Europe, and in conjunction with his activities as a dancer with Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch, he has been teaching regularly for the past twenty years at:

**COLUMBIA:** DANZAMED, Medellin.

**COSTA RICA:** Taller Nacional de Danza, Conservatorio El Barco (San Jose).

**EGYPT:** Danssabeel, Cairo.

**FRANCE:** Ecole du nord (Lille). Conservatoire National Supérieur Musique Danse de Lyon, Centre Chorégraphique James Carlès, Toulouse.

**GERMANY:** Guest teacher Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch (Wuppertal). Tanz Station Barmer Bahnhof.

**GREECE:** State School of Dance KSOT (Athens). Member of the 2021-2022 and 2024-2025 examination committee.

**ITALY:** Associazione Europea Danza (Livorno), La Luna Dance Center (Ancona), Accademia Poliarte di Ancona-Corso Professionale de Danza (Ancona), Studio76 (Brescia), Palermo in Danza (Palermo), Bari, Associazione di Danza Arabesque (Caserta), Ekodance International Project, UNITANZ (Lecce), Pompea Santoro (Torino), Russian Ballet (Scafati), MP3 project, Accademia Nazionale di Danza (Rome), Anonima Teatri ASD (Tuscania), Equilibrio Dinámico Roberta Ferrara, Pescara.

**ISRAEL:** Jerusalem, Kibutz Gaton, Tefen, Kibutz Misra, Inkfar Yasiif, Rishon Leziyyon.

**TAIWAN:** Taipei National University of the Arts TNUA (Taipei), National Taiwan University of Arts (Taipei), Tsoying Senior High School TYHS (Kaohsiung).

**SPAIN:** IBstage, Barcelona.

**USA:** Janet Panetta Movement Center (New York), Tampa City Ballet (Tampa)

**VENEZUELA:** Instituto Superior de Danza (Caracas).

During his time at Tanztheater Wuppertal, Fernando taught several workshops organized in conjunction with the company's tours in Madrid, Calcutta, Hong Kong, Taiwan, among others.



## Choreography

2025. **Scintilla tra le ombre** (Solo), ARB Dance Company, Caserta, Italy.
- 2025 **Amore a colpi.** (Duo) with dancers from Eko Dance Project Pompea Santoro, Turin, Italy,
- 2024 **StravAGANZA** (Solo), ARB Dance Company, with Roberta De Rosa, Caserta, Italy
- 2024 **Oma** (Solo - in creation), with Ephrat Asherie, New York, USA.
- 2024 **Carte Blanche** (Group piece), with dancers from Eko Dance Project Pompea Santoro, Turin, Italy,
- 2023 **Toccata e Fuga** (Quintet) ARB Dance Company, Caserta, Italy.
- 2023 **El Sahl el Montanea** (Group piece) with the participation of dancers and musicians from the Medhat Fawzy Center for Stick Arts. Cairo, Egypt.
- 2022 **CRACK** (Duo). Choreography and dance: Giorgia Maddamma and Fernando Suels Mendoza. Lecce, Italy.





## Film

Das Erbe der Pina Bausch. Arte, Anne Linsel, 2021.

MOVEment. Prada X dancers of Tanztheater Wuppertal. 2015.

PINA Directed by Wim Wenders. 2011.

Pina Bausch - ein Film von Anne Linsel, 2006.

Hable con ella. Directed by Pedro Almodovar, 2002.

Pina Bausch, Der Fensterputzer (The Window Washer) directed by Peter Lindbergh, 2001.



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Leonetta Bentivoglio/Francesco Carbone  
Pina Bausch vous appelle



L'Arche



## Links to sites, videos and others

Antigone. Alan Lucien Øyen. 2025/2026

Don Giovanni/Requiem, W. A. Mozart. K. Serebrennikov. Berlin, 25/26

Scintilla tra le ombre, F. Suels M. 2025

<https://www.pinabausch.org>

<https://www.pina-bausch.de>

<https://fernandosuelsmendoza.com>

<https://de.linkedin.com/in/fernando-suels-mendoza>

<https://www.evayerbabuena.com>

<https://w3.tnua.edu.tw>

<https://jamescarles.com>

F. Suels Rehearsal director, Sacre du Printemps P. Bausch TNUA Taipei, Taiwan, Nov. 2024

PROMO "Carte Blanche" Coreo: F. Suels M. 2024

PROMO Toccata e fuga 2023

F. Suels Rehearsal director, *Sacré du Printemps* P. Bausch TNUA Opera Ballet Vlaanderen, Antwerp, Belgium 2022

F. Suels in AGUA, P. Bausch, 2022

PROMO "Crack" Bühnenversion 2022

Fernando's class

"Crack" Giorgia Maddamma and Fernando Suels Mendoza 2021

"Crack" Giorgia Maddamma and Fernando Suels M. Rehearsal 2021. Fotos: Fabio Serino

PROMO In Perpetuum Eko Dance Project Pompea Santoro

F. Suels interview, « La Conversa », USA, 2020

PROMO In perpetuum, solo Fernando Suels Mendoza, 2021

PROMO Al igual que tú, compañía Eva Yerbabuena, 2021

Fernando Suels M. interview, Pina Bausch Foundation, 2018

F. Suels, Masurca Fogo, P. Bausch. 2018

F. Suels in Cafe Müller performance, P. Bausch 2017

F. Suels in Cafe Müller rehearsal, P. Bausch 2016

F. Suels in Palermo Palermo (1/3) P. Bausch Foundation, Jan. 2011

F. Suels in Palermo Palermo (2/3) P. Bausch Foundation, Jan. 11

F. Suels in Palermo Palermo (3/3) P. Bausch Foundation, Jan. 2011

F. Suels in full version of VOLLMOND, P. Bausch/Wim Wenders, 2011

PINA, Wim Wenders - Joy dance, 2011

F. Suels in PINA film. P. Bausch/Wim Wenders. 2011

Iphigenie auf Tauris, Pina Bausch, 2010

PROMO Choreographic workshop curated by Fernando Suels M. Palermo in Danza, 2019

PROMO Mezzo Nero, Rosso Mezzo, 2015

PROMO I lost something on the hill, Solo Fernando Suels Mendoza, 2010

MOVEMENT. Prada X dancers of Tanztheater Wuppertal, 2015

F. Suels in Palermo Palermo, P. Bausch Foundation, Tokyo, march 2008

F: Suels in Palermo Palermo 1/2 P. Bausch Foundation, Dec. 2002

F. Suels in Palermo Palermo 1/2. P. Bausch Foundation, Dec. 1995

F. Suels in Palermo Palermo 2/2. P. Bausch Foundation, Dec. 1995

Languages: Spanish, English, German, Italian, French

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