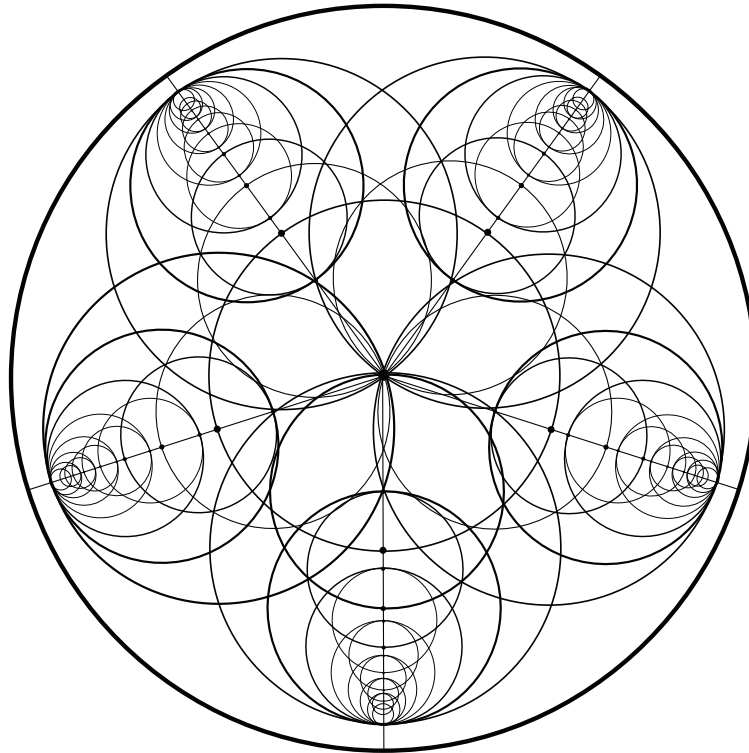


# Nordic Unity

The Nordic Urban Dance Network



Nordic Unity is a network of key people in the Nordic urban dance scene that was constituted in the spring of 2015. The network strides to bring the Nordic urban dance communities closer together, and through that strengthen the Nordic urban dance scene. By creating strong network in and between the Nordic urban dance communities, Nordic Unity strides to raise the bar in quality of urban dance and improve the professional and cultural conditions for all. Nordic Unity is realized with support from Nordiske Kulturfond.

**“We will insist that urban dance is an art form and work for it to be acknowledged as such”**

*- Statement from The Nordic Unity Manifesto*



To make transparent the purpose of Nordic Unity’s work, the common will of Nordic Unity has been concretized in the Manifesto of Nordic Unity. In the manifesto is declared the goals of the network in relation to organization, business and professionalism, art, culture, teaching, articulation, communication, community and network in and of urban dance. The manifesto can be found on the website of Nordic Unity from sept. 4th 2015 where the website is launched and the Network is made official to the public. Until then it can be emailed to you upon request.

## **Nordic Unity Activities**

The work and activities of Nordic Unity has various facets to reach the goal of heightening the conditions for and the quality of urban dance in the North. But throughout all activities and work there is one continuous work philosophy: All work and activities of Nordic Unity must work as rings in the water; the cognitive and behavioral changes, which the network advocates, must influence the Ambassadors’ local dance communities as well as their possibilities for network and mobility must be spread to there. Following are a list of the main activities of Nordic Unity:

## The Nordic Unity Conferences

Nordic Unity gathers at three annual conferences, the Ambassadors, representing 5 nordic countries, work to continuously establish a yet stronger platform for collaboration on the various projects of their local communities as well as for the network's own projects and productions. There is no hierarchy within the Nordic Unity core group, and each ambassador get to put in action their particular skill set in the areas of work that suit their particular abilities, collectively enriched with a wide range of high quality skill sets.

At the conferences, Nordic Unity strides to enter into dialogue with the local dance communities in two ways:

- On each conference, an open conference day is being held, where the network enters into direct dialogue with the local dance community.
- Through series of workshops, held on the conferences, where Nordic Unity is gathered, the network offers high quality workshops to the local dance community.

An effect of the work regarding the conferences is that the Ambassadors share knowledge, and through that develop new knowledge regarding the field of urban dance. This as well strengthens their individual work in the urban dance scene and allow these ambitious entrepreneurs a solid support network.

## Common Support

The network strides to support urban dance events and projects in the various Nordic countries in matters of mobility, promotion and network. To do this, the network at the moment supports a range of projects and events created by the various Ambassadors of the network. By promoting each other's work; using each other's talents and capabilities to the best extend; and arranging transport and mobility to the events and projects in question, Nordic Unity strengthens and unites the urban dance scene in the North.

# Nordic Unity Productions

Nordic Unity strides to make own productions to make projects, events and performances in the scene of urban dance of high quality. In 2016, three annual productions are to be made:

## **Juste Debout Nordic Festival 2016**

The Nordic pre-selections to the Juste Debout 2016 finals in France. The event will be running from the 30th of January 2016 to the 2nd of February 2016 in Copenhagen and Malmö. The event will be managed and produced by Nordic Unity. More information can be found on the website from sept. 4th 2015.

## **Nordic Unity Dance Production**

As a product of an artistic residency for a selected number of Nordic dancers in Copenhagen in the spring of 2016, a dance performance will be made collaboratively by the involved dancers. This production will be going on tour in on the third of the three annual productions of Nordic Unity; Nordic SuperJam 2016.

## **Nordic SuperJam 2016**

Nordic SuperJam is to be a festival going on tour around the Nordic countries. The event will be based on jams, battles, workshops and performances all under the genres of urban dance.

# The involved in Nordic Unity

As the work of Nordic Unity centers around the Nordic countries, the network consists of members from the countries of the North; Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Greenland and Iceland, while the search is ongoing for a representative of the Faroe Islands.

The Ambassadors in the network have all been chosen because of their key roles as leaders in their local dance communities. They have been chosen because of the impact of their work in the urban dance scene and their ability to stand alone, proving capable as entrepreneurs, artists, sportsmen & women, and loving community builders.

## **United Youth**

In addition to the Ambassadors of Nordic Unity, you find the Ambassadors of Nordic Unity's daughter network, United Youth - a network for which the task is to direct the work and goals of Nordic Unity towards the new, younger generation of urban dancers in the North.



# Nordic Unity Project Managers

## Marie Kaae Schmidt

Marie Kaae is a teacher, organizer and international community builder dedicated to urban dance culture and art. She has more than 15 years of experience with professional dancing on television, in theaters, with pop-artist, award- and fashion shows and more. She holds a degree in cultural encounters and international development from Roskilde University in Denmark. Marie Kaae is the founder of Tap Water Jam, Paris edition and Copenhagen edition, a platform for culture and artistic socialization. Upon returning to Denmark in 2014 after several years living and working in Paris, She founded the Association Divercity, of which she is Chairman. Divercity works to support and develop the danish urban dance scene's continued growth and cultural coherence.

Marie Kaae is currently completing her second university degree in performance studies and psychology, along side various projects, performances, events, international battles and more.

For more info on Marie Kaae's current work:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Divercitycph>



## Martin Ferretti

Martin has in earlier years been working as a performing and battling dancer, and has in the latest years put his work focus on teaching, judging battles and organizing dance events. He is one of the key organizers of urban dance events in Sweden having been a project manager of the Swedish preselections of Juste Debout for several years, being the originator and project manager of the annual Street Star Festival in Stockholm in addition to several other projects and events.

Besides from working on the organizational level, Martin teaches at the educations at Åsa Folkhögskola, where he also manages the annual summer camps, in addition to teaching classes and workshops in Stockholm and around the Nordic countries.

For more information on Martin's work, see following link:  
<http://www.streetstar.se/>



# Nordic Unity Ambassadeurs

## Sweden

### Niki Tsappos 'Awandee'

Niki has her roots as a dancer in the dance scene of hiphop and in her work as a dancer, she travels the world representing Sweden in the international dance scene by teaching, giving workshops and lectures, doing performances, and participating in battles. She has won various battles around the world such as Juste Debout 2010 in Paris, WDC 2010 in Japan and Just Play 2015 in China. In the later years Niki has not only battled, but also functioned as a judge and MC on various dance events and battles. In Sweden she has worked with several large theaters including the Dansens Hus, Riksteatern, and is behind an artistic exchange project between French and Swedish dancers by the name of TMT. Niki was also behind the start up of Urban Connection Festival at Dansens Hus as an expert advisor on urban dance.



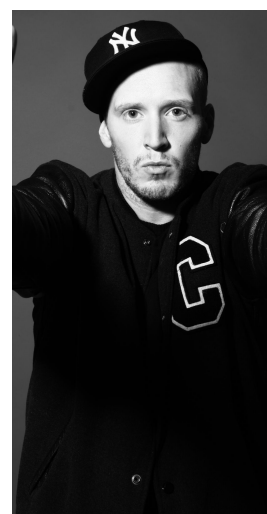
On an organizational level, Niki is a key dance event organizer in Sweden having organized events as Scandinavian Superjam and Pump up the Battle Tour.

For more information on Niki, see following link:

<http://www.awandee.com/>

### Viktor Fröjd

Viktor has a bachelor degree in dance pedagogics with his major being in street dance at the University of Dance and Circus. Prior to this he studied street dance at Åsa Folkhögskola's five styles program. Viktor is working both as a performing dancer in battles and performances and projects such as RES DIG! in Växjö and Improve in Stockholm. Working as a choreographer, Viktor has as well been working on various dance pieces of the likes of A Sort of In-Between and Tugg, both in Stockholm.



Working as a teacher, Viktor is giving lessons and workshops in, University of Dance and Circus, Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts and Scandinavian Dance Academy. In addition, Viktor organizes the Lighthouse Battles in Stockholm, an annual series of street dance battles of various styles.

For more information on Viktor, see following link:

<http://www.viktorfrojd.com/>

## Martin Rosen

Martin Rosen represents the city of Kalmar where he is one of the most active and entrepreneurial figure in the urban dance scene. With a dance background in Breakdance and education in economics from Calmare Internaional School (CIS) he founded the Urban Dance Festival - Hip Hop Weekend - an annual happening that stimulates Kalmars local scene. Recently Martin opened the office hotel - Kalmar Co - from which he is currently working while sharing and developing knowledge with entrepreneurs from many different fields of work.

For more information on Martin's work, see following link:

<http://www.kalmarco.se>

<https://www.facebook.com/hiphopweekendkalmar>



## Denmark

### Marie 'Gumdrop' Paldrup

Has studied dance in Denmark at Flow Dance Academy and Stepz dance education, after which she moved to New York, where she studied dance at Broadway Dance Center, Peridance Center and PMT dance studio. Being a part of the company, KINEMATIC Dance Theatre, since 2011 while living in New York, she did several dance performances. For full list of her works as a performing dancer and full dance education, see her CV on following link:

<https://www.backstage.com/mariepaldrup/>

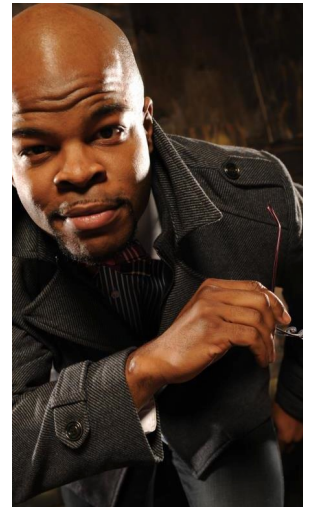
Now, living in Denmark again, she is working as a teacher at Stepz dance education and works on various projects at Dansekapellet in Copenhagen. Being one of the founders of the urban dance organization, Divercity, she has been a key part of creating the Copenhagen series of hiphop and house jam sessions, Tap Water Jam.



## Brice 'Professor Lock' Johnson

Brice originates from Philadelphia (US) and worked for several years in Los Angeles, where he was based until he moved to Denmark in 2014. Being one of the founding members of the crew, Hood Lockers, he has been a part of various dance performances. Apart from his work with Hood Lockers, Brice has, amongst other featurings, been featured in SYTYCD 8, by Madonna and Rennie Harris Pure Movement.

Working as a teacher giving classes around the world, Brice works with all major styles of hiphop and teaches each one's foundation and vocabulary. As well as teaching, Brice has been competing and winning in battles around the world in battles as: KOD 8 in Beijing, UK Champs in London and Hip Hop International in US. Now living in Denmark, Brice is a part of the crew, Gully Grinders.



## Finland

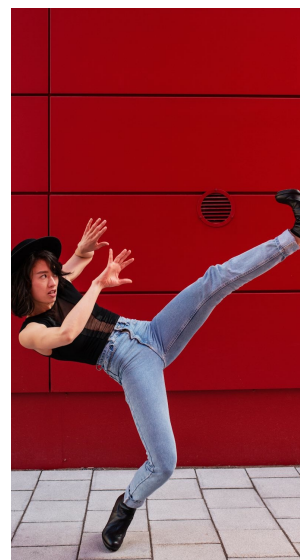
### Marika Peura

Marika is a performing, teaching and organizing dancer with her main stylez being Hip Hop and Waacking. More than being a member of the CLEVA crew, Marika competes, performs and teaches actively both in Finland and abroad. Marika has actively studied dance around the world in New York, Japan, Korea and in Europe. Her unique set of skills she uses in her work as a teacher at the Saiffa Flo Mo Dance School and in the workshops she teaches.

Marika is one of the organizers behind the annual Nordic Soul Festival in Helsinki. For more information on Marika and her work, see following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/nordicsoulfestival>

<https://www.saiffa.fi/en/teachers/teachers>





## Mikko 'Wartecs' Jani Kristian Björk

Mikko is an experienced dancer, teacher, Project Manager, event organizer and entrepreneur. He is a member of the renowned breakdance collective Illmatic Cru since 1997 that later changed name to Savage Feet, and is a member of its core group Flow Mo Rockers. Flow Mo is historically the most successful finish breakdance crew, they hold six national championship titles and has represented among top three in several international championships. Mikko has created two solo dance performances "Night på Bboy Mansion" (2002) and "Everyday Diary" (2004) and together with Flow Mo he co-created "3D" (2003), "Motion som Identity Footwork som Artform" (2004), "Døre - bag døre" (2008) and "Reaktion" (2009).

Today Mikko Teaches at Flow Mo's own dance school in Helsinki , where he is also project Manager and is part of the organizing team of the National Championships in Breakdance, amongst other events and competitions.

For more information on Mikko and his work, see following links:

<https://www.saiffa.fi>

[https://fi.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikko\\_Bj%C3%B6rk](https://fi.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikko_Bj%C3%B6rk)



## Iceland

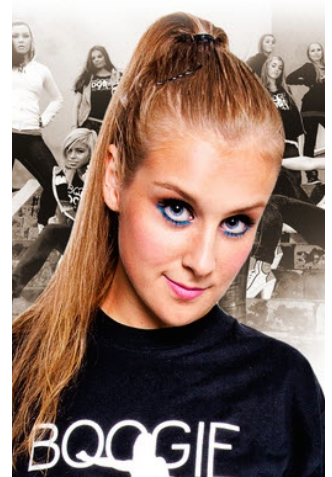
### Brynja Petursdottir

Brynja is the founder and CEO of her dance school, Dans Brynju Péturs, the only dance school in Iceland, which specializes in street dance. To continuously develop herself as a dancer, Brynja annually travels to New York as well as Paris and London, where she studies. The benefits of her study travels she bring back to her school in Iceland, so the Icelandic urban dance education continuously can evolve.

Brynja as well created and is the project manager of the only street dance battle event in Iceland, Street Dans Einvígið, which is being held annually in October.

For more information on Brynja, see following link:

<http://www.brynjapeturs.is/>



## Greenland

### Niels 'Nuke' Berglund (United Youth Ambassador)

Niels lives and works daily in Århus, Denmark, where he teaches at Stylez Dance Academy, and is a member of the Stylez Dance Academy crew, where he dances from his primary style, break dance. For full CV on, see the following link:

<http://www.stylez-academy.dk/instruktorer/niels/>

Being the youth ambassador of the network in Greenland, Niels works in Greenland twice per year, where he teaches classes and strides to give the basis to the Greenlandic dancers to build an urban dance culture locally. Annually, Niels functions as project leader of the OuterVision dance festival in Nuuk, Greenland.



## Norway

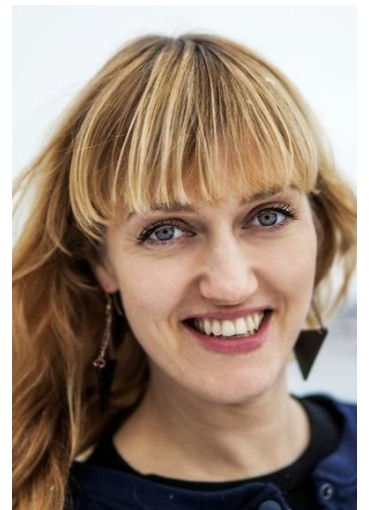
### Camilla Tellefsen

Working from her base in Oslo, Camilla is a cofounder of the dance school, Subsdans, where she teaches in her primary dance styles; hiphop, popping and waacking. She completed her dance education at Bårdar Akademiet and Flow Dance Academy in Copenhagen as well as through study travels to Paris, New York and Los Angeles.

Camilla has worked as a dancer in several productions as well as having participated and judged in various battles. Furthermore, Camilla is a cofounding member of the Deep Down Doeizm crew. On an organizational level, Camilla is a cofounder of the annual Soul Sessions dance festival in Oslo, where she works as project manager as well as she does with the Urban Moves festival in Oslo.

For more information on Camilla, see following link:

<http://subsdans.no/about/pedagogene/#camilla>



## **Mathias Jin Budtz**

Originally coming from Denmark, where he was educated at Flow Dance Academy in Copenhagen, and following studying dance through study travels to Paris, New York and Los Angeles, he now lives and works in Oslo. Here he is one of the cofounders of the dance school, Subsdans, where he teaches in his primary styles; house and break. Mathias has been working in various dance performances, participated in several battles and is a cofounding member of the Deep Down Dopeizm crew. Mathias is a cofounder of the annual urban dance festival, Soul Sessions, in Oslo, which he is a part of organizing every year, as well as he is in the Urban Moves festival in Oslo.

For more information os Mathias, see the following link:  
<http://subsdans.no/about/pedagogene/#mathias>



## **Ida Louise Sundby**

Ida took her dance education at Fagerborg Videregående Skole, after which she moved to Paris to develop her dance. Being back in Oslo, she now teaches her main styles, hiphop and waacking, at the dance school, Subsdans, and has been a part of several dance performances and participated in a range of Nordic battles. She is as well a member of the Deep Down Dopeizm crew.

Ida is as well one of the leading project workers on the two annual urban dance festivals in Oslo, Urban Moves and Soul Sessions.

For more information on Ida, see following link:  
<http://subsdans.no/about/pedagogene/#ida>





## **Christine 'Chriz' Nypan**

Has a bachelor degree in dance from l'Académie Internationale de la Danse in Paris as well as having been educated at Tony Maskot's multidisciplinary hiphop education in Paris. Christine has been teaching and doing workshops and battles around the world as well as having worked with various companies such as A Part Entre in Paris, Membros in Rio de Janeiro and Da Silva Company in New York. She is as well a member of the crew Cre8 in Oslo, the New York-based house crew, MAWU, and a founding member of the house crew, Dudettes.

Now living in Oslo, Christine recently finished her education as a dance educator at KHIO.

For more information on Christine, see following links:

<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/53294eace4b0bf79b0b567c5/t/53da1fe2e4b049d3b3b8892e/1406803938417/CV+Chriz.pdf>

<http://subsdans.no/about/pedagogene/#chriz>



## **United Youth Ambassadors**

### **Rina Maria Abantao (NO/DK)**

Rina is in her work as a dancer working as a teacher, where she has been giving lessons and workshops at Oslo Streetdance Studio and Flow Dance Academy in Copenhagen. In addition to teaching there, Rine has been working as a co-manager at Flow Dance Academy. Rina is co-founder of CLASHcph, where she functions as project leader. CLASHcph is an urban dance organization, which goal it is to organize jams, battles and workshops in the urban dance scene. The organization has amongst other events organized CLASHcph Hip Hop Dance Festival 2014.

### **Regine Nedregård (NO)**

Has been a part of the Deep Down Dopeizm crew since 2012. Apart from earlier dance education, Regine has, for the past two years, attended Åsa Folkhögskola in Katrineholm, Sweden. Here she, besides from her dance education, worked with project- and event management, and was a part of creating various dance events.

### **Casper Preisler (DK)**

Has been a part of the StrawHat Crew since 2013, and is working in Soulhagen, a forum which purpose it is to unite the urban dance scene and create a platform where the urban dance culture can be shared amongst levels and ages.

Apart from earlier dance education, Casper has attended two years of dance education at Åsa Folkhögskola in Katrineholm, Sweden. During his education there, Casper worked with project- and event management and was a part of creating various dance events.

### **Niels 'Nuke' Berglund (GL)**

Niels lives and works daily in Århus, Denmark, where he teaches at Stylez Dance Academy, and is a member of the Stylez Dance Academy crew, where he dances from his primary style, break dance. For full CV on, see the following link:  
<http://www.stylez-academy.dk/instruktorer/niels/>

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