

LIAM FRANCIS

Dual Till The Death



ABOUT

Dual Till The Death explores the duality of human nature; the mature and the juvenile, the aggressive and the tender, the playful and the serious, and finally the conscious and subconscious. How do we balance and embrace the duality of existing? As it becomes harder to decipher whether these quarrels are existing internally or externally, *Dual Till The Death* asks “Are our conflicts ever really with anyone other than ourselves?”

The 12min duet was originally created in 2021 for Rambert’s BluePrint programme before touring nationally and internationally with Liam’s dance company FranDanCo. *Dual Till The Death* has also been restaged and toured throughout Europe with companies SALLY Dansgezelschap Maastricht and Rambert (2024).

In 2022, the duet was presented at the Rotterdam International Duet Choreography Competition and won the Korzo Partner Award, SALLY Partner Award, Dansatelier Partner Award & the Skånes Dans Theatre Award. That same year, it was presented at the Hannover International Choreographic Competition and won the Produktion Award Theatre Trier.

Liam’s current plan is to develop this work into a 25-30min piece to be presented as part of a double bill program from Summer 2025 onward.

[Watch the 12min performance here](#)



“Whilst sat waiting on a bench, the mind can wander. For me I often finds myself fidgeting and thinking about the past; the decisions I’ve made, the actions I’ve taken, the opinions and perspectives I’ve held. Occasionally dormant memories awake and I am called to recon with previous versions of myself. Whether it is joyous or confronting, it’s always me.”

Liam Francis



Liam Francis & Antonello Sangirardi
Jacob Pillow Residency
Images by Danica Paulos

“Like sitting in a park - accompanied by birds and city sounds - this work invites the audience to observe two people at the other side of the green. While sitting and leaning on and moving around a bench these strangers (?), lovers (?), siblings (?), friends (?) explore their encounter with a fresh vibe and joy.

The way they slide through their ambiguous relationship makes you question all the stories you invent for these two. The work makes you ponder on where relationships start, enjoy the ways in which they are moving together right now and long to know more about what will happen next. And that’s what the work of this choreographer and his fellow performer do, they make you curious for more.”

Korzo Theatre, RIDCC jury member



Liam Francis & Antonello Sangirardi
Rotterdam International Duet Choreography Competition
Image by Ton Van Till



“They take their time to test grounds, charge the space, tune in and identify what their starting point will be. They know and challenge one another and create some sort of playing field. Are they remembering boyhood? Is he him, or him he? Are they growing up? Looking for the man they wish to be? Playing with second skins, trying to understand which one belongs to whom. New beginnings are shared, or maybe possibilities are just infinite. Charmed by the playfulness of the proposal and the felt movement research done, we were drawn into the work by the contagious physicality of both performers. The use of their fully engaged, yet loose and fluid bodies revealed a sensitive collaboration, showing a narrative through dance and playful and teasing behaviour.”

Dansatelier, RIDCC jury member



“The atmosphere is right there from the very beginning, ready to be explored. The dialogue between the two fantastic dancers keeps the attraction alive. Liam manages to level up every gestures into detailed actions choreographed with care. The partnering is sensitive, gentle, and playful, unveiling deep emotions.”

Skånes Danstheatre, RIDCC jury member



COLLABORATORS

Clark Avery Griffin

Danseur, performer

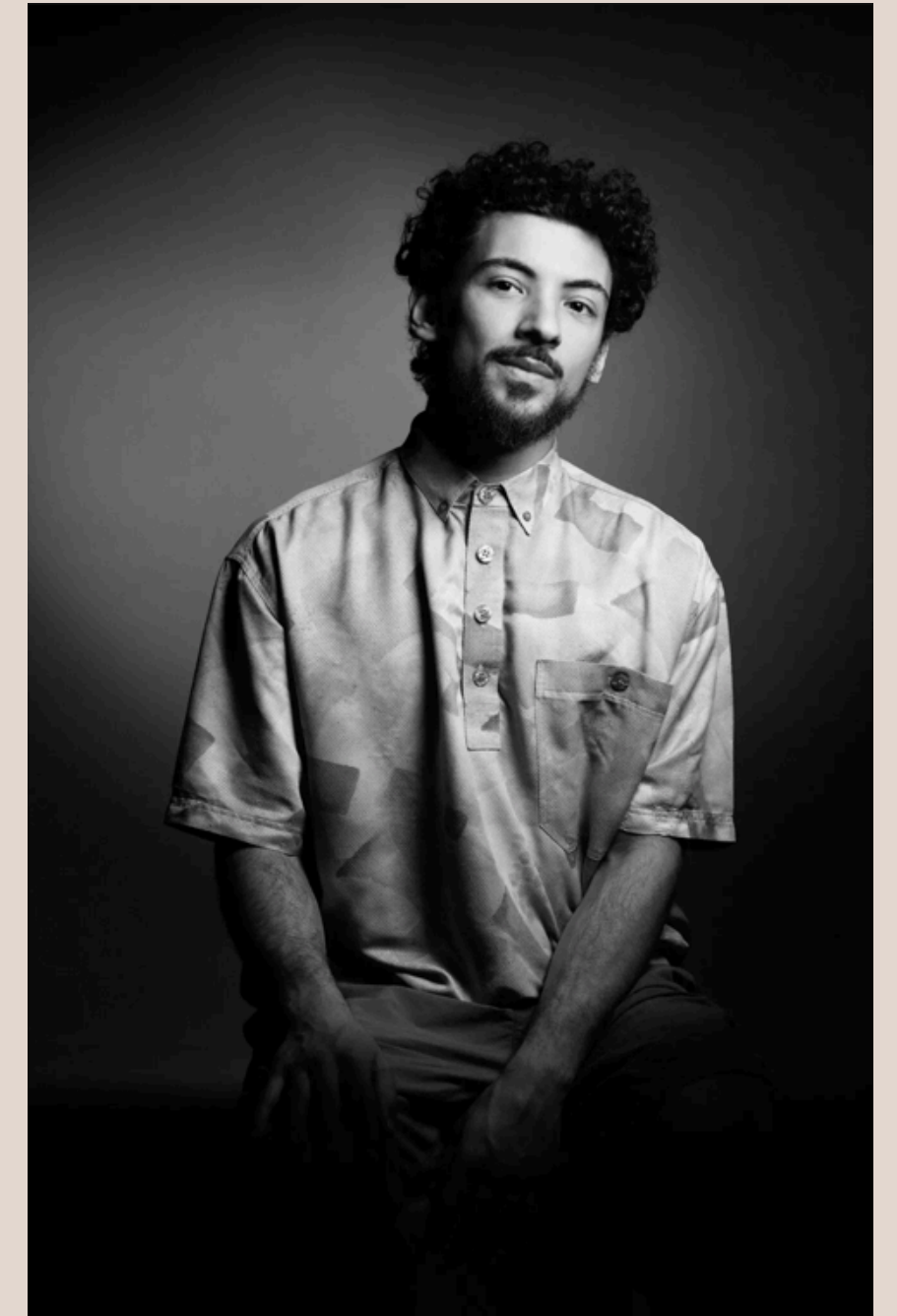


Clark studied anthropology and dance at Princeton University. In 2018 he joined Rambert2, which saw him created roles and perform work by Jermaine Maurice Spivey and Andrea Miller. In 2022 Clark completed a Masters Degree at Trinity Laban. He then joined Liam's company to work on *Dual Till The Death* which he performed at Resolutions (May, 2022) and Jacob's Pillow (August 2022). Clark currently works as a freelance dancer and certified yoga instructor in Los Angeles.

Born in Bari Italy, Antonello trained in Paris and Marseille. He danced with Ballet Preljocaj before joining Rambert in 2018 where he danced for 6 years creating roles and performing works by acclaimed choreographers such as Ben Duke, Marion Motin, Benoit Swan Pouffe, Imre and Marne Van Opstal and Wim Vandekeybus. Antonello was the original cast member of *Dual Till The Death* for Rambert Blueprint performance in November 2021.

Antonello Sangirardi

Danseur, performer



COLLABORATORS

Thomasin Gülgeç

Danseur, performer



Born in Oxford, Thomasin joined Rambert Company in 2003 where he toured nationally and internationally, creating roles and performing works by acclaimed choreographers such as Javier de Frutos, Wayne McGregor, Siobhan Davies, Fin Walker and Doug Varone. As a freelance dance artist, Thomasin worked with Russell Maliphant, Company Chameleon, Boris Charmatz, Merce Cunningham Trust, Candoco Dance Company, Akram Khan, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Mad Dogs Dance Theatre. He performed in *Duall Till The Death* as part of the Riverstage Festival at The National Theatre in July 2022.

Wouter graduated from the Conservatory of Maastricht as a drummer/percussionist and completed a Master of Music Design at the Art, Media and Technology faculty of the HKU in Hilversum in 2013. Wouter works as a producer, musician, composer, teacher and educational developer. As an interdisciplinary artist, his work focuses on collaborating with other disciplines like dance, media and theater. Wouter is a longstanding collaborator of SALLY Dansgezelschap Maastricht since 2018.

Wouter Gulikers

Sound Composer

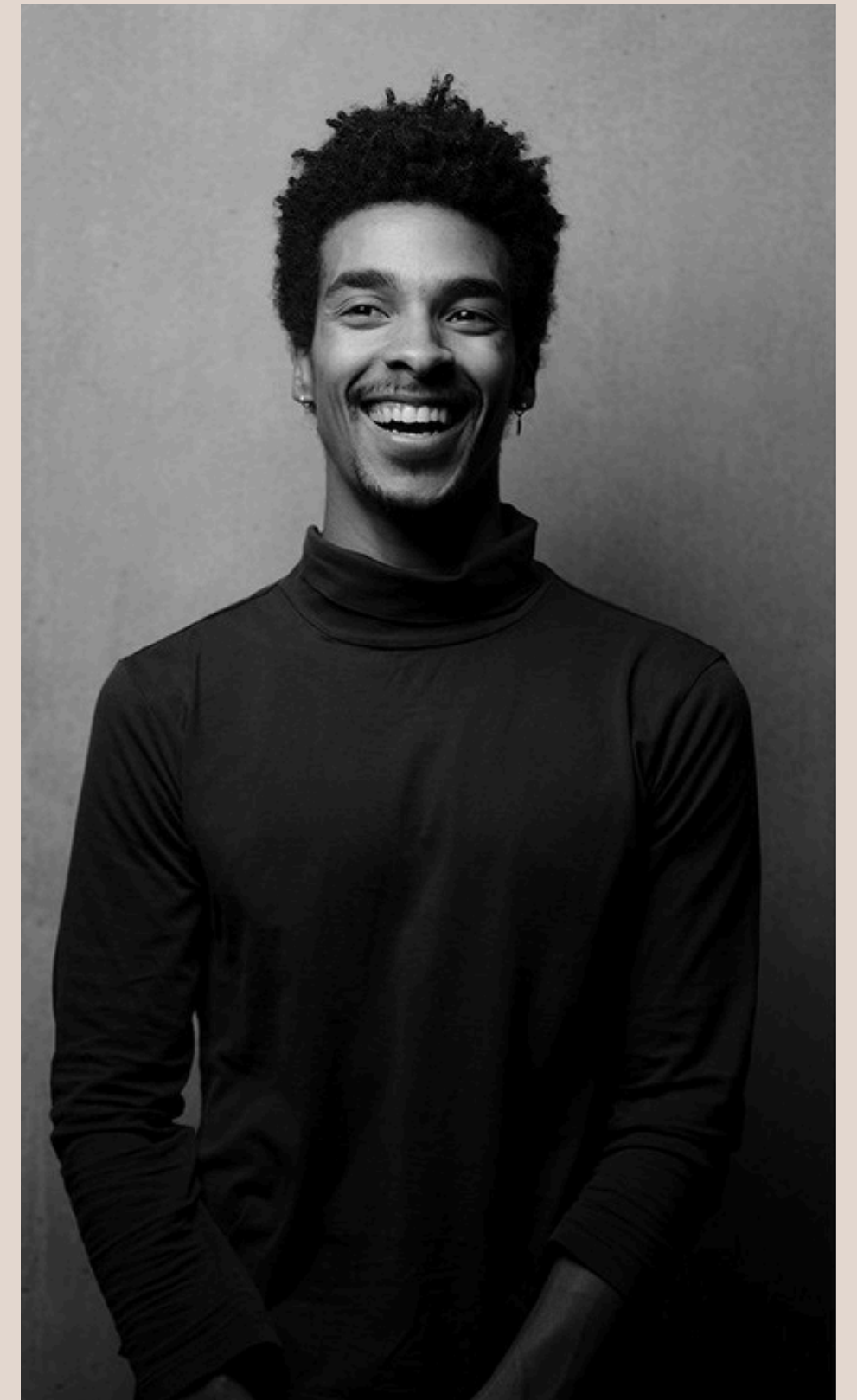


LIAM FRANCIS

Liam Francis is an international dance artist and choreographer. Whether leading creations, or as a collaborator in other artists' work, he tries to let his passion for 'play' inform his contributions, decisions and performance. His practice currently seeks to authentically express the hybridity of information he contains; something he's acquired through working in both hip-hop theatre and contemporary dance. His practice is also informed by his interest in the relationship between Flow state and dance, which has been the focus of his recently completed research Master Degree at Rambert School.

His professional performance career began at Zonation Dance Company in 2009. Between 2014 and 2021 he was a leading dancer with Rambert Dance Company; performing and creating roles in works by internationally renowned choreographers such as Mark Baldwin, Christopher Bruce, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Merce Cunningham, Ben Duke, Sharon Eyal, Wayne McGregor, Marion Motin, Patricia Okenwa, Hofesh Shechter, Wim Vandekeybus, Didy Veldman and Alexander Whitley. In 2021 Liam was nominated by Dance Europe as 'Dancer of the Year' and Tanz magazine as 'Best Male Dancer'.

Liam's own choreographic work has been performed in London, Massachusetts, New York, Oxford, Paris, Rotterdam and Rome. In 2022 Liam's duet, *Dual Till the Death*, received 4 partnership awards at the Rotterdam International Duet Choreography Competition and another award at the Choreography Competition Hannover. He has made works for graduating students at The Place, London Studio Centre and Rambert School, as well as dance companies Ballet Theater Trier, Rambert, SALLY, Shechter2 and Skånesdansteater. Liam is the founder and director of dance company FranDanCo.



FRANDANCO

FranDanCo is a project based dance company under the directorship of dancer and choreographer Liam Francis. The Brighton based company acts as a hub for the growth of Liam's choreographic voice, whilst also showcasing masterworks by renowned choreographers. The company aims to represent the eclecticism of the UK dance scene on local and international stages.

FranDanCo 5 core principles:

- **Investing in our neighbours:** Expand creative horizons by nurturing the spirit of neighbourhood. By engaging with diverse disciplines, individuals, and communities that enrich our own, we weave a vibrant tapestry of artistic collaboration.
- **Place Making:** Collectively creating experiential worlds that can be transported to an array of locations and audiences. This notion of Place Making extends beyond our performance based work and is also embedded in our outreach work.
- **Embracing Hybridity:** Utilising the full spectrum of our training, experiences and interests to create work. We see the borders of one genre, discipline or idea as the leap pad for further exploration. We approach these often fixed entities like water colours that can bleed into one another.
- **Advocating for Patient Art Making:** We seek to challenge the notion of 'fast art' and invest in the process of creation and the excavation of ideas. We endeavour to create art that honours present circumstances with a depth, width and breadth that will allow it to stand the tests of time and be a beacon for rich experiences in the future.
- **Historic Dance:** We want to honour the importance of the past and celebrate the legacy of those who have paved our journey. We want to find ways to make timeless wisdom accessible to fresh, receptive audiences.

CONTACTS

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