

Dr. Raffaele Rufo

Somatic dance practitioner / artistic mediator and
facilitator / independent scholar

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EDUCATION

Deakin University, Melbourne — *Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)*

JAN 2016 - MARCH 2020

- Practice-led PhD in Dance and Performance Studies, School of Communication and Creative Arts
- PhD thesis: 'Re-Engaging Touch in Tango: An Experiential Framework for Kinesthetic Listening'

Bocconi University, Milan — *BBA (Hons, Summa cum Laude)*

SEPTEMBER 1995 - OCTOBER 1999

- First Class Honours Degree in Business Administration with major in Strategic Management (Vice Chancellor's Achievement Award)
- Honours Thesis: 'Constructivist Approaches to Strategic Leadership: A Case-Study on Grounded Theory'

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN DANCE AND SOMATICS

Training in Dance Improv/Contact Improv/Contact-Tango

JANUARY 2017 - PRESENT

Key providers: Deakin University Dance Department; BodyWeather Australia; Cecil St. Studio Melbourne; Intl. Contact-Tango Festival Wuppertal.
Key teachers: Sergey Semichev (UA/IT), Urs Stauffer (CH), Nita Little (US), Olivia Millard (AU), Frank Van Der Ven (NL/AU), Alessandro Franceschelli (FR).

Training in Somatic Movement Education

SEPTEMBER 2017 - PRESENT

Key providers: Italian Association of Feldenkrais Practitioners (AIMF); Body-Mind Centering (BMC) certified practitioners.
Key teachers: Valentina Vitolo (IT), Thomas Kampe (UK/DE), Sabine Pfeffer (FR), Sebastian Meyer (DE), Eleonora Parrello (IT), Franca Rey (IT).

Training in Argentine Tango Dance

JANUARY 2010 - PRESENT

Key providers: 'Tango de Arrabal' dance school Milan; 'Efectotango' dance company Milan; 'Sidewalk Tango' dance studio Melbourne.
Key teachers: Natalia Ochoa (AR/SP), Pablo Veron (AR/IT), Alejandra Angelica (AR/IT), Juan Carlos Martinez & Nora Witanowsky (AR), Valentina Vitolo (IT).

PERSONAL DETAILS

Date of birth: 04/08/1976

Nationality: Italian

City of birth: Milan

Pronoun: He

WEB LINKS

raffaelerufo.com

vimeo.com/raffaelerufo

researchgate.net/profile/raffaele-rufo

ifeea.earth

EXPERIENCE

Intercultural Roots, UK — *Freelance dance and somatic artist*

JUNE 2020 - PRESENT

- Coordinator and artistic facilitator of 'La Selva International Ecological Arts and Eco-Somatic Residency', Rome (IT), 5-8 Oct 2023
- 'Human-Nature Connect', artist and ecosomatic residency for embodied arts practitioners (North of England, UK), 4-6 Nov 2022
- Co-designer and facilitator of 'Returning Home: Body Earth Reciprocity' online/ in-presence collaborative workshops, 1-2 May 2021

Teatro del Lido di Ostia, Rome — *Artistic facilitator/mediator*

JANUARY 2022 - PRESENT

- Artistic and cultural mediation of citizenship participation processes in response to ecosocial crises through eco-somatic philosophy & practice.
- Artistic facilitation of participatory learning processes with young performing artists in disadvantaged social contexts

Humanitas Mundi Teatro, Rome — *Artistic director for dance*

JANUARY 2022 - PRESENT

Creative planning and setting up of practices of sharing and dramaturgical - choreographic cooperation for local theatre and dance artists.

Eco-Somatic Pedagogical Interventions — *Workshop artist*

JUNE 2019 - PRESENT

- 'Eco-Spirituality Through Dance', European Laudato Si' Alliance (ELSIA), Taizé Community (FR), Nov 2022
- 'Ecokinetics: Embodying Reciprocity with Plants', Re-gaining Ecological Futures, Floating University Berlin (DE), 22-25 June 2022
- 'Ecosomatics and Contact Improvisation in Nature', group practice, Natural Reserve of the Roman Coast (IT), Nov 2021-June 2022
- 'Conscious Movement in Nature', pre-school children program, Green Dada Forest School, Milan (IT), Sep - Dec 2020
- 'Somatic Awareness and Eco-Relationality', High School Drama Program, Yarra Valley Steiner School, Melbourne (AU), June 2019

InnTango, Innsbruck — *Dance teacher and facilitator*

APRIL 2024 (forthcoming)

- Building bridges between dance communities and including people with different abilities through workshops and open practices
- Programs offered: 'Inclusive Tango', 'ImPuls Tango', 'Contact Improvisation meets Tango'

MEMBERSHIPS

Co-founder of the International Forum for Eco-Embodied Arts (IFEEA)

Member of the Embodied Research Working Group at the International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR)

Member of the International Platform for Performer Training (IPPT)

GRANTS

2023 Human-Nature Connect funding scheme (€32,500) for developing and organising 'La Selva' International Ecological Arts and Eco-Somatic Residency in Rome, Intercultural Roots (UK)

2014-15 Anti-dropout projects in public schools (€30,500), Ministry of Education, University and Research and regional government funding schemes for networks of secondary schools and social work organisations developing innovative projects for student retention (IT)

International Dance Festivals & Workshops — *Dance teacher*

NOVEMBER 2016 - PRESENT

- ‘Somatics into Tango: Workshops on Dance Awareness’, Festival Tango Contamination, Maison du Mouvement, Strasbourg (FR), 19-21 Aug 2022
- ‘Contact Meets Tango: Being Danced by Another’, Tirol Solo and Contact Improvisation Festival, Oberndorf (AT), 9-15 Aug 2021
- ‘Contact-Tango: From Form to Impulse, from Impulse to Form’, International Contact Tango Summer Camp, Arezzo (IT), 2-12 Aug 2020
- ‘Contact-Tango: Liquid Lead’, International Festival of Contact Improvisation and Tango, Wuppertal (DE), 30 Jan-4 Feb 2018/18-22 Feb 202
- ‘Tango and the Impulse to Play’, poetic-kinaesthetic workshop, Public Pedagogies Conference, Victoria University Melbourne, 24-25 Nov 2018
- ‘The Tango Touch’, poetic-kinaesthetic workshop, Public Pedagogies Conference, Victoria University Melbourne, 28-30 Nov 2016

CosiArte Dance School, Rome — *Dance teacher/facilitator*

DECEMBER 2021 - OCTOBER 2022

- ‘Thresholds of the Other: Touch, Space and Improvisation’, somatic dance improvisation training for dancers and actors, June/Jul/Oct 2022
- ‘Metamorphic Objects: Shaping Into and Being Shaped’, intensive improvisational dance and composition workshop, Dec 2021

Melbourne University — *Dance artist & curriculum development*

NOVEMBER 2015 - DECEMBER 2017

Workshop artist, co-designer and curator of the ‘Creativity and Communication’ program of ‘The Entrepreneur Within’ subject unit, Master of Entrepreneurship, Wade Institute.

Arthur Murray Dance Studio, Melbourne — *Dance teacher*

OCTOBER 2015 - FEBRUARY 2017

Tango, Latin and Standard ballroom dances private and group lessons, choreographies for studio performances and social dance events.

Locomojo Dance Studio, Melbourne — *Dance teacher*

OCTOBER 2015 - OCTOBER 2016

Responsible for Argentine tango: co-designing the syllabus, teaching, private lessons, group classes and master classes, facilitating social dance events, developing group choreographies for studio performances.

Ministry of Education, Milan — *Educator and choreographer*

OCTOBER 2011 - AUGUST 2015

- Co-design and implementation of dance, theatre and performance-based programs in middle and secondary schools for students inclusion, retention, orientation, emotional literacy, corporeal expression, and citizenship with funding from national, regional and local governments.

EXPERTISE

Dance

Somatics

Choreography

Site-responsive performance

Artistic direction

Artistic collaboration

Artistic research

Intermediality

Videographic embodied research

Practice-led methodologies

Group facilitation

Participatory processes

Teaching classes and workshops

Tutoring

Performance lectures

Critical thinking

Analytical thinking

Creative thinking

Creative planning

Curriculum development

Project development

Project administration

Peer-reviewed publications

Editorial processes

Grants application

- Key responsibilities: dance teacher, choreographer and director of students performances, exhibitions and participatory events; educational leader and coach; grants application and project management.

Efectotango Dance Company, Milan — Performer

SEPTEMBER 2014 - SEPTEMBER 2015

- ‘Face of Tango’, collective tango performance, Independent Theatre Festival, Milan (IT), May 2015 (directed by Alejandro Angelica)
- ‘Libertango’, collective tango performance, with Italian National Female Orchestra, Milan Concert Hall, Dec 2014 (directed by Alejandro Angelica)

Campo Teatrale, Theatre School, Milan — Dance teacher

SEPTEMBER 2014 - SEPTEMBER 2015

Argentine tango teacher.

Alele’s Company Dance School, Milan — Dance teacher

SEPTEMBER 2014 - SEPTEMBER 2015

Argentine tango teacher.

Sperimentango Dance School, Milan — Co-founder

FEBRUARY 2011 - OCTOBER 2015

Co-founder, manager, and Argentine tango teacher with Valentina Vitolo.

- Group classes, private lessons, workshops, residential stages, social events, group choreographies and performances for adults
- ‘Libertango’ youth tango dance project for social inclusion and cultural community development

Melbourne University — Academic tutor

JULY 2004 - DECEMBER 2007

School of Social and Political Sciences

- Undergraduate academic tutor: ‘World Politics in Transition’, ‘Global Politics’, 2006-07
- Postgraduate academic tutor, ‘International Political Economy’, ‘International Politics: Competing Ideas’, Master of International Relations, 2007
- Co-organiser of the ‘First Melbourne Conference on World Affairs’ with a grant from the Melbourne School of Graduate Research, 2007

Department of Management and Marketing

- Undergraduate academic tutor: ‘Managing Strategic Change’, 2004
- Postgraduate academic tutor, ‘Perspectives on Managing Change’, 2005-06

Ormond College, Melbourne University — Academic tutor

JULY 2004 - DECEMBER 2006

Resident undergraduate academic tutor.

LANGUAGES

Italian (mother tongue)
English (quasi native)
French (highly competent)
Spanish (satisfactory)
German (basic)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Australian Government
 Research Training Program, PhD
 Scholarship, Deakin University
 Melbourne (2016-2019)

Melbourne University Travel
 for Research in Postgraduate
 Studies (2006)

Melbourne University
 International Research
 Scholarship (2004-07)

Undergraduate Scholarship for
 Academic Achievement, Bocconi
 University, Milan (1996/1997)

- ‘Contemporary Ideologies and Movements’, ‘Management’, ‘Business in the Global Economy’, ‘Business Ethics Through Film’, ‘Italian’

Liminal Theatre & Performance, Melbourne — *Company member*

MAY 2005 - DECEMBER 2007

Company member, researcher, performer and workshop facilitator (research collaborator and training consultant on somatic practices after 2007)

- The Damask Drum: experimental adaptation of Yukio Mishima contemporary NOH play in dialogue with original NOH play by Zeami
- The Ormond Polis: theatre-based participatory forum with university students and academics, Ormond College, Melbourne University
- Emotional Intelligence: Workshops on conflict management, Mt. Eliza Business Course, Executive Education Programs, Melbourne University

Bocconi University, Milan — *Research Assistant*

MARCH 2003 - JUNE 2004

Research Assistant in Strategic Management at the Strategic Management Institute and Business School SDA Bocconi, Milan.

Bain & Company, Milan — *Management Consultant*

OCTOBER 1999 - FEBRUARY 2002

Senior associate management consultant, strategic and business planning, business start-up and organisational restructuring.

ARTISTIC PROJECTS

La Selva Ecological Arts and Eco-Somatic Residency

MARCH - OCTOBER 2023, ROME

International residency with 40 participants from all over the world co-directed with Thomas Kampe in the Natural Reserve of the Roman Coast (IT) and funded through the “Human-Nature” programme of Intercultural Roots (UK). Local partner organisations include: Teatro del Lido di Ostia, Humanitas Mundi Teatro, Parco Archeologico di Ostia Antica and Asilo nel Bosco / Piccola Polis eco-arts education centre.

Ecosomatic Persephone

MARCH - OCTOBER 2023, ROME

Choreographic-dramaturgical cooperation with Flavia Gallo and Humanitas Mundi Teatro on rewriting ancient Greek myth and reconfiguring the boundaries between body and words, human and nonhuman.

Journal d'une Automate

JULY 2022 - APRIL 2023, ROME AND PARIS

Main actor-dancer role in a new theatre and dance production by Compagnie

AWARDS

2014, ‘Arete’ National Award for Socially Responsible Communication in the Education Sector, ‘Dance Theatre for Student Retention’, Sole 24 Ore, Italian Industrialists Association and Nuvola Verde (IT)

2013, Selection for the National Youth Theatre Festival, ‘Migrants’ Dance Theatre Performance, IC Don Milani Public Middle School (IT)

2003, Audience Award at the XXVII International Tourist Film Festival ‘Filmondo’ (IT), documentary film ‘Ndiaye Diatta Ndiaye’ (The Soul of African Rhythm)

Capteur de Reve, Paris and Rome (Direction: Adrea Corvo, Choreography: Nancy Lavoie, Music: Fred Larsen, Text: Mathilde Noel). Project partners: Centre Culturel 104 and Théâtre du Gouvernail, Paris; Teatro in Stalla and Teatro Ygramul, Rome.

Return of the Centaurs

AUGUST 2021 - OCTOBER 2022, MELBOURNE AND NAPLES

Eco-somatic inquiry and public performance interventions in the Archeological Park of Pompeii and the city of Herculaneum (South Italy), with Prof. and artist Paul Carter. Project partners: Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) and Pompeii Commitments program.

Sensing with Trees

MARCH 2020 - OCTOBER 2023, MILAN AND ROME

A mixture of dance-led solo and collective eco-somatic inquiries, improvisational and compositional group practices, and video works that challenge the assumed separation between human and arboreal life to embrace the possibility of relating with trees as intimate companions of movement and becoming. Conducted in urban parks and forests of the Milan area (Northern Italy), the Natural Reserve of the Roman Coast (Central Italy), and the Salento region (Southern Italy).

Dancing Together Alone

MARCH 2020 - NOVEMBER 2020, ONLINE

Online pedagogical interventions with different groups of dancers designed and conducted during the Covid Pandemic to face disorientation, stimulate kinesthetic empathy with distant others and engage with domestic objects through somatic listening and improvisational dance (including 'Libertango', 'Liquid Lead Movement' and 'Object and Witnesses in Dance improvisation').

The Public and Touch

NOVEMBER 2018, PUBLIC PEDAGOGIES INSTITUTE, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE

Design and curatorship of the special program on 'The Public and Touch' of the 2018 Public Pedagogies Conference with the participation of performative, visual and literary artists.

The Tango Touch

OCTOBER 2015 - DECEMBER 2017, MELBOURNE

Performance-based inquiries in the tango dance and interventions in performance places and outdoor urban public spaces, including:

- 'Crosswalk Tango' (public space site-responsive intervention)
- 'Tango Touch Exploration' (interactive performance, Fringe Festival)
- 'The Tango Touch' (dance-theatre exploration, La Mama Theatre)
- 'An Inner Choreography of Tango' (video installation, Sally Walker Gallery)

REFERENCES

Thomas Kampe (PhD)

Prof. of Somatic Performance
Bath Spa University (UK)
Co-director of Body IQ festival
Somatics Academy Berlin
thomaskampe3259@gmail.com

Robert Draffin (PhD)

Co-director of Liminal Theatre
and Performance (AU)
Honorary fellow
Melbourne University
draf@liminal.com.au

Benjamin Spatz (PhD)

General editor of *Journal of Embodied Research* and Senior Lecturer in Media and Performance
University of Huddersfield (UK)
b.spatz@hud.ac.uk

Tango Theatre

JANUARY 2013 - OCTOBER 2015, MILAN

Choreography, direction and performance of collective and duet dance theatre pieces. Independent productions with social dancers, actors, live musicians and bodyart practitioners presented at public events, including:

- 'My Name is Tango' (with Tango Tinto orchestra, 2013)
- 'La Muñeca: The Tango Doll' (with Abrazos de Tango dance ensemble, 2015)
- 'Astor Tango' (with jazz orchestra directed by Sante Palumbo, 2015)

Performance-based School Projects

JANUARY 2012 - OCTOBER 2015, MILAN

Workshops, choreography and direction of dance- and theatre-based collective performances, video works, student exhibitions, festivals, public events and performative interventions co-created with students in middle and secondary schools involved in anti-dropout, inclusion and diversity projects, including:

- 'CosmoTango' (Dance-theatre performance, 2012)
- 'Migrants' (Dance-theatre performance, 2013)
- 'Strong without Drugs' (Musical theatre performance, 2014)
- 'Young Artists Festival' (Music, dance and theatre performances, 2014)
- 'Teenage Cry' (Flashmob and musical theatre performance, 2015)

Melbourne Baldosa Tango Festival

JANUARY - MAY 2016, MELBOURNE

Artistic director and producer of a small dance festival in collaboration with the Melbourne tango dance community and the network of Melbourne Argentine tango dance teachers.

Tango Chillout Melbourne

JULY 2014 - JANUARY 2017, MELBOURNE

Artistic facilitation with the Melbourne tango community of a program of inclusive and public social dance events in cafés and live music venues.

The Ormond Polis

FEBRUARY - MAY 2006, ORMOND COLLEGE, MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY

Concept and co-facilitation of a theatre-based participatory forum on the collective imagination with university students and academics. Conducted with Liminal Theatre and Performance and Dr. John Rundell, director of the Ashworth Centre for Social Theory at Melbourne University.

REFERENCES

Rea Dennis (PhD)

A/Prof of Performance
Deakin University Melbourne
School of Communication and
Creative Arts
readen@deakin.edu.au

Paul Carter (DLitt)

Prof. of Design (Urbanism)
School of Architecture and Urban
Design, Royal Melbourne
Institute of Technology (RMIT)
paul.carter@rmit.edu.au

Rufus Black (PhD)

Vice-Chancellor
University of Tasmania (AU)
Former director of the Master of
Entrepreneurship at Melbourne
University
vice.chancellor@utas.edu.au

The Damask Drum

NOVEMBER 2005 - JANUARY 2007, MELBOURNE

Company member, researcher and performer in Liminal Theatre and Performance's experimental adaptation of Yukio Mishima contemporary NOH play in dialogue with the original *Aya No Tsuzumi* play by Zeami. The work engages the practice of Indonesian director Sardono Kusumo and the tension between live performance and digital technologies.

Ndiaye Diatta Ndiaye (The Soul of African Rhythm)

FEBRUARY 2002 - APRIL 2003, MILAN AND DAKAR (SENEGAL)

Director and co-producer of a documentary film on rituals and performance practices in Senegal featuring West African traditional singers, musicians and dancers. In collaboration with: Cultural Centre Blaise Senghor (Dakar) and Yang Yang Archaeological Museum (Louga).

REFERENCES

Flavia Antonella Gallo

Founder and Artistic Director
Humanitas Mundi Teatro
flaviagallo.teatro@gmail.com

Angela Burgo

President of Associazione Teatro
del Lido di Ostia (Rome's
network of public theatres)
formazione.tdl@gmail.com