

11 - 15 NOVEMBER 2025 - CALI, COLOMBIA

Festival Visit Cali International Dance Biennial

Open Call for Alumni of The Festival Academy**Deadline to apply: 25/09/2025**

CALI INTERNATIONAL DANCE BIENNIAL ARCHIVE - EDWARD LORA

The Cali International Dance Biennial ([Bienal Internacional de Danza de Cali](#)) is a major platform for contemporary dance and movement arts in Colombia, taking place in the vibrant and culturally rich city of Cali. Born from a vision to promote dialogue between genres, generations, and global perspectives, the Biennial brings together dancers, choreographers, and companies from across Colombia and around the world. It creates a space for exchange, experimentation, and the reimagining of national and international dance languages.

This Festival Visit offers an immersive experience for a group of festival leaders to engage deeply with the artists, organizers, and communities that shape and sustain the Biennial. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the festival in-depth, to experience the impact of the Bienal and reflect on how insights and practices observed can be adapted and applied to other contexts and communities around the world. This Festival Visit aims to investigate how festivals can serve as powerful platforms for the expression of cultural diversity and transformation. It is furthermore a unique opportunity to expand networks and strengthen collaboration among international festival leaders.

Festival Visit meets Cali International Dance Biennial

Cali International Dance Biennial and The Festival Academy invite 8 Alumni to be part of a group of international festival leaders to come together for 5 days (11-15 November 2025) to experience in-depth the Bienal in Cali, Colombia.

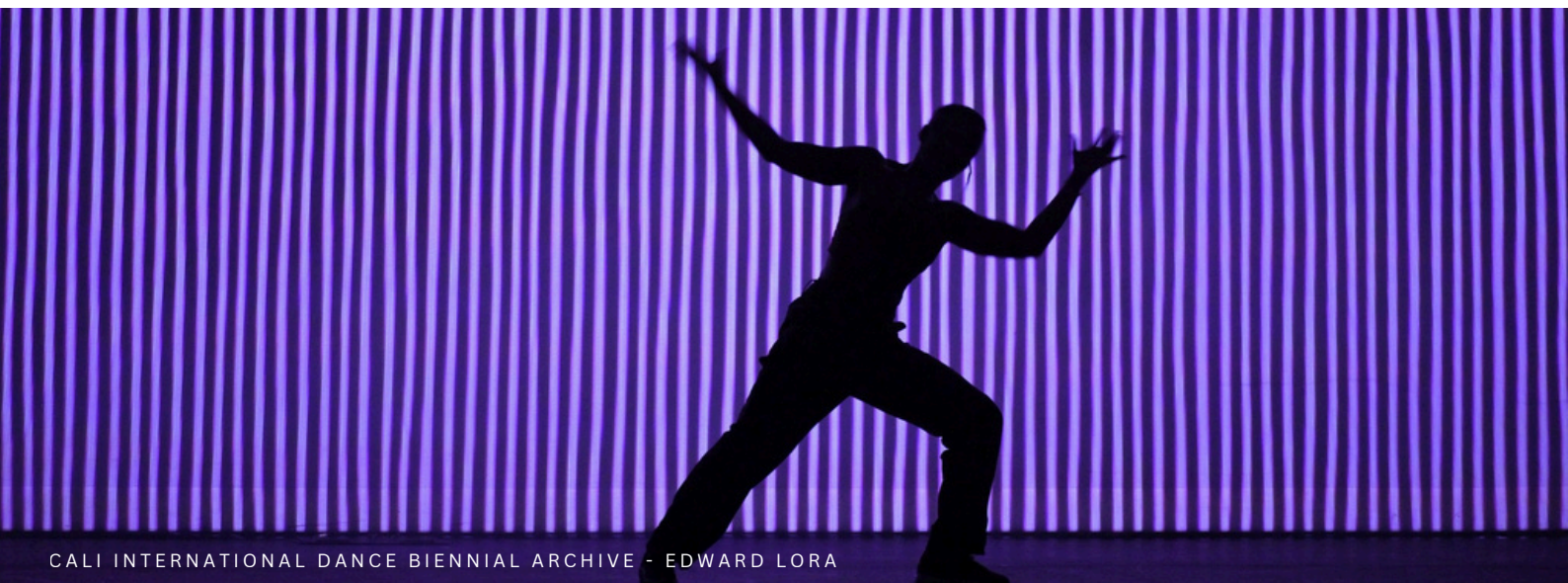
This 'Festival Visit' follows previous experiences at Giortes Rokka (Greece), ROTA Festival (Spain) and Flying Carpet Festival (Turkey) which aimed to bring together, strengthen, and empower the community of Alumni of The Festival Academy to use festivals as catalysts for social change while studying the transformative power of festivals in caring for and revitalizing and transforming communities.

This Festival Visit to Cali International Dance Biennial will be part of PALCO, the Colombian Performing Arts Platform, organized by the Ministry of Arts, Culture, and Knowledge of Colombia, and the Cali Biennial. This program, parallel to the festival's activities, allows international programmers to immerse themselves in Colombian dance, respecting its diversity and uniqueness, and providing spaces for other voices and dances that allow the body to expand its dimension in the contemporary context.

During the Festival Visit, a group of international festival leaders will immerse themselves in the vibrant world of the Biennial, attending performances and engaging in conversations with dancers, choreographers, and organizers. The group will explore the creative processes and organizational strategies that make the Biennial a leading platform for contemporary dance and movement arts in Colombia. This Festival Visit offers a unique chance to build meaningful connections and expand networks with international artists and festival professionals dedicated to fostering cultural exchange and transformation.

[Register here!](#)

Deadline to register: 25/09/2025



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Topics to explore during the Visit

- The Biennial's role in connecting Cali to the global dance scene
- Impact of Cali's social and urban context on dance creation and audiences
- Promoting intercultural dialogue through diverse Colombian dance genres
- Support strategies for dance education and professional growth in local communities

- Balancing tradition and innovation in Colombian choreography
- Cultural and economic effects of the Biennial on Cali's creative sector
- Community engagement through participatory and site-specific dance
- Addressing similar challenges, explore solutions for off-centre areas and cities
- International exchange as a revitalizing method
- Engagement with local communities
- Creating spaces of belonging
- Strengthening international relations between regions facing similar challenges

About Cali International Dance Biennial

Cali International Dance Biennial is a project led by the Association for the Promotion of the Arts (Proartes), created in 2013, in the city of Cali, with the aim of promoting dialogues between the various genres, generations and experiences of dance in Colombia, as well as the meeting between national and international dancers, for the thought and conception of new languages of national dance.

Cali had developed important alternatives around dance such as the programming of the Cali Art Festival and the Festival of Contemporary Dance Caliendanza, which was the scene of the best of contemporary national and Latin American dance between 2005 and 2010.

Both festivals merged to create the Biennial, thinking of a more inclusive and inclusive event and contributing a contemporary vision of national and international dance, including other genres, experiences and projects, thus fostering the encounter between artists and creators of different disciplines around dance.



Since 2013, Cali International Dance Biennial has managed to bring together more than 4,250 dancers from different parts of the world in 255 activities and presentations distributed in more than 20 spaces of the city, indoor and in public space, in programs accessible to all citizens bringing together in its five versions more than 224,000 attendees. These figures confirm that, in its nine years of existence, the Cali International Dance Biennial has successfully fostered the intended dialogue and earned recognition from the dance community as a central platform for the gathering and visibility of both national and international dancers and choreographers.

Since its creation, the Biennial has awarded 14 Creation Scholarships confirming its commitment to the country's creative processes in the dance sector. Important companies such as El Colegio del Cuerpo, Sankofa, Incolballet, LeoExplose, Atabaques, the Folkloric Ballet of Antioquia and Dance Concert among others, have benefited from these incentives.

It is important to note that the Biennial is also committed to supporting dance research in Colombia. To date, it has awarded eight research scholarships focused on topics relevant to the sector, such as costume design in salsa dance, folk dance traditions in the department of Caldas, inclusive dance practices for people with disabilities, and the evolution of traditional dance costumes from Colombia's eastern plains.

Companies such as: Sankai Juku (Japan), Marie Chouinard (Canada), María Pages (Spain), José Limón (United States), Israel Galván (Spain), Germaine Acogny (Senegal) and the Preljojaj Ballet (France), among others, have presented work in Cali, thanks to the Biennial and their collaboration with other local cultural actors in Colombia, thus positioning Cali as part of the international dance circuit.



Festival Visit Programme

This Festival Visit to the Cali International Dance Biennial is part of PALCO - Colombia's Performing Arts Platform - which offers an immersive program for international programmers to engage with the country's diverse dance scene and the communities shaping the Biennial.

The programme of the Biennial has not yet been published. You can find information about the 2023 edition [here](#).

The 2025 Biennial edition will take place from **11-17 September** - it is possible to extend the duration of your stay on your own expenses.

Arrival date for the Festival Visit is **10 November** and departure date is **15 November**. Transportation will be arranged from the nearest airport, Alfonso Bonilla Aragón International Airport.



Registration and conditions

The festival visit is open to 8 Alumni of The Festival Academy community. Members of our Alumni community are the ones who have participated in at least one of our training programmes in the past. If you are interested, apply soonest as places are limited.

What is offered:

- A meaningful, impactful and transformative festival experience
- Exchange with the team who runs the festival on their artistic vision, education and research projects, work processes; the why and how of the festival, exchanges with local communities, immersion in the surrounding landscapes.
- Exchange with the artists of the festival
- Exchange with other participants of the PALCO programme
- Connection and networking with Alumni of The Festival Academy and reflection amongst international audiences of the festival.
- Accommodation for 5 nights (check-in 10, check-out 15 November 2025)
- Meals
- Local transport

What is not included:

- National or international travel costs
- Visa costs
- Insurance

How to register:

Fill it in the [application form](#), explaining your expectations and motivations to take part of the Festival Visit – Cali International Dance Biennial 2025.

[Register here!](#)

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