


NEW  
PRODUCTION

# THE ART OF FUGUE



**SPELLBOUND**   
CONTEMPORARY BALLET



*Choreographer* Mauro Astolfi

*Performers* Lorenzo Capozzi, Alessandro Piergentili, Miriam Raffone, Maria Cossu, Mario Laterza, Giuliana Mele, Mateo Mirdita, Anita Bonavida, Martina Staltari

*Assistant choreographer* Alessandra Chirulli

*Music* J.S.Bach

*Original music* Davidson Jaconello

*Lighting designer* Marco Policastro

*Set concept* Mauro Astolfi, Marco Policastro

*Costume creator* Anna Coluccia

*Scenery Scenografie* Scenario

A Spellbound production  
with contribution from the Ministry of Culture  
co-production Foundation Teatro Comunale Città di Vicenza  
and Fondazione Teatro Comunale di Modena

*Length* 67'

[VIDEO](#)

[PHOTOS](#)



*The art of Fugue* is one of the most emblematic and enigmatic works of Johann Sebastian Bach. A masterpiece full of fascinating characteristics: if, on the one hand it is a work without a definite structure in as much as it was never completed by the composer, on the other hand this sense of uncertainty is also due to the absence of indications for which instruments should be used to perform the work.

Hans.Eberhard Dentler suggested that ***The Art of Fugue*** was written by Bach to visualize graphic philosophical principles: the word “fugue” could itself be interpreted to mean ‘flight’, understood both in reference to the musical phrases as well as the ascension of the soul to God.





“A Fugue is accomplished to perfection if nobody is aware of it. If, instead of fleeing from something or somebody. I mix anonymously with others, I dress like them, I use their language. In order not to be discovered there is nothing better than changing my habits, always finding a wall where I can hide and always meeting there somebody else who is escaping from something.... The fugue may mask the full accomplishment of a desire or perhaps the only way possible to escape from a world that embarrasses me. My fugue in fact is an antifugue, it gives a prospective. It is my need to look at life from a different viewpoint. It is important to escape now and again, it helps me to light up some dark “area”, but it is not necessary in order to put something aside or forget.... the sensation of what I am in fact will stay in my mind forever, even when the flight is over. I escaped to be kind to myself.... Now I can return to be with others. They have also felt the desire to go away and disappear from the world. They are people.”

Spellbound Contemporary Ballet, produced by the Spellbound Association, was founded in 1994 specifically by the choreographer Mauro Astolfi who was joined two years later by Valentina Marini to help in management and under whose direction the company has begun a widespread international activity. Spellbound is today among the chosen Italian groups who are most competitive in an international context, acclaimed by the audiences of the most important European, Asian and American Festivals. Almost 30 years of professional experience has strengthened the knowhow of a consolidated team of professionals able to embrace projects they can produce and manage with an evident international vocation. Since 2015 the company has broadened its activities co-operating with other artists in production in a renewed pluralistic vision. Spellbound's activities in fact besides the core creations by the choreographer Mauro Astolfi, principle resident choreographer, include a series of online projects with other artists and institutions on an international level, such as the international co-production "Pa|Ethos" authored by the Tibetan choreographer Sang Jijia in collaboration with Fabbrica Europa, Scuola Civica Paolo Grassi, Marche Teatro, Beijing Dance Festival, "La Mode", an installation by Tomoko Mukayama and Tojo Ito which inaugurated the National Taichung Theater in Taiwan in October 2016, the installation performance "R e Mark" created by the choreographer Sang Jijia with Fondazione Fabbrica Europa, City Contemporary Dance Company Hong Kong, Versilia Danza, the project "Collapse" by Francesco Sgrò, the co-production in partnership with the Grand Theater de Luxembourg in 2019 in collaboration with Jean Guillaume Weis, previously an artist working with Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Baush, Spellbound 25 by Astolfi, Marcos Morau, Marco Goecke for the event of the 25th anniversary in 2020 and the recent "We, us and other games" by Dunja Jovic in collaboration with Bolzano Dance. Spellbound's work has been subsidized by the Ministry of Culture since 2000 and from 2022 it has been recognised for its role in National Production Center for Dance within the wider Project ORBITA|Spellbound co-directed by Astolfi and Marini. Spellbound, that for over 25 years has been involved in the areas of production, training, programming and circulation of dance conceived the idea of the Centre of Production due to their desire to make available their work experience to a wider community: a production centre that works as a link between the creative resources existing in the area of Rome and their productions on a national and international level. Designed for a metropolitan city Orbita has found its home in the Palladium theatre in Rome and extends its activities to other satellite venues in the city, diverse in function and identity, such as the Teatro Biblioteca Quarticciolo and the Spazio Rossellini. The different functions of the Centre come together in their commitment to promote the language of performance and dance which can be found in the body, in political, cultural and health issues that are embodied in them, an exchange of practises, knowledge and competences with effects on a social and political level.

*"An artfully evening of extraordinary dancing"*

by Susan Fulks, Palm Beach Daily News U.S.A.

*"If Spellbound were a car, it would be a Ferrari"*

The Annenberg center of Performing Arts-Philadelphia U.S.A.

*"...spellbinding."*

By Donald Rosenberg, The Plain Dealer, Cleveland U.S.A.

*"60 minutes of breath taking art of dance ..."*

Sabine Rother, Letzte Aktualisierung, Germany

*"Astolfi exhilarating choreography is a model of invention"*

Janet Soares, Ballet Review U.S.A

*"The troupe has an alien beauty to its movement that has become the touchstone of reputable contemporary dance. The performers are magnificent in appearance, and their technique is remarkable."*

Susan Fulks, Palm Beach Daily News

*"Dancers of such chameleon-like suppleness, they were not only spellbinding, but breathtaking."*

Merilyn Jackson, The Philadelphia Inquirer

## SPELLBOUND CONTEMPORARY BALLET

Artistic Director **Mauro Astolfi** - General Manager **Valentina Marini**  
Technical director, lighting designer **Marco Policastro**  
Coordinator and organizer **Mariagiovanna Esposito**  
Administration office **Letizia Coppotelli, Noemi Massari**  
Choreography assistant **Alessandra Chirulli**  
Administrative and fiscal consultancy **Studio PMC**

### **Associazione Culturale Spell Bound**

*Fiscal address* Via dei Prati Fiscali 215, 00141 Roma - Italia

[info@spellboundance.com](mailto:info@spellboundance.com)

[www.spellboundance.com](http://www.spellboundance.com)



Centro di Produzione Nazionale della Danza

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