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Author(s): Kauppinen, Petri

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Looking for the sounds of body

TEXT: PETRI KAUPPINEN, LANGUAGE ADVISOR: ALAN PEMBSHAW

A German exchange student, Magdalena Hofmann spend a full academic year in the Oulu UAS's dance department.

Magdalena Hofmann became hooked on dancing when attending the social couple dance classes in high school. Since then this vibrant young artist has been expanding her perspective of dance into a wide variety of styles including street, contemporary and modern dance. "I've always enjoyed the flow of movement and that forces me to learn more about the possibilities of human body. I'm eager to explore how to express myself through movement", Magdalena crystallizes with lively gestures.

Right now, Magdalena is in her second semester of exchange. She decided to spend two out of four semesters on exchange. After a year in Finland, she

will return home to the University of Trossingen and expand her two-year masters studies with one more semester which will allow her to finish all required studies.

When Magdalena scanned through the options for exchange she noticed that often schools won't provide information about their studies in English. That's why she was pleased with the web pages of Oulu University of Applied Sciences (Oulu UAS). There is all the basic information that you need to apply as well as a lot of practical information that helps arriving students with everyday issues.



In Oulu, Magdalena has been studying a lot of different dance styles such as ballet, urban dance, jazz, contemporary dance, authentic jazz, disco and many others. “One of the strengths of this dance department is the wide variety of dance styles that are communicating and mixing with each other.” In addition to dance technique training, Magdalena has been participating in artistic productions and a video project, as well as improvisation and composition classes.

Magdalena just finished a performance period of the contemporary ballet work “Neljätoista askelmaa” in which she was performing as a musician. “I was creating a landscape of sounds by playing piano, but not in the conventional way. I often go into the piano and improvise with the instrument looking for unexpected sounds.”

Magdalena Hofmann has truly enjoyed her exchange year here in Oulu. “Finland is an easy country to adjust to. It’s just like moving to another city within Germany. The only difference is the language, which sometimes can be a barrier. I was lucky to spend a proper winter here. I’ve even tried ice swimming which was definitely worth experiencing.”

MAGDALENA HOFMANN

- A Dancer and a musician who was born in Murnau am Staffelsee, a small town near the Alps in the southern Germany.
- She is a graduate student at the University of Music, Trossingen, majoring in Music & Movement Rhythmic-Performance.
- Magdalena holds a B.A in music- and movement-oriented social work from Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule, Regensburg.