

# INTERNSHIP REPORT ERASMUS+

## Onur Özyurt

*4 MONTHS NEW YORK INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE.*

*-FROM MAY TO AUGUST 24-*



### **Battery Dance Company, New York**

In 2022, I began my Master's degree in Choreography at the Hochschule für Schauspielkunst. The program is two years long, and the final quarter consists of the Master's graduation project and the thesis writing process. Before entering this intensive period, I decided to pursue an internship to enhance my practical experience. Specifically, I sought to gain skills in production, as I believe that a choreographer's role extends beyond body-oriented work; having knowledge and experience with all stage elements significantly enhances both the rehearsal and performance processes. With this in mind, I chose to focus on lighting design and festival organization during my internship.

Eager to broaden my experience outside of Europe, I applied to various internships in the United States and was ultimately accepted by Battery Dance Company in New York. The

company, which was founded 43 years ago, has been organizing the renowned Battery Dance Festival since its inception. I was excited to take part in such a prestigious and well-established institution.

### **Battery Dance Company and Festival**

My internship began about two and a half months before the start of the Battery Dance Festival. The first phase involved familiarizing myself with the company and its members. After a thorough introduction to the company's structure, I began attending the technical dance classes led by the company's dancers. These classes, which focused on Modern Dance Technique, took place twice a week. Studying this style in America, the birthplace of Modern Dance, was particularly enriching for me as a choreographer.

While attending classes, I was also heavily involved in preparations for the festival. My primary task was to monitor the communications between the dance teams accepted into the festival and the festival organizers. This allowed me to gain insight into the organizational and logistical planning that goes into running an international festival.

In addition to my organizational responsibilities, I immersed myself in the technical side of production, focusing on lighting design. I was introduced to the ETC lighting control system and dedicated one day a week to theoretical training and another to practical application. Through this, I also gained a deeper understanding of different lighting types and their specific uses, which has greatly informed my understanding of the technical elements of performance.

### **Immersing in the New York Art Scene**

While working with Battery Dance Company, I also took advantage of New York's vibrant art scene. I attended numerous dance performances, visited galleries, and participated in workshops across the city. I particularly focused on events at Movement Research and Judson Church Art Center, two organizations that are foundational to the development of postmodern contemporary dance.

During my time in New York, I also had the opportunity to take part in a dance research project and performed as a dancer in a Netflix production. These experiences allowed me to expand my artistic network and deepen my understanding of the global dance landscape.

## **The Battery Dance Festival**

The Battery Dance Festival itself was a week-long event featuring five different international dance teams performing daily. In addition to performances, workshops led by the dancers were held each morning. Due to the intense workload of festival planning and implementation, I was not able to attend every workshop, but I was able to engage with the teams and exchange valuable experiences with them throughout the week.

My role during the festival included assisting with stage and lighting preparations, ensuring smooth communication between the production team and performers, and troubleshooting any technical issues that arose. This experience gave me firsthand insight into the complexity and scale of running an international dance festival, and it has undoubtedly broadened my understanding of what it takes to bring a large-scale event to life.

## **Conclusion**

This internship provided me with invaluable experience in both the artistic and technical aspects of dance production. From improving my technical dance skills in Modern Dance to gaining hands-on experience with festival organization and lighting design, I am confident that these skills will be instrumental as I continue my journey as a choreographer. The connections I made and the knowledge I gained will be key to my future artistic endeavors, both on and off the stage.

To conclude this report, a few links to the websites of the artists and companies mentioned:

<https://batterydance.org/>

<https://batterydance.org/battery-dance-festival/>

<https://tribecatrib.com/content/video-slideshow-dynamic-diversity-back-battery-dance-festival-stage>

<https://www.etconnect.com/Support/Training-Events/Outpost/NYC/About.aspx>

<https://movementresearch.org/>







