



aerowaves  
springback academy

## Open Call for participants

***A project designed to stimulate dialogue about dance and performance whilst striving to improve and promote written criticism online***

Springback Academy at Spring Forward, Vitry, near Paris (France) Friday 5  
Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 April 2019

After Umeå, Barcelona, Pilsen, Aarhus and Sofia, Springback Academy will once again offer aspiring dance writers the chance to be mentored in the fundamentals of quality dance criticism in the action-packed environment of Spring Forward. [Aerowaves](#) annual festival will take place this year in Vitry, near Paris (France) on Friday 5, Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 April 2019.

Under the guidance of four experienced dance writers, participants have the chance to create, shape and share conversations about dance and hone their critical writing skills for a number of different formats. It's a fast-track way to gain experience and technique in responsible, effective, attractive dance criticism as well as to explore and understand the opportunities that digital publishing has to offer.

PLUS - Earlier this year Springback Magazine was launched. The publication's contributors are drawn exclusively from writers who have participated in the Springback Academy programme and who are part of the ever-growing community of Springback Academy 'graduate' writers.

If selected for the project, Aerowaves will provide mentorship, accommodation, hospitality, a pass to the festival and the opportunity to participate in future Springback activities and, possibly, to be commissioned to contribute to Springback Magazine .

However, participants will be required to organise and fund their own return travel to Paris.

## **What Springback Academy 2019 will entail:**

We are looking for up to 10 opinionated people with an interest in, or some prior experience of writing about dance. The participants will be mentored in critical writing by our lead critics including [Donald Hutera](#) (The Times) [Sanjoy Roy](#) (The Guardian) [Kelly Apter](#) (The Scotsman) and Laura Cappelle (New York Times)

During the Spring Forward festival each participant will:

- Attend an introductory lecture about dance writing given by Sanjoy Roy followed by an extended Q & A session.
- Have the opportunity to meet informally with the 200 strong Spring Forward audience made up almost exclusively of dance professionals including Springback candidates from previous years.
- Write short reviews in English (140 words) of several of the performances they see over the weekend. They will work to tight deadlines so that their reviews can be published each day on the Springback website
- Generate ultra-short reviews, provocations, opinions and questions to share on Twitter - using #Springback to gather the conversations
- Participate in a round-table and or panel discussions.
- Contribute one longer, opinion-style piece for the Aerowaves website in the week after the festival — to allow for greater reflection or to draw themes and bigger ideas together

[Click here to read reviews and opinion pieces from last year's Springback Academy](#)

[Click here for Springback Magazine](#)

[Click here to watch the 'Meet the Makers' video interviews featuring previous Springback Academy participants](#)

[Click here for the round up of Spring Forward Sofia 2018](#)

## **How to apply:**

- Send us a summary of your experience in critical review writing (140 words or less)
- Send us a sample review (in English) of a dance performance you have seen (140 words or less). This can be an existing review or one you've written especially for this application

- Tell us in 140 words or less why you want to participate in Springback Academy 2018
- Tell us in 140 words or less about your local dance scene
- Tell us your potential arrival and departure date and time. If selected for the project, you would ideally need to arrive on the evening (if possible by 19:00) of **Thursday 4 April and depart on Monday 8 April 2019**
- **Send all of this in an email to: [oonagh@aerowaves.org](mailto:oonagh@aerowaves.org) before 24:00 (GMT) on Monday 7 January 2019. Please submit your application in a word or pdf format and include your email address and full name at the top of every page.**
- Participants will be notified by email by 24:00 on Friday 1 February whether they have been selected for the project

N.B. If you applied to participate in the Springback Academy in previous years and your submission was not accepted, we do encourage you to apply again

**Good luck!**



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