



## Learning a language through movement

///

Teacher training with Agnès Benoit

### Moving words in space

A multidisciplinary teaching and artistic practice - language and movement

**Books on the Move** launches a professional teacher training around the practice *Moving words in space* and in collaboration with four different venues: **Fabrik Potsdam** near Berlin, **Centre d'animation Argonne** in Bordeaux, **La Briqueterie CDCN** in Vitry-sur-Seine near Paris, **La Bellone** with **Contredanse** in Brussels.

**A traveling, international training program, dedicated to future practitioners wishing to learn about teaching language through movement to any group of people. It will be taking place between Germany, France and Belgium, over 4 modules of 4 days, between March and August 2025. The languages of communication during this training course will be English and French.**

*Moving words in space* is a multidisciplinary teaching and artistic practice at the intersection of dance improvisation and language learning.

How can a language that's still unknown or unfamiliar begin to make sense while we're moving? How can it resonate in the body and initiate a dance? This practice offers an ongoing dialogue between movement and words as they're beginning to find their own shapes in the body and throughout space.

The interweaving of dance improvisation and language learning is an essential part of this pedagogical approach. It's important to notice that there's no hierarchy between dance movement and language acquisition. Participants are as engaged in exploring movement as they are in exploring language. Both disciplines are practiced simultaneously. Teaching is conducted in total immersion in the targeted

language - it's about letting oneself be touched and moved, both by a language and by movement.

**Agnès Benoit** from Books on the Move shares this practice in the context of workshops with a variety of people (children, university students, elders...) and in several countries (USA, Germany and France). For over twenty years, she has been exploring the relationship between teaching English or French and dance movement. Today, she offers to share her experience and teaching tools, and welcomes other languages.

Guest artists and university researchers will be invited to join her: **Christine Bertocchi, Régine Chopinot, Volmir Cordeiro, Jeremiah Day, Lisa Dowler, Thierry Duirat, Claire Filmon, Myriam Suchet, Odile Seitz-Walser and David Zambrano** (to be confirmed) will bring in different colors, approaches and insights to improvisation, languages and teaching practices, by offering either a workshop, talk or other surprises!



### **The beginnings of this pedagogical approach**

It started over twenty years ago, when Agnès was studying for a Master's degree in dance at Bennington College in the USA. It began with a question: What would happen if dance improvisation and learning French were to meet? (For more information about the practice, [here](#) is a text in French).

**Today**, in the context of a training program, it also begins with a series of questions: How does one transmit a teaching approach that is neither a method nor a technique? How can this practice evolve with other people, in other languages? How can we allow it to unfold and continue to nurture an learning environment conducive to play, in several languages and with a variety of people?

**The training course** will consist of four modules taking place in four different cities. Each module will be organized around the practice itself: teaching practice - artistic practice - group study practice.

What does it mean? This means that each participant should take the time to immerse themselves in the *Moving words in space* practice, and that everyone in the group should put themselves in a teaching situation from the very first sessions. There's no need to wait until the end of the training program to start teaching. Learning to transmit happens through the practice, in full immersion, by sharing teaching tools and individual guidance throughout the six-month period. The training course will be run in English and French.

**This teacher training is** for anyone wishing to learn about teaching language through movement to any group of people. It is strongly recommended that participants be already involved in a movement practice, preferably with some experience in improvisation. The choice of language(s) taught remains at the discretion of each person, as well as the choice of a target audience. All languages and types of learners are welcome. If you are a teacher with little experience in dance, please do not hesitate to **contact** us to talk about it.

**Number of participants: 18**

### **Participant commitment**

Each person must commit to the entire duration of the training course: four four-day modules, spread over a period of six months (please see calendar below).

Each participant will also commit to set up a *Moving words in space* regular workshop following the second work session, in the language of his/her choice, with the public of their choice (children or adults), in a private context, or within a non-profit organisation, or public institution..., paid or as a volunteer. What's important is to establish a regular group.

Throughout the training course, participants will be asked to take part in collective note-taking, share their readings and find innovating ways to bring together trails of experiences. In order to complete the training course, it will be requested from each participant to share teaching tools, a feedback sessions or any other contribution to imagine together.

Each session will take place in a different city, between three countries. It will be the responsibility of each person to find their own accommodation and make their own travel arrangements.

Books on the Move will assist in finding accommodation.



## Content of each module

### **Module 1 - Workshop-Laboratory: the practice**

#### **Immersion in the practice**

This first session will be dedicated to a full immersion in the practice of *Moving words in space*. We'll explore the relationship between dance improvisation and language learning. To begin with, the language used during a *Moving words in space* practice will be English. Agnès will share her approach to improvisation, which for many years has been nourished by instant composition, Logomotion from Simone Forti, contact improvisation and different somatic practices.

During these four days of work, Agnès will share the history of this practice and its philosophy. She will guide each person in finding his or her own way into this pedagogical approach.

### **Module 2 - Learning by doing**

#### **Putting yourself in a context**

This module will prepare each participant to get into a teaching situation.

How do you teach? Who teaches? Which language? For whom?

This session will focus on learning by doing, which means to learn to transmit by putting oneself in a teaching situation.

During this module, people from outside the training program will be invited to come and take workshops with Agnès, so that training participants have the opportunity to witness/be outside eyes. Mini-workshops for children and adults will be offered in several languages, so that training participants who wish to do so may start getting an experience in teaching, right during this second module.

### **Module 3 - Sharing teaching tools**

#### **Toolbox / Ingredients - What's in it?**

By the time the group comes together for this third session, there will already have been a teaching experience, as well as many exchanges. These few days of work will be an opportunity to gather and share in greater depth our own experiences, questions, doubts, surprises and pleasures... Together, we'll refine what makes this practice so rich. Teaching tools specific to *Moving words in space* will then be shared with the group.

### **Module 4 - Harvesting and sharing**

#### **Experience-sharing - pooling resources**

This final work session is an invitation to gather and bring together the multiple experiences gathered during these few months of exploration. This module will include time for practice and collective study, we'll collaborate on a collective documentation that will feed the page dedicated to *Moving words in space* on Books on the Move website.

### **Nomadic work sessions outside modules - Field work - unfolding**

#### **Cultivating - nourishing - individual support**

This session remains the most experimental of this cycle. It will be organized collectively, with the group. It will take place between modules 2 and 4, at different times and locations. It will be structured around the local involvement of each person, in his or her own geographical area. It will be supported by work sessions in mini-groups according to each person's geographical location, meetings and collective exchanges via videoconference, as well as individual on-site and/or remote guidance with Agnès.



## Organisation

Books on the Move launches a professional teacher training around the practice *Moving words in space*.

This training period will include:

- \* four four-day modules (see calendar below).
- \* “collective connections”: video-conference sessions for discussion and organization (2 hours), once a month between modules (see calendar below).
- \* several “individual connections”: a scheduled time to discuss with Agnès between each session (sign up according to a calendar provided after each module).
- \* individual follow-up with Agnès to support the workshops set up by each participant.
- \* possibility of setting up small working groups to meet between each module, without Agnès, depending on each person’s geographical location.

### Price

Total cost for the 4 modules, not including travel, accommodation and meals.

112 hours over a 16-day period (4 x 4) + group and individual follow-up.

**Full rate: 2 250€** + membership to Books on the Move (25€).

**Reduced rate : 1 800€** + membership to Books on the Move (10€).

To ensure that financial resources are not an obstacle, we offer a reduced rate for those who feel they’re not able to pay the full amount.

Payment can be made in instalments.

To validate your registration, you will be asked to pay a non-refundable deposit of 500€ (full rate) or 350€ (reduced rate) you may pay by bank transfer or PayPal.

### Registration

Please send an **email** with the following information: first name, last name, complete postal address, email address, cell phone number, as well as a motivation letter, short bio and/or CV.

**Please** check your availability before registering. You must be able to complete all four modules.

Each person will receive a reply within two weeks of receipt of the application.

Once your application has been accepted, your registration will be confirmed on receipt of the deposit, no later than December 31, 2024.

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to **contact** us.

### Schedule for a typical day

From Wednesday to Saturday, 7 hours a day.

**9:a.m.:** welcome

**9:30a.m. - 12:30p.m.:** workshop - practice time

**12:30 - 1:30pm.:** lunch break

**1:30 - 2:30p.m.:** reading-naptime

**2:30 - 4:30p.m.:** workshop and/or collective study

**4:30 - 5:00p.m.:** snack time

**5:00 - 6:00p.m.** discussion - organisation

One evening per module will be dedicated to viewing videos/presentations/discussions.

On that day, we will adapt our working hours.



## Calendar - March to August 2025

**Wednesday March 5 to Saturday March 8, 2025**

**Module 1 - Workshop-Laboratory: the practice**

location: [Fabrik Potsdam](#)

guest artists/speakers: Jeremiah Day & Odile Seitz-Walser

between module 1 & 2

collective connection: Wednesday April 2, 2025 - 6:30 - 8:30p.m. via video-conference.

individual connections: dates and time slots will be available at the end of each module.

**Wednesday April 23 to Saturday April 26, 2025**

**Module 2 - Learning by doing**

location: [Centre d'animation Argonne](#), Bordeaux

guest artists/speakers: Régine Chopinot, Lisa Dowler & Myriam Suchet

between module 2 & 3

collective connection: Wednesday May 7, 2025 - 6:30 - 8:30p.m. via video-conference.

individual connections: dates and time slots will be available at the end of each module.

**May - July 2025**

**Nomadic work sessions outside modules - Field work - unfolding**

meetings and work sessions in small groups without Agnès, depending on feasibility and location.

Agnès will travel (depending on feasibility) for individual guidance for the workshops that have been set up by each participant.

location : multiple

**Wednesday May 21 to Saturday May 24, 2025**

**Module 3 - Toolbox / Ingredients**

location: [La Briqueterie CDCN](#), Vitry-sur-Seine

guest artists/speakers: Christine Bertocchi, Volmir Cordeiro, Claire Filmon & Myriam Suchet.

between module 3 & 4

collective connection: Wednesday June 11 & Wednesday July 9, 2025 - 6:30 - 8:30p.m. via video-conference.

individual connections: dates and time slots will be available at the end of each module.

**Wednesday August 27 to Saturday August 30, 2025**

**Module 4 - Harvesting and sharing**

location: [La Bellone](#) in collaboration with [Contredanse](#), Brussels.

guest artists/speakers: Thierry Duirat & David Zambrano (to be confirmed).

Between each module - individual or group work according to each person's choice.



## Training program team

*Moving words in space* training program is conceived, coordinated and taught by Agnès Benoit, in collaboration with Stéphanie Pichon (co-founder of Books on the Move non-profit organisation). Agnès and Stéphanie were supported by a project supervision group (Léa Bonnaud, Carla Bottiglieri, Alice Godfroy, Anne Kerzerho, Lucie Nabet and Myriam Suchet).

*Moving words in space* training program emerged from a funding program received by Centre national de la danse (Aide à la recherche et au patrimoine en danse 2021). Summary of the project **HERE** (in French).

The training program will be led by Agnès. Artists and university researchers have been invited to teach 3 hour sessions. These invitations meet a number of criteria and wishes. The course takes place in several cities and countries, so for each module we have chosen, when possible, to involve local guest artists and speakers. Their short contributions (3-hour session) will complement *Moving words in space* practice, they'll bring in different colors, approaches and insights to improvisation, languages and transmission.

## BIOGRAPHIES

For many years, **Agnès Benoit** shared her life between France, England, the United-States and Germany. She began her dance training in Bordeaux, France, with Jean Masse and Jacques Garros. She received both her dance BA (1991) and MFA (2000) from Bennington College in the United States. In Europe, she trained with Mark Tompkins, Julyen Hamilton, Simone Forti, David Zambrano... During this intense improvisation practice she conducted a series of interviews: *On the Edge/ Créateurs de l'Imprévu* (Nouvelles de Danse 32/33, Contredanse, 1997 & 2008) and developed a multidisciplinary and experimental practice around language learning and movement. Agnès taught at the University of Rochester, NY, in the program of Dance and Movement from 2000-2006, she then moved to Berlin, where she initiated *Books on the Move*, a traveling bookstore specialised in dance and performance studies. In 2013, **Books on the Move** settled in Bordeaux and became a non-profit organisation, within which Agnès and co-founder Stéphanie Pichon initiate different types of workshops, where reading, dance and dialogues are addressed simultaneously.

**Christine Bertocchi** began performing on stage in singing and theater shows directed by Patrick Font. Starting in 1992, her interest guided her towards multidisciplinary works (theater, dance, singing), and she began working for choreographers and theater directors, such as Bruno Meyssat. She completed an internship at the Centre Acanthe in contemporary vocal music with Françoise Kubler. Since 2000 Christine is also a certified Feldenkrais practitioner and holds a diploma in anatomy and voice physiology with phoniatician Guy Cornut and Blandine Calais-Germain. Co-founder of the non-profit organization Mercoledì & Co, she developed a unique body of works using multiple performance formats, such as reading-concerts, readings of contemporary authors, performances in music improvisation, a choir in vocal improvisation, a duet with double bass player Eric Chalan. Christine is also regularly invited by contemporary composers. Since 2005 she shares her time between Burgundy, where she founded **D'un instant à l'autre company**, and Paris, where she still collaborates with music improvisers, composers and authors. Christine teaches vocal techniques, vocal improvisation, vocal games, musical theater and ways to integrate body and stage work. She teaches throughout France and beyond.

**Régine Chopinot** directed La Rochelle CCN (National Center for Choreography) from 1986 to 2008. Her choreographic practice is at the junction of creation, research and transmission. From 2009 to 2018, Régine Chopinot explored and deepened her research of the body in movement with the great oral cultures of the South Pacific: New Caledonia, New Zealand, Japan. In 2011, she chose to live and work in Toulon. Le port des créateurs, a cultural and civic third place welcomes her for a long duration residency until the end of 2026. Since 2014, she has been questioning the relevance of choreographic art to society through learning the French language through dance. A long research and artistic residency at the MC93 in Bobigny resulted in the production of “top” in September 2021, which has been touring until today.

Brazilian choreographer, dancer and researcher, **Volmir Cordeiro** began performing for several choreographers before creating his own pieces in 2012, with his company, Donna Volcan: cycle of his three solos *Ciel, Inês* and *Rue*; followed by a piece for four dancers *L'œil, la bouche et le reste* as well as a video exhibition of the same title on the poetics of the face within the history of dance, then *Trottoir* in 2019, *Outrar* and *Métropole* in 2021, *Érosion* in 2022 for Les Ballets de Lorraine, *Abri* in 2023. He regularly teaches in choreography training program and is the author of «Ex-Corpo» (CND, 2019), devoted to marginalized figures in contemporary dance and the notion of artist-researcher. In 2021, Volmir Cordeiro receives the SACD Young Talent Choreography prize.

In his work, the Berlin-based American artist **Jeremiah Day** re-examines recent political struggles and conflicts, revealing their subjective contexts and traces. To do this, he has developed a narrative and choreographic form in which personal and political realities intermingle, thus offering a thoroughly singular vision of these at times forgotten moments of history. The distinctive feature of his method lies in a transversal approach. As a student of and regular collaborator with Simone Forti, one of the pioneers of Post-Modern Dance, he has turned performance into a now central and structure-providing practice. Since 2014, Jeremiah Day has in effect presented many performances, which contain movement, improvisation, photography and the spoken word, in order to broach universal historical and political subjects, but within an intimate and incarnated context.

Jeremiah Day studied at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA). His work and his performances have been presented in many institutions all over the world.

**Lisa Dowler** is an independent dance artist, researcher and Somatic Movement Educator, inspired by Contact Improvisation, Instant Composition and Body-Mind Centering ®. She has over 25 years experience in facilitating dance practices and performance in diverse contexts and is the Artistic Director of **Small Things Dance Collective**. In 2006 she was invited by Alder Hey Children's Hospital (AHCH) in Liverpool, UK, to be their first Dance Artist in Residence. This led to a long-term collaboration with Alder Hey in practice development and research and she has worked extensively with children undergoing neuro-rehabilitation and pre and post cardiac surgery. Small Things most recent project at AHCH includes the launch of 'Shifting Landscapes', a 360° immersive performance experience for virtual reality. As a Senior Lecturer in Dance at Edge Hill University 2007-2015, her teaching centred on the relationships between nature, the body and wellbeing. Lisa recently completed a retrospective PhD by Publication entitled “Towards a multidisciplinary approach to healthcare: A case for dance improvisation in clinical and care settings” with the Centre for Dance Research (C-DaRE), Coventry University.

A dancer who works with words. Body, Breath and Voice. A playful person who gathers the words of others, to encourage the flow of these plural and collective words.

With a multidisciplinary background, **Thierry Duirat** has created over fifteen pieces and performances that have been presented in the Hauts-de-France region, Paris and Brussels.

At the moment, he works in a continuous breath with and for “**Les Tambours Battants** (Lille)”, “**TEC/CRIAC, travail et culture** (Roubaix)”, “**Le Théâtre de la Parole** (Brussels)” and “**Naïf, architectes** (Brussels)”.

Dancer, improviser and international pedagogue based in Paris, artistic director of **Asphodèle Danses Envol**, **Claire Filmon** has been dancing professionally since 1985. In 1990, with a grant from the French Ministry of Culture, she travelled to the United States in order to study Horton technique with Bella Lewitzky and improvisation with Anna Halprin. Since 1995, Claire has created and/or participated in improvisation performances with, among others, Barre Philips, Julyen Hamilton, Simone Forti, Nancy Stark Smith, Lisa Nelson, in such spaces as the Bastille Theater in Paris, the Bauhaus Naunynstrasse in Berlin, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Anvers, the Muider Poort Theater in Amsterdam, the Judson Church in New York, and the Mark Taper Auditorium in Los Angeles.

She is regularly invited to share her dances, and her knowledge of improvisation and pedagogy in France, particularly in universities, as well as in Switzerland, Estonia, Finland, Brazil, South Korea, Japan and the USA.

**Odile Seitz-Walser** works as a dancer, teacher of Body-Mind Centering® and healing practitioner for Craniosacral Therapy. She's originally from France and lives in Berlin since 2000. She explores micro and macro movement of the living, feeling, thinking, and expressing body - the soma - in different contexts. After a dance career in France and Germany, she is certified as a BMC Somatic Movement Educator and Practitioner at the french School for Body-Mind Centering Soma, then as teacher from the German school, moveus, and is involved in BMC Training since 2019 in these schools. Since 2021, she is a member from moveus teaching team, together with Friederike Tröcher and Nina Wehnert. Since 2005, she teaches internationally in dance schools and festivals, in Highschools for dance and choreography, for social science and also in dance teacher educational programs. Since many years she gives private sessions and works individually and in groups with families, supporting developmental challenges and internal dynamics. Her deepest interest and joy for movement have been accompanied her therapeutic, educational and artistic work for many years.

**Myriam Suchet** searches, and loses herself. Her literary journey has meandered somewhere between France and Quebec. Lecturer in Francophone literature at the Sorbonne Nouvelle, director of the **Centre d'études en études québécoises** since its founding in 2012, she is a member of the Institut Universitaire de France. She is especially active in translating from French to plural French in a research-action-creation perspective. Since 2020, her questioning-invitations have been published quarterly in the form of **research-in-progress booklets** by éditions du commun. To promote the spread of French as a "étrangée" language, she has developed a kit for unlearning "the language" in collaboration with visual artist Alice Ferré, designer Élise Gabriel (Les Tables des Matières) and graphic designer Pierre Tandille. The website [www.enfrancaisaplurriel.fr](http://www.enfrancaisaplurriel.fr) is at once a participatory research laboratory, an educational resource and a virtual museum.

**David Zambrano** (to be confirmed) has been making dance for over 30 years. In his pursuits as both a creator and educator, David has visited 63 countries, worked with thousands of dancers and has performed at hundreds of venues across the world. His pieces range from set choreography, structured improvisation, and pure improvisation. Born in Venezuela, David spent 15 years in New York City and now lives between Amsterdam and Brussels. His improvisation is committed to art as a cultural exchange developing the creative process in a world without borders. David sees improvisation as an art and choreography as a vehicle to further develop his work in improvisation.

In 2018, **David Zambrano** and **Mat Voorter** decided to open **Tictac Art Center**, an emerging space full of art, color and inspiration.

Tictac Art Center is also David's artistic home, from where he continues to share his pedagogic and artistic work. Tictac Art Center is his place to perform his dance, transmit his dance through teaching and watch other artists performing dance. Following David's dedication, Tictac Art Center has become a house for improvisation in the heart of Europe.





## Our partners

*Moving words in space* training program is led by **Books on the Move** and hosted by four partner venues: **Fabrik Potsdam** near Berlin, **Centre d'animation Argonne** in Bordeaux, **La Briqueterie CDCN** in Vitry-sur-Seine near Paris, **La Bellone** with **Contredanse** in Brussels.



la briqueterie   
cdc  val-de-marne



Books on the Move - 43 rue des Douves  
33800 Bordeaux - France

movingwordsinpace@booksonthemove.fr  
www.booksonthemove.fr  
+33 (0)6 84 89 73 82

Association loi 1901  
SIRET 799 297 502 00020  
TVA FR 41 799297502

Soutenu par

