

UMA Urban Move Academy

Press release

Education, urban cultures

Urban Move Academy (UMA): A unique academy for urban arts and sports is launching in September 2022 in Meyrin

- *A visionary and ambitious educational project*
- *Challenging multi-discipline programs with comprehensive courses*
- *Stage practice and training for the professional world*
- *A social commitment with scholarships and places for young talents who have broken ties with society*
- *A schedule featuring numerous public performances*

Geneva, March 28 2022 - In September 2022, a school unique in Switzerland will be launching in the Maison des Compagnies in Meyrin (Geneva). With intensive and immersion courses, available both full-time and part-time, Urban Move Academy (UMA)'s ambition is to turn young ride, dance and parkour enthusiasts into multi-discipline performers ready to meet the requirements of creative talents and art professionals. UMA, which is deeply rooted in the local community, feeds on international interaction and relies on an innovative pedagogy, is aimed at young people aged 15 to 21 who want training, wish to perfect their skills or are looking to becoming professionals. Scholarships will be granted every year and students, through off-site projects, will be performing on a regular basis in shows and various projects in Switzerland and abroad.

Nicolas Musin, UMA Director: "Youth is a time when anything is possible. UMA's ambition is to seize this moment and feed it with positive experiences. We want motivated youngsters to experience movement in all its aspects, discover new disciplines and fully express their potential through artistic creation, to help them have the skills and confidence to build their own professional project."

Educational outlook: working in inclusion and openness to others

UMA was born from the realization that urban arts and sports are deeply rooted in today's society. Their codes, values and aesthetics are widely broadcast in artistic and advertising communities. Young people are eager to perfect their skills and explore these disciplines further, however there are not many places where they can receive training and have their talents officially recognized. UMA's educational approach is directly inspired by their culture, combining freedom and experimentation, offering strong-minded individuals in urban arts and sports a supervised space for exploration, creation and expression.

UMA Urban Move Academy

Together with the director, the UMA team includes educational coordinators and teachers in ride, parkour and dance, as well as a large number of external teachers coming in on a regular basis. These are all seasoned professionals or performing artists, some of whom are internationally renowned. They will be eager to pass on their own experience and expertise and work across all disciplines.

A social and civic purpose

Beyond UMA's ambition to train open and experimented artists and performers, the academy also shares a social and civic ambition. Social, with the granting of scholarships every year to young people who wouldn't otherwise have been able to afford the school, and to young talents in social disruption. The latter will receive an individualized program from UMA. Civic, as we believe that by giving everyone access to culture, we can promote integration and contribute to a more balanced, tolerant society.

One team, two partners

The Maison des Compagnies is already accommodating UMA's administrative offices. In September, the facility, which is entirely adapted to the school's flexible needs, will accommodate dance, parkour and theory classes. Events will also take place frequently on the premises. An exceptionally large customizable ramp will be available for all ride courses (skateboard, BMX, roller and scooter).

As for music and video creation classes (digital arts), they will be provided by a specialized partner school.

Total Move, Move and Move Access: a training course available for everyone

UMA offers training courses for pupils who are still at school as well as for those who have finished school. Therefore, courses adjust to students' schedules and ambitions. For those aiming for a career in arts and performance, **Total Move** offers a multi-discipline, prevocational, full-time two-year training course. For students who are still at school, **Move** is a course offering two part-time, multi-discipline modules (intensive or immersion), over two or three years. Finally, with **Move Access**, young people in social disruption are given the opportunity to integrate an inclusive, gratifying pedagogy in a progressive, flexible approach.

In addition to the three core courses (ride, parkour and dance), complementary courses in music and video creation (digital arts), theory – which includes philosophy and sociology – and street art are available to complete the program depending on the selected course. While students choose their main discipline, they are required to experiment the others, in keeping with UMA's transdisciplinary spirit. Students will be selected based on practice, motivation and openness.

A program packed with events and creations

In order to promote ties with the professional world and expertise sharing, every month UMA will be welcoming professionals from Switzerland and abroad, renowned artists and performers, as part of master classes and workshops. A number of reference artists have already been scheduled, including Salomon Asaro and Link Berthomieux in urban dancing, Johan Tonnoir of French Freerun Family in

UMA Urban Move Academy

parkour, photographer Fred Mortagne and skating legend Chris Haslam. As part of our open, sharing spirit, workshops and master classes will also be open to external students.

Meanwhile, upon invitation from theaters and festivals, Nicolas Musin, who is also a choreographer and a stage director, will give UMA students the opportunity to take part in original creations and perform in professional conditions.

Registrations for UMA are now open.

www.urbanmoveacademy.ch

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About UMA

UMA – Urban Move Academy – was created in Meyrin (Geneva) in 2022. As an urban arts and sports academy, it offers multi-discipline courses interacting with multimedia, either full-time or part-time, for young people aged 15 to 21 who want training, wish to perfect their skills or are looking to becoming professionals in ride, parkour and dance. With complementary courses and frequent public performances, UMA trains performers who will be ready to meet the requirements of art professionals. UMA also has a social ambition through the granting of scholarships and a program aimed at young talents who have broken ties with society.