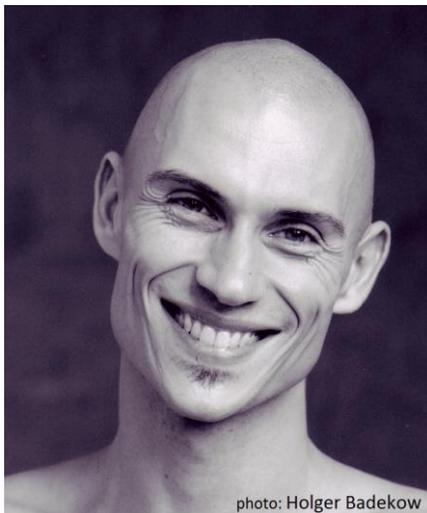




## IOTPD Philippe Braunschweig Grant Awarded to Dancer Sébastien Thill

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (Amsterdam – February 12, 2015)** The International Organization for the Transition of Professional Dancers (IOTPD) is pleased to announce that the **2014 IOTPD Philippe Braunschweig Grant** has been awarded to dancer Sébastien Thill. The annual € 3,000 competitive grant is given to a dancer, at or near the end of their performance career, to help defray the costs associated with retraining for a second profession.



Sébastien Thill is honored to be the first recipient of this international grant:

*“Thanks to the IOTPD Philippe Braunschweig Grant I will be able finish my course to become a GYROTONIC® Trainer, which is my desired transition after a dance career of 24 years”.*

Mr. Thill’s aim is to help dancers have healthier bodies, with fewer injuries, so they can dance longer.

Mr. Thill worked as soloist with the Paris Opera Ballet under the direction of Patrick Dupond and Brigitte Lefèvre; the Hamburg Ballet under John Neumeier; and Patrick King’s Salon K; as well as guest dancer with several other European companies.

Elisabeth Platel, Director of the Paris Opera Ballet School, describes Sébastien as, *“A beautiful dancer in both contemporary and classical dance.”* while Patrick King calls him *“An artist of sincere integrity... with a deep concern and curiosity as to how the body works and how it is used to create art. Mr. Thill has chosen GYROTONIC® as a way to go further in this direction.”*

The application deadline for the **2015 IOTPD Philippe Braunschweig Grant** is **April 30, 2015**. This grant, given to honor the IOTPD’s Founding President, is meant for professional dancers who have had an international career and who don’t qualify for transition support from any one of the countries where they have danced. Further details and the grant application are available through the IOTPD website [www.iotpd.org](http://www.iotpd.org)

### **About the International Organization for the Transition of Professional Dancers**

The IOTPD was formed in 1993 with a mission to alleviate the challenges that professional dancers face worldwide when transitioning to a post-dance career. It strives to raise awareness of dancer transition and develop viable methods of meeting the needs of dancers across the globe. The IOTPD acts as an international umbrella organization coordinating with existing dancer transition centres worldwide to support research and advocacy initiatives, with the goal that every professional dancer will be equipped to make successful transitions.

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