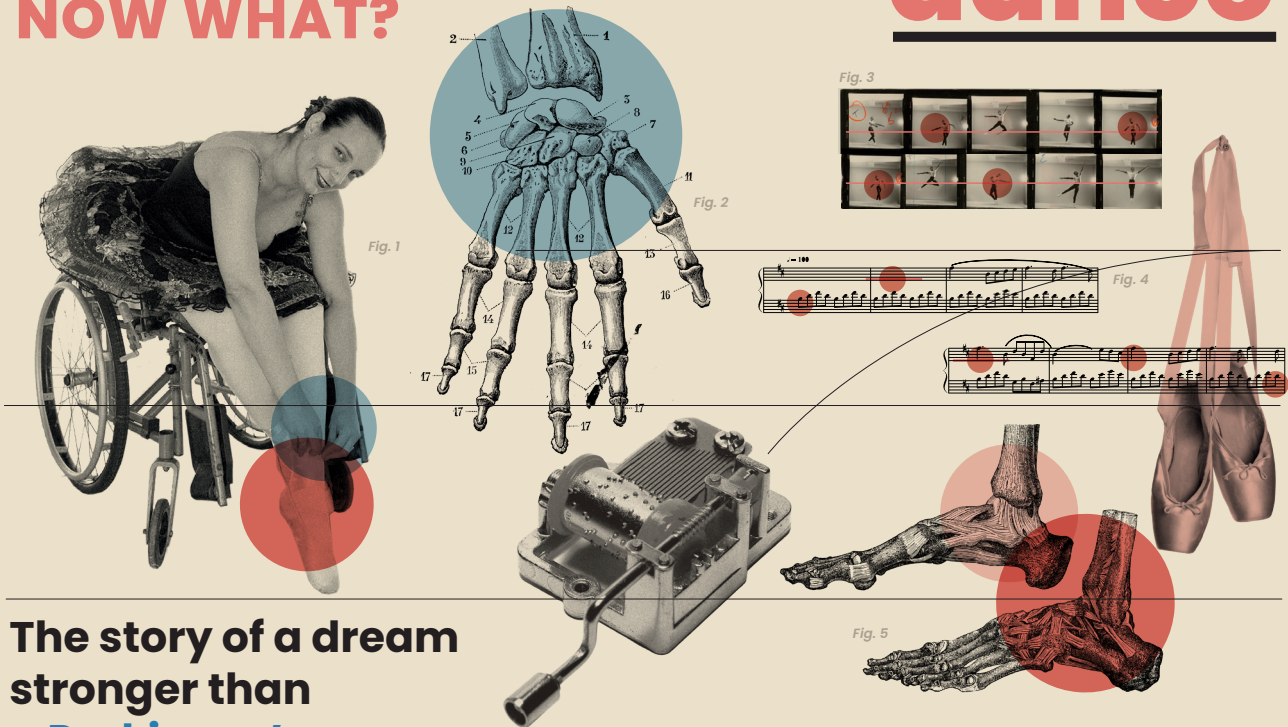


#2

I HAVE PARKINSON'S NOW WHAT?

Care to dance



The story of a dream stronger than a Parkinson's diagnosis

What's so special about Ruteleia Campos? Everything, really. After all, it's not every day you meet a ballerina with Parkinson's.

A story that started with a little girl's dream, but only came true as a grown woman — at 30 years old — after a lifetime of struggling with financial worries and prejudice.

So when, at 38, Parkinson's knocked on her ballet studio door, causing her to lose balance on her left side, and seriously affecting her speech, Ruteleia decided that she would just keep on fighting.

And so, when her feet started failing her, she traded her pointe shoes for a pair of wheels along with a matching pink chair, and just kept on spinning, sliding, dancing, and teaching underprivileged children to dance.

Later, when her hands started to close, Ruteleia opened the doors to arts and crafts, which helped her with motor coordination and concentration stimulation.

And today, at 42, she is a pedagogue, a dancer, a motivational speaker and a cultural agent: "My wings were pruned, but not plucked. I continue to fly, only in a wheelchair."

Fig. 1 Ruteleia Campos © Lázaro Pinheiro

Fig. 2 Hand bones

Fig. 3 Arthur Mitchell in *The Four Temperaments*, Martha Swope, 1959

Fig. 4 *Swan Lake* (excerpt), Tchaikovsky, 1876

Fig. 5 Human skeleton foot, Meyers *Konversations-Lexikon*, 1897

Sources:
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