

**#DUFest22**  
7-23 October  
in-person & online

22 & 23 October 2022  
12pm & 3pm

Duration 40 minutes (no interval)

**Chiara Bersani**

# SEEKING UNICORNS



Credit Alice Brazziti

# WELCOME

The 44th Dance Umbrella Festival, my inaugural one as Artistic Director and CEO, brings together some of the most distinctive international and UK based artists making choreographic work. The thematic thread that knits together the live performances, films and conversations is an awareness of our collective difference and how enriching this experience is.

The undeniable talent in this year's festival and its highly individual, intersectional female line-up is a testimony to the remarkable range of international makers transforming the sector.

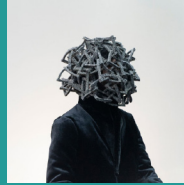
Dance Umbrella must be accessible to audiences; the hard-core dance fans as well as the dance-curious. We have prioritised affordability of ticket prices for our live and online experiences, and we are in new venues and localities across London including; the National Gallery, Studio 3 Arts in Barking, Brixton House and Sedgehill Academy in Lewisham, not to mention online.

DU is your global/local festival.

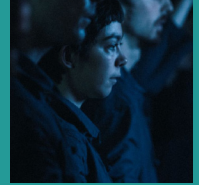
## Freddie Opoku-Addaie

Artistic Director and Chief Executive  
Dance Umbrella

## Live Programme



Georgia Tegou &  
Michalis Theophanous  
**Reverie**  
7 & 8 OCT  
The Place



Oona Doherty  
**Navy Blue**  
21 & 22 OCT  
Sadler's Wells



Luiz de Abreu / Calixto Neto  
Joy Alpuerto Ritter  
Linda Hayford  
**Change Tempo**  
12 & 13 OCT  
Brixton House



Chiara Bersani  
**Seeking Unicorns**  
22 & 23 OCT  
National Gallery



nora chipaumire  
**ShebeenDUB**  
13 & 14 OCT  
Bernie Grant Arts  
Centre



Alleyne Dance  
**Close to Home:  
The Mass Dance  
Event**  
Free  
22 & 23 OCT  
Sedgehill Academy



de Stille  
**Do-re-mi-ka-do**  
15-23 OCT  
Studio 3 Arts,  
Watermans Arts Centre,  
The Albany, Stanley Arts  
The Place, artsdepot

**Book now**  
[danceumbrella.co.uk](https://danceumbrella.co.uk)



## About

*I Chiara Bersani, 98cm tall, I self-proclaim the flesh, muscles and bones of the unicorn. As I don't know its heart, I'll try to give it my breath and my eyes. I declare to give voice to the universal questions that have puzzled it: Why do I exist? Where do I come from? And if tomorrow you find me in your garden, what would you do?*

## Cast & Creative

### Creation / Performance

Chiara Bersani

**Musicians** Dominic Clarke,  
Andrew McLean, Elliot Phelps

**Sound Design** F. De Isabella

**Stage Manager** Paolo Tizianel

**Technical Director** Valeria Foti

**Dramaturgical Advice** Luca Poncetta,  
Gaia Clotilde Chernetih

**Movement Coach** Marta Ciappina

**Artistic Advice** Marco D'Agostin

**Styling** Elisa Orlandini

**Producer** Eleonora Cavallo

**Administration** Chiara Fava

**Communications** Dalila D'Amico

**Promotion and Care** Giulia Traversi

**Photography** Roberta Segata courtesy  
Centrale Fies

Presented by Dance Umbrella in  
partnership with the National Gallery, with  
support from the Italian Cultural Institute

## Chiara Bersani

Chiara Bersani is an Italian performer and author active in the fields of performing arts, research theatre and contemporary dance. As an interpreter and director / choreographer she moves through different languages and visions, touring her work internationally. Her research as an interpreter and author is based on the concept of the 'Political Body' and the creation of practices aimed at training its presence and action. Her piece *Seeking Unicorns* is the manifestation of this research, which won Bersani the UBU Award (Italy) for best new actress / performer under 35. In August 2019 at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, *Seeking Unicorns* also won first prize in the dance category of the Total Theatre Awards.

 chiara\_bersani

 bersanichiara

 chiarabers

# DIGITAL PASS

Dance Umbrella

All content available 7-31 October on [danceumbrella.co.uk](http://danceumbrella.co.uk) with a Digital Pass (Pay What You Can)

## Films



World premiere

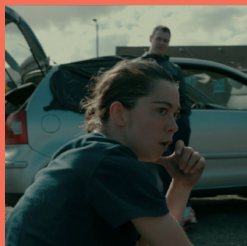
Abby Z and the New Utility  
Radioactive Practice



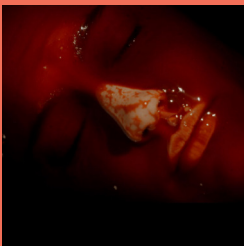
Calixto Neto  
O Samba do Crioulo Doido:  
Ruler and Compass



nora chipaumire  
#PUNK



Oona Doherty  
Hunter



Oona Doherty  
The Devil



SAY  
SAY: AF (And Friends)

## Choreographer's Cut

Returning for a third season, step inside the mind of a choreographer as three leading artists give an in-depth commentary on one of their dance works.



Saburo Teshigawara / KARAS  
on Glass Tooth



Hetaim Patel  
on Let's Talk About Dis



Wendy Houston  
on Haunted

## Sound in Motion: A Podcast Series

Explore the vital relationship between composer and dance artist in Dance Umbrella's brand new podcast series.



Amy May



Michael 'Mikey J' Asante MBE



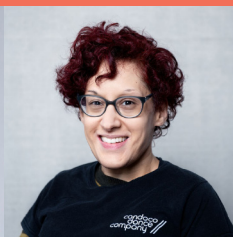
Vincenzo Lamagna

## Panel Discussion: Candoco and Boy Blue - Forging Paths

Two trailblazing dance companies celebrating landmark anniversaries come together in-conversation with **Dr 'Funmi Adewole Elliott**, delving into how both companies forged paths within the dance sector, in the UK and beyond.



Charlotte Darbyshire



Kimberley Harvey



Michael 'Mikey J'  
Asante MBE



Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy MBE

## Articles

Commissioned for Dance Umbrella Festival 2022.



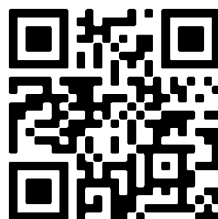
**Fearlessness in non-conformity**  
by Julia Cheng



**ATUNDA: The Metaverse and the Data Dance Union**  
by Qudus Onikeku

## Buy Digital Pass

Pay What You Can  
£5 / £10 / £20 / £35 / £50



# Support Dance Umbrella and make a difference

**Dance Umbrella** is London's annual international dance festival, celebrating 21st century choreography across the capital and beyond. We are a registered charity and rely on the support of generous individuals, trusts and companies to deliver on our mission.

With our new Artistic Director and CEO **Freddie Opoku-Addaie** at the helm our mission is to broaden the idea of what mainstream contemporary dance is and who it's for. We strive to diversify what it looks like, who makes it, who experiences it, where we see it and how it interacts with other art forms.

Two and a half years into the pandemic, this is a critical time for the arts, artists and developing future audiences. Your support will help us to deliver on our ambitious programme: from vital investment in artists; presenting outstanding dance at our annual festival and bringing life-changing experiences to young people and communities across our global city of London. We could not do this without you.

## Make a donation

Scan the QR code, or visit [danceumbrella.co.uk/support-us/make-a-donation](https://danceumbrella.co.uk/support-us/make-a-donation)



## Become a Dance Umbrella Member

Starting from **£10 a month**, enjoy the benefits of being a DU Member whilst knowing you are supporting emerging and diverse artistic talent.

[danceumbrella.co.uk/support-us/become-a-member/](https://danceumbrella.co.uk/support-us/become-a-member/)

Please contact **Dawn Prentice**, Head of Development at [dawn@danceumbrella.co.uk](mailto:dawn@danceumbrella.co.uk) to discuss legacy gifts and supporting our long term projects.

Picture: A still from the film *Radioactive Practice* (2022) by Abby Z and the New Utility, commissioned by Dance Umbrella. Credit Jeremy Jacobs.



## Dance Umbrella Team

### Artistic Director & Chief Executive

Freddie Opoku-Addaie

**Executive Director** Tania Wilmer

**Festival Producer** Jessica Greer

**Festival Producer (until July 2022)**

Robert Jones

**Creative Learning Producer**

Bethan Peters

**Head of Marketing (Maternity Cover)**

Mel Patman

**Head of Marketing** Vicky Davidson

**Head of Development** Dawn Prentice

**Finance & Operations Manager**

Zsuzsanna Posta

**Admin and Digital Marketing Officer**

Isabella Hubbard

**Technical Director** Andy Downie

## Dance Umbrella Festival Team

**Assistant Producer** Steph Be

**Assistant Creative Learning Producer**

Amy Sheppard

**Europe Beyond Access Project Manager**

Emily Robinson

**Front of House Manager**

Amy Johnson

**Digital Production Manager** Ben Pugh

**Sound in Motion Editor** Olive Mondegreen

**Articles Editor** James Cheng-Morris

**DU Technical Team** Imogen Adshead,

Alexandra Anzenberger, Jon Beattie,

Garry James, Sam Miller, Zoé Ritchie

**BSL Interpreters**

Ali Gordon, Debbie Lawrence, Erin

Hutchings, Sumayya Si-Tayeb, Darren

Townsend-Handscomb

**Thank you to all of the Festival Volunteers**

**Press & PR** Bread and Butter PR

**Website & online design**

HdK Associates

**Print design** O Street, Sam Charington,

Isabella Hubbard

## Founder

Val Bourne CBE

## Dance Umbrella Patrons

Jonzi D, Liz Lerman, Dame Arlene Philips

## Dance Umbrella Trustees

Jake Ulrich (Chair), Peter Barker (Treasurer),

Vicki Dela Amedume MBE, Rhiannon Bail,

Clare Connor, Eva de Blocq van Kuffeler,

Zulum Elumogo, Tania Harrison,

Alex Mecklenburg, Jacqueline Rose,

Manohari Saravanamuttu

---

*Dance Umbrella's work would not be possible without the enthusiasm, commitment and financial backing of a number of individuals and organisations, both listed here and those anonymous.*

## Artistic Director's Circle

Eva & John de Blocq van Kuffeler,

Ashleigh Ruxton, Sandi & Jake Ulrich

## Freddie's special festival thanks

Gratitude to those who have come before me: Founder/Artistic Director Val Bourne CBE and following AD/CEOs Betsy Gregory and Emma Gladstone OBE. Thank you to all our past and current Trustees.

Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LA  
+44 (0)20 7257 9380 | [danceumbrella.co.uk](http://danceumbrella.co.uk)

Charity registration number 277221

## FUNDERS



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**Bloomberg  
Philanthropies**



**Creative  
Europe**



**Esmée  
Fairbairn  
FOUNDATION**

## CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERS



**Creative  
People &  
Places**

**STANLEY ARTS**

## VENUE & PRODUCING PARTNERS

arts **depot**



**BIG  
PULSE**

**BRITISH  
COUNCIL**

**BRIXTON  
HOUSE**



**FONDS  
PODIUM  
KUNSTEN  
PERFORMING  
ARTS FUND NL**

**ISTITUTO  
italiano  
DI CULTURA  
LONDRA**

THE  
**NATIONAL  
GALLERY**

**PESCEA**  
Middlesex University

**SADL  
ERSW  
ELLS**

**STUDI | 3 ARTS**



**THE PLACE**

**watermans**



## DANCE UMBRELLA NETWORKS

**C.** **Creative.  
Industries.  
Federation.**



**Family Arts  
Campaign**

**NDN**  
NATIONAL DANCE NETWORK

**PiPA** PARENTS & CARERS  
IN PERFORMING ARTS

WHAT NEXT?