

PRESS RELEASE

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DANCE UMBRELLA ANNOUNCES FULL PROGRAMME FOR THE 2023 FESTIVAL

- DANCE UMBRELLA 2023 WILL BE A HYBRID FESTIVAL OF LIVE PERFORMANCES AND DIGITAL EXPLORATIONS
- THE FESTIVAL RUNS FROM 6 - 31 OCTOBER IN VENUES ACROSS LONDON
- ARTISTS INCLUDE JADE HACKETT, IOANNA PARASKEVOPOULOU, SONYA LINDFORS, AND VIA KATLEHONG
- 2023 MARKS THE FESTIVAL'S 45TH YEAR AND THE ORBITAL TOURING NETWORK'S 10TH YEAR

Dance Umbrella, London's annual international dance festival has today announced its full programme of live and hybrid performances for the 2023 festival, taking place between **6 - 31 October** in venues across the capital and beyond.

Artistic Director & CEO of Dance Umbrella, Freddie Opoku-Addaie said "In 2023, Dance Umbrella celebrates 45 years in motion.

This year the programme showcases the very best of hip hop culture, performance art, audio-visual experiences and operetta from artists originating from Cameroon, Greece, South Africa, Taiwan and Croydon.

The breadth of work in the programme is astounding. Along with our funders and presenting partners we are proud to make excellence affordable with a range of ticket prices, as well as free, and pay what you can events across London and online.

It's a privilege to be able to introduce audiences to some of the most inquisitive, boundary-pushing dance artists from around the globe."

London Battle will take over Somerset House's iconic open-air courtyard for a day packed with showcases, workshops, cyphers, live DJs and a big outdoor party.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of hip hop culture and with Breaking set to be the highlight of the 2024 Paris Olympics, Dance Umbrella and Somerset House are bringing

together some of the most exciting talent from the four corners of London to go head-to-head across a diverse range of styles.

Curated by choreographer **Jade Hackett**, you will be the judge, deciding which part of our global city brings the best dance flavour – north, south, east or west.

For the live programme, **Change Tempo** returns for 2023 to introduce London to two international artists whose transformational works blur the line between dance and visual art, challenging cultural biases.

As part of **Change Tempo's** double bill, **SU PinWen's** performance art piece **Girl's Notes** interrogates notions of gender, drawing inspiration from the traditional views set out in a Taiwanese text which directs girls in the 'correct' way to be a woman. Featuring a live on-stage pianist, **LIN Mai-ke**, this captivating work explores the intentions behind our everyday actions. SU PinWen will also present an accompanying digital piece that will be available as part of Dance Umbrella's Digital Programme.

Completing the doubleheader for Change Tempo, in **Comme un symbole**, French visual artist and choreographer **Alexandre Fandard** embodies the image of the marginalised youth, bursting onto the stage to portray a figure as despised as it is eroticised. The work subverts this stereotype in a way that is both deeply compelling and ultimately surprising.

For children aged 3-5 years, **Skydiver** will tour venues around London on the **Orbital Touring Network**, which celebrates its 10th year. Prepare to soar through the fluffy clouds where flocks of birds and butterflies flutter. Explore the dream-like world that waits above us, in this multi-sensory dance experience for families.

Take your little ones on a magical journey with **Skydiver** and experience how movement, sound and stunning visuals bring whimsical characters to life in an enchanting encounter in the skies. Greek dance artist, dramaturg and director **Xenia Aidonopoulou** makes visually compelling dance-theatre works filled with wonder and imagination that will captivate even the youngest audience members. Presented by Little Big Dance and Dance Umbrella in partnership with the Orbital Touring Network.

Get ready to experience a collision of analogue and digital worlds as hip hop movement architects **BirdGang Ltd** bring together an intergenerational cast from the communities of Croydon for **Family (dys)Function**, part of **This is Croydon, The Mayor of London's London Borough of Culture**.

Boomers, Millennials, Gen Z and everyone in between are invited to join a family gathering at Stanley Arts. This new production will feature BirdGang's unique blend of movement, spoken word and music, in a light-hearted exploration of connectivity across generations. An award-winning company with hip hop at its heart, BirdGang Ltd choreograph, teach and produce avant-garde dance for stage, screen and live events. Don't miss this opportunity to experience their latest dance invention. Presented and produced by Dance Umbrella with support from Stanley Arts.

Completing the live programme, **ONE DROP** is by turns a speculative summoning, a decolonial dream, an autopsy of the Western stage, and an operetta.

The title refers to two concepts – the one drop reggae drumbeat, and the one drop rule of the Race Separation Act, created in the US in the early 1900s, in which a single drop of “Black blood” made a person “Black” despite their appearance. This work interrogates the ghosts of the Western stage and its relationship to capitalism, coloniality and modernity.

Award-winning Cameroonian-Finnish choreographer and artistic director **Sonya Lindfors** creates important work exploring power, representation, and Black body politics.

Available to a global and national audience from 6 - 31 October, **Dance Umbrella's** digital programme consists of a curated selection of dance films from Ioanna Paraskevopoulou, Trajal Harrell, Vincenzo Lamagna & Danilo Moroni, and SU PinWen.

Trajal Harrell will provide a Choreographer's Cut. Now in its fourth year, this edition of Choreographer's Cut sees Harrell selecting his 2019 work **Dancer of the Year** to discuss exclusively for Dance Umbrella audiences.

Stopgap Dance Company presents **Dance Tapes**. This provides a series of choreographies of speech and sound created by Disabled artists from the UK, Japan, and Zimbabwe. These artists are **Kazuyo Morita**, who presents **On The Way To My Body** and **Shyne Phiri** with **Within My Own Bones**.

Finally, **Artist Encounters** is an online professional development workshop with a guest artist focusing on cultivating practical skills, sharing knowledge, and asking questions that resonate.

On sale from September, Dance Umbrella's Digital Pass is Pay What You Can and will give audiences access to the entire digital programme within this year's festival, available online to global and national audiences from 6 - 31 October 2023.

As previously announced, marking a UK premiere at the festival this year, and making her Dance Umbrella Festival debut, Athens-based **Ioanna Paraskevopoulou** brings **MOS** to the Barbican. Witness the stage transform into a cinematic soundscape, as two performers create a captivating audio-visual experience. Using everyday objects: umbrellas, plungers, and of course, coconut shells, **MOS** evokes the movie sounds made by expert foley artists for film and TV.

The physical act of generating audio while following the film becomes an energetic dance, with tap numbers turned into recordings that are looped, distorted, paused, and intensified. Ioanna Paraskevopoulou is an award-winning dancer and choreographer who focuses on the interplay between movement, sound, and imagery, and whose past collaborators have included Dance Umbrella Artist Dimitris Papaioannou.

Intoxicating expression and pulsating rhythms combine as the award-winning South African dance company **Via Katlehong** returns to Dance Umbrella, to debut on the Sadler's Wells stage.

Bringing together choreography from two sought-after dance creatives, **Via Injabulo** is a celebration of global movement styles. Mixing house dance and top rock with pantsula, a South African township dance, **Marco da Silva Ferreira's *førn inførms*** examines the idea of collective identity. In ***Emaphakathini***, **Amala Dianor** seeks to break down borders with a feast of rousing beats from live on-stage DJing, drawing on traditional dance techniques to explore the individual personalities within the Via Katlehong company.

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LISTINGS & BOOKING INFORMATION

DANCE UMBRELLA FESTIVAL 2023 | LIVE PROGRAMME

SU PinWen and Alexandre Fandard: *Change Tempo Taiwan / France*

The Place | Friday 6 & Saturday 7 October, 7.30pm

Tickets: £18/£14 concessions

Jade Hackett: *London Battle UK*

Somerset House | Saturday 7 October from 1pm

Tickets: Free

Ioanna Paraskevopoulou: *MOS Greece*

The Pit, Barbican | Wednesday 11 October - Saturday 14 October, 7pm

Post Show Talk | Thursday 12 October, 7.45pm (BSL interpreted)

Tickets: £18

Sonya Lindfors: *ONE DROP Cameroon / Finland*

Battersea Arts Centre | Thursday 19 October & Friday 20 October, 7pm

Tickets:

Thursday 19 October: Pay What You Can (recommended £18)

Friday 20 October: £18/£15 concessions

Birdgang Ltd: *Family (dys)Function UK*

Stanley Arts | Saturday 21 October, 2.30pm & 7pm

Tickets: £10/£8 concessions

Via Katlehong / Marco da Silva Ferreira / Amala Dianor: *Via Injabulo South Africa / Portugal / Senegal / France*

Sadler's Wells | Friday 27 October & Saturday 28 October

Post Show Talk | Friday 27 October (BSL interpreted)

Tickets from £22

Xenia Aidonopoulou: *Skydiver Greece / UK*

Orbital Touring Network

Unicorn Theatre in partnership with Team London Bridge | Saturday 21 October
Stanley Arts | Sunday 22 October
The Place | Tuesday 24 October
Studio 3 Arts | Wednesday 25 October
Watermans Arts Centre | Sunday 29 October
Tickets: check venue websites for details

All booking links can be found at danceumbrella.co.uk/festival

Please note, additional fees and levies may apply, please see venue websites for details.

DANCE UMBRELLA FESTIVAL 2023 | DIGITAL PROGRAMME

The digital programme is available online to global and national audiences from 6 - 31 October 2023.

FILMS

Ioanna Paraskevopoulou: *All She Likes is Popping Bubble Wrap Greece*

Trajal Harrell: *O Medea USA / Switzerland / Greece*

Vincenzo Lamagna & Danilo Moreli: *KINGDOM Italy / UK / Spain*

SU PinWen: *Girl's Notes Film Work Taiwan*

Stopgap Dance Company | Dance Tapes UK

Kazuyo Morita: *On The Way To My Body Japan*

Shyne Phiri: *Within My Own Bones UK / Zimbabwe*

Artist Encounters: guest artist to be announced

Choreographers Cut | Trajal Harrell USA/Switzerland / Greece

The Digital Pass is Pay What You Can and will give you access to the entire digital programme within this year's festival, available online to global and national audiences from 6—31 October 2023.
£5 / £10 / £15 / £30 / £50 (recommended price £15)

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Dance Umbrella

Dance Umbrella is a London festival 45 years in the making and moving with the times. Every year our festival ignites London and online with the next generation of trailblazing artists. Since 1978, we have been an international home for dance across a global city, presenting more than 1000 artists from 45 countries to over one million people. We have brought outstanding dance to more than 145 venues throughout London and online; from the high-profile stages of Sadler's Wells, Southbank Centre and Barbican to local arts centres – and taking in the more unexpected locations of canal boats, ice rinks and car park rooftops in between.

Since 2020, we have also given online audiences the chance to experience the festival through a curated programme including dance films and artist encounters. Dance Umbrella is also a commissioner of new work, co-producing with partners based in the UK and abroad, to invest in the next wave of international choreographic talent. Alongside this, we create year-round creative learning initiatives for all ages and nurture the development of arts professionals.

Appointed in 2021, Dance Umbrella's new Artistic Director/CEO Freddie Opoku-Addaie's vision for the festival builds on its 45-year track record of commissioning and producing excellent work. This new

chapter introduces a programme that puts emerging and diverse talent at its heart, reflecting the global identity of our London home.

Dance Umbrella Festival 2023 takes place 6-31 October, across London and online.

Danceumbrella.co.uk

CHANGE TEMPO

Su PinWen

Su PinWen (He/him/They) is an artist and Artistic Director of Kua Bo Dance Theatre. He holds an MFA in Choreography at Taipei National University of the Arts and a bachelor's in philosophy at Nan-hua University.

His work challenges the heteronormative stereotypes revolving around notions of gender, feminism and nudity.

Since 2013, Su has researched and practiced tactile culture. They take dance into conceptual art beyond the aesthetic genre.

Girl's Notes is presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with The Place. Supported by Ministry of Culture, Taiwan.

Alexandre Fandard

Fandard is a French visual artist and choreographer.

After training at the International Dance Academy of Paris, he started performing works directed by Brett Bailey while working as a painter. He has performed with La Cie de Soi, in *Heroes (Prélude)* by Redouhane El Meddeb, and in work by Olivier de Sagazan.

He made his first solo, *Some remains so*, in 2017 while he was resident choreographer at Centquatre-Paris and was selected as laureate 2018 at FORT (Ile de France). In 2020, he created the duo *Très loin, à l'horizon*.

Fandard is laureate of the European dance network Aerowaves with his new solo *Comme un symbole*.

Comme un symbole is presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with The Place.

LONDON BATTLE

Jade Hackett

Jade Hackett is an experienced choreographer, dancer and actor who has appeared in productions including *The Pied Piper*, *Boy Blue Entertainment*, *Stratford Theatre Royal*; *Blaze*, international tour; *Into the Hoodz*, *The Mad Hatter's Tea Party* and *Some Like it Hip* Hop for ZooNation Dance Company. Her theatre work has included *Hex*, *National Theatre*; *Get Up Stand Up*, *The Bob Marley Musical*; *Sylvia*, *The Old Vic*; *Nine Night*, *Trafalgar Studios*; *Black Boys at Apollo Theatre*. Jade has also appeared in several commercial projects including *StreetDance 3D The Movie*; campaigns for *Adidas* and *ASOS*; *London Olympics* and *Baku European Games ceremonies*.

London Battle is a Dance Umbrella and Somerset House co-production

MOS

Ioanna Paraskevopoulou

Ioanna Paraskevopoulou is an Athens-based dancer/choreographer, Greek National School of Dance graduate and student of AudioVisual Arts (Ionian University). Her practice focuses on the relationship between audio-visual media and movement, and her past collaborators include Iris Karayan, Christos Papadopoulos, Dimitris Papaioannou and Alexandra Waierstall.

She won Best Sound Design at FIVideodanza Festival, Mexico and Best Video Art at MIFVIF, Venezuela for ALSIPBW. She was awarded the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Artist Fellowship by ARTWORKS. Her film Coconut Effect won the Young Jury Prize at Dance Elargie and MOS was selected for Aerowaves 23.

It is produced by Onassis STEGI and first presented as part of Onassis New Choreographers Festival 9. The presentation of *MOS* at Dance Umbrella is made possible with the support of Onassis STEGI Athens – "Outward Turn" Program.

VIA INJABULO

Via Katlehong

Via Katlehong was formed in 1992 as a community troupe, composed of youths from the township of Katlehong in the notorious East Rand war zone of the 1980s South African uprising.

During Apartheid, many of the country's black population were relocated to urban townships where unemployment and illegal activity became a catalyst for a new culture: Pantsula. Via Katlehong have reinvented the art form by combining it with tap and Gumboot.

Their community dance school and 18 professional dancers are led by Steven Faleni and Buru Mohlabane. Their awards include FNB Vita Dance, Dance Umbrella awards, Gauteng Dance Showcase, KTV Most Brilliant Achievement and Gauteng MEC Development Award.

Marco Da Silva Ferreira is a choreographer whose work revolves around dance in urban contexts. His unique abstract expressionism and self-biographical style has earned him recognition in the international dance community. *HU(R)MANO*, premiered in 2013 and performed at various international festivals, was highlighted by Aerowaves Priority Companies in 2015. His latest work, *Bisonte*, premiered in 2019 at the Teatro Municipal do Porto and has been performed in Lisbon, Brussels, and Montemor-o-novo. Marco was an associated artist at the Teatro Municipal do Porto in 2018/19 and is currently an associated artist at the Centre chorégraphique National de Caen in Normandie.

Amala Dianor

Renowned hip hop dancer and choreographer, Amala Dianor, continues to push boundaries with his distinctive dance style and poetic approach to 'otherness'. After a decade of performing with renowned choreographers in various dance forms, Dianor founded his own company in 2012. He collaborates with electro-soul composer Awir Léon and other choreographers, composers, writers and visual artists. Dianor is a Big Pulse Dance Artist whose latest works include a nine-dancer piece called *The Falling Stardust*, and two short pieces, *Point Zéro* and *Wo-Man*. He also created *CinéDanse* with visual artist Grégoire Korganow, which was selected for the Villa Albertine dance film catalogue in the USA.

Via Injabulo is presented by Dance Umbrella and Sadler's Wells with the support of Big Pulse Dance Alliance. Co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.

Production: Via Katlehong Dance, Damien Valette Prod

Coproduction : Chaillot Théâtre National de la Danse, Théâtre de la Ville - Paris, Maison de la Danse - Lyon, Festival DDD - Teatro Municipal do Porto, Le Grand T – Théâtre de Loire Atlantique, Créteil - Maison des Arts, Festival d'Avignon, Espace 1789 – Scène conventionnée danse de Saint-Ouen

Thanks to the City of Ekurhuleni: Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture Department

SKYDIVER

Xenia Aidonopoulou

Xenia Aidonopoulou is a dance artist with a background in dance dramaturgy and performance. She makes visually compelling dance-theatre works and collaborates with multidisciplinary artists with stories to share. She has worked extensively in dance, for the National Theatre of Greece, the Athens and Epidaurus Festival, the Thessaloniki Concert Hall, Onasis Stagi and smaller art institutions. Between 2005 and 2017, she has worked as a dramaturg and creative consultant with Oktana Dancetheatre and choreographer/director Konstantinos Rigos, current Director of the Greek National Opera Ballet. She has also worked with various choreographers and directors, including Sivan Rubinstein, Georgia Tegou, Michalis Theophanous, Susan Kempster, Kate Flatt, Krishna Zivraj-Nair, Alexandros Efklidis, Simos Kakalas, Konstantinos Arvanitakis, Lenio Kaklea, Victor Ardititi. Her work has been presented in venues including Greek National Opera, Sadler's Wells, The Lowry, Polka Theatre, South Bank Centre and Royal Opera House. She is a member of the Dramaturgs' Network, UK and a member of the Artist Development Troop at Cambridge Junction.

Presented by Little Big Dance.

Co-commissioned by Dance Umbrella and Strike a Light Festival.

Skydiver is a Little Big Dance commission, led by South East Dance, in partnership with Dance East, Yorkshire Dance and Take Art. Little Big Dance is funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Arts Council England.

Presented as part of the Orbital Touring Network in partnership with Unicorn Theatre and Team London Bridge, Stanley Arts, The Place, Studio 3 Arts and Watermans Arts Centre.

FAMILY (DYS)FUNCTION

BirdGang Ltd

BirdGang Ltd is an award-winning collective of hip hop movement architects with a global reputation. Resident at Stanley Arts, the company delivers striking performance projects, teaching and artist development initiatives.

BirdGang's work has been performed at the Royal Opera House, Sadler's Wells, Luxembourg Grand Theatre and Harlem Apollo. Their partnership with Croydon Council and Stanley Arts allows dance to thrive; with 15,000 pupils and followers, the company generates performances and teaching opportunities, mentorship and skills development.

BirdGang's Directors work globally, in Hollywood, on Broadway and the West End, in television and film, with artists including Dynamo, Mariah Carey, Kylie Minogue, Cheryl Cole and JLS.

Produced and presented Dance Umbrella with support from Stanley Arts. Part of This is Croydon, The Mayor of London's, London Borough of Culture.

ONE DROP

Sonya Lindfors

Sonya Lindfors is an award-winning Cameroonian-Finnish choreographer, artistic director, facilitator and educator with an MA in choreography from the University of Arts Helsinki.

She is the Artistic Director and founder of UrbanApa, an interdisciplinary and counter

hegemonic arts community that offers a platform for new ideas and feminist practices.

Lindfors' performance works have been shown and supported throughout Europe and she is a member of Miracle Workers Collective which represented Finland at the 58th Venice Biennale. In all her positions she pursues creating and facilitating anti-racist and feminist platforms, using festivals, performances, publications or workshops to facilitate empowerment and radical collective dreaming.

Coproduction: Zodiak - center for new dance, Goethe-Institut (International Coproduction Fund), Big Pulse Dance Alliance (a project co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union), Dance Umbrella, Julidans, Finnish Cultural Institute for the Benelux, Apap – FEMINIST FUTURES (a project co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union).

Presented in partnership with BAC. Supported by the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland.