



## **PRESS RELEASE**

11 June 2024

### **DANCE UMBRELLA ANNOUNCES FULL PROGRAMME 9 - 31 OCTOBER 2024**

- **LIVE PROGRAMME INCLUDES:**

- UK PREMIERE OF MAMELA NYAMZA'S *HATCHED ENSEMBLE* AND FIRST LOOK AT HETAIN PATEL'S *MATHROO BASHA* AT THE BARBICAN
- UK PREMIERE OF DIANA NIEPCE'S *THE OTHER SIDE OF DANCE* AT THE SOUTHBANK CENTRE'S QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
- UK PREMIERE OF POCKETART'S *FAIRY TALES* AT THE PLACE
- FOR CHANGE TEMPO: ADAM SEID TAHIR & AMINA SEID TAHIR'S *SEVERAL ATTEMPTS AT BRAIDING MY WAY HOME* AT BRIXTON HOUSE
- PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED EUROPEAN PREMIERE OF ABBY Z AND THE NEW UTILITY'S *RADIOACTIVE PRACTICE* AT SADLER'S WELLS
- FAMILY SHOWS FROM de STILTE AND HACKNEY SHOWROOM

- **DIGITAL PROGRAMME INCLUDES:**

- FILMS: ABBY ZBIKOWSKI'S *RADIOACTIVE PRACTICE*; ROSEMARY LEE & HUGO GLENDINNING'S *SENTENCE*, POCKETART'S *FOLDS OF TOUCH*, LEA ANDERSON'S *THE FEATHERSTONEHAUGH'S DRAW ON THE SKETCHBOOKS OF EGON SCHIELE* AND HETAIN PATEL'S ANIMATIONS
- CHOREOGRAPHERS CUT: IOANNA PARASKEVOPOULOU TALKING ABOUT *MOS* & ARTIST ENCOUNTERS WITH LEA ANDERSON
- PROGRAMME ALSO INCLUDES STUDIOS SESSIONS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED



LIVE AND DIGITAL EVENT IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#)  
ARTIST PHOTOS AVAILABLE [HERE](#)  
FESTIVAL TRAILER [HERE](#)

**Dance Umbrella**, London's annual international contemporary dance festival, is delighted to announce the full 2024 festival programme taking place across London, and online, from 9 - 31 October.

**Dance Umbrella's co-CEO and Artistic Director Freddie Opoku-Addaie** commented: *'Dance Umbrella 2024 is our 46th Festival taking place across our global city, and 4th online as we continue to connect and grow with our national and international audiences. This year's festival encapsulates themes of transformation, reflection and representation.'*

*'We dedicate it to Emma Gladstone, Dance Umbrella's Artistic Director and CEO during 2014-20. Emma's creative brilliance and ethical compass were always pioneering, whilst being aligned with a rapidly changing world.'*

## LIVE PROGRAMME

Opening the festival at the Barbican this year, South African choreographer **Mamela Nyamza** presents **HATCHED ENSEMBLE**, running in the Theatre and UK based performer and choreographer **Hetaim Patel** presents **Mathroo Basha** playing in The Pit.

Internationally renowned choreographer Mamela Nyamza makes her Barbican debut, assembling 10 dancers, an opera singer and an African traditional multi-instrumentalist to perform the UK premiere of **HATCHED ENSEMBLE**, her urgent and subtly spectacular work. Clad in costumes covered in clothes pegs and balanced timidly en pointe while Camille Saint-Saens' *the Swan* plays, the dancers challenge gender norms while juxtaposing

references to Western classical dance and music, with South African vocals. Mamela Nyamza has won many accolades for her activism-focused creations. *HATCHED ENSEMBLE* continues her work which unapologetically demystifies and deconstructs the history of dance, interrogating the accepted norms of the classics. *HATCHED ENSEMBLE* is presented by Dance Umbrella and Barbican, and supported by British Council, Cockayne Foundation and the Edwin Fox Foundation.

In his first appearance at the Barbican, acclaimed visual artist and filmmaker **Hetai Patel** returns to the stage with a preview performance of his latest solo *Mathroo Basha* (Mother Tongue in Gujarati). Following the passing of a number of first-generation immigrants in his family, British born Hetai reflects on what is lost and what is transformed, revisiting rituals rooted in his family's working-class Brit-Gujarati experience.

Responding physically to the audio interviews of women from his family speaking in Gujarati about inheritance, loss and the future, Hetai delves into the emotional realities of generational change through personal movement explorations where his body becomes the conduit. London-based artist Hetai has shown films, paintings, sculptures, photographs and performance work in galleries, theatre and iconic public screens around the world. *Mathroo Basha* is presented by Dance Umbrella and Barbican, and supported by Cockayne Foundation and FABRIC International.

Dancer, choreographer, and acrobat **Diana Niepce** explores her recovery from a spinal cord injury, seeking new ways to integrate the disabled body into mainstream dance. In her solo piece *The Other Side of Dance*, which will be at the Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall on 16 & 17 October, Diana examines dance's past and the principles driving movement, rigorously testing her body with minimal staging to present the non-normative body as revolutionary rather than victimised. Diana is joined on stage by three 'performer assistants' who support her through an intense journey of an alternative dance history. The performances will be followed by an extended post-show discussion with BSL on the 16th October.

Contemporary dance and physical theatre collective **POCKETART**'s latest work *Fairy Tales*, featuring eight female dancers and two musicians, comes to the UK for the first time. Exploring the intersection of femininity, identity and self-discovery, *Fairy Tales* aims to connect us to our past by revisiting childhood experiences. By taking on different roles from fairy tales or every day real-life figures, the dancers envision new fantasies that reimagine how we see our happy endings. **POCKETART**'s work is characterised by tackling topics that go beyond the personal experience of the individual, touching on global societal issues. With striking visuals, melodic sound and virtuosic dance performance, *Fairy Tales* invites us to playfully reconsider our own identities.

**Change Tempo** returns to Brixton House in 2024 to introduce London to two international artists whose transformational works blur the line between dance and visual art.

Sweden-based **Adam Seid Tahir** and **Amina Seid Tahir** draw inspiration from literature on Black feminism and marine mammals for their latest production – *several attempts at braiding my way home*, a show born out of longing for a space that celebrates and holds their multiplicities as queer Afro-Nordic siblings. Solo performer Adam begins the show by removing their braids and attaching them to a sculpture of a weave that is suspended at the back of the stage. Like real hair, the weave grows with each performance, storing memories and emotions, creating a timeline that carries the history of the piece. Set to a pulsating score, *several attempts at braiding my way home* is a meditation on how it feels to have a place in which to dream, and to truly call home.

## PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

Six performers take the stage with explosive energy in a genre-bending performance, named one of New York Times' Best Dance Performances of 2022. **Radioactive Practice** from award-winning American choreographer **Abby Zbikowski** blends street dance, synchronized swimming, post-modern dance, tap, football, martial arts, and African forms. The work challenges physical and mental limits while exploring our survival instincts.

Audience members are seated on multiple sides, enhancing the dynamic experience. Senegalese dance artist **Momar Ndiaye** contributes as dramaturge, highlighting the complexities of contemporary life. This marks the European premiere of Zbikowski's company, **Abby Z and the New Utility**.

October half term starts with a Dance Umbrella Family Weekend at Unicorn Theatre and Potters Field Park with performances, workshops and arts and crafts for the whole family to enjoy.

On Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 October, you can experience the magic of **de Stille**, renowned dance company from the Netherlands, who bring their thrilling new show for young children to the Unicorn and the UK for the very first time. Watch two captivating dancers and a musician embark on a wondrous journey, exploring the world through touch, sound, and movement. Their performance mirrors the awe and curiosity of a young child discovering their surroundings, creating a spellbinding experience for both kids and parents. **Eyecatchers** is an enchanting adventure, perfect for families with children aged 1 and above. Enjoy the show and stay for interactive playtime on stage, where the whole family can immerse themselves in this world of wonder!

Wander over to Potters Fields Park on Saturday 26 October for **The Bobby Dazzler, Hackney Showroom's** touring stage on wheels. Pop on your dancing shoes for an afternoon of DJ's, live cabaret acts, dance floor prizes and family fun!

Dance Umbrella will also be running fun-filled, family friendly dance workshops for early years children and their grown-ups at the Unicorn. Perfect for audiences of Eyecatchers, you'll be led by a dance artist who will encourage you to explore movement, sound and play inspired by the show.

## DIGITAL PROGRAMME

For the 2024 Festival, Dance Umbrella has produced and curated a selection of innovative dance films, a panel discussion and unique encounters with this year's festival artists. If you can't be there in person, this is a great way to experience the festival from wherever you are in the world.

The Digital Pass is Pay What You Can and will give viewers access to the entire digital programme within this year's festival, available online to global and national audiences from 9 - 31 October.

**Abby Z and the New Utility's Radioactive Practice** will make its much-anticipated UK premiere at this year's Dance Umbrella Festival. For anyone unable to attend the live dates at Sadler's Wells, we are offering a filmed version available with this year's Digital Pass. Hurling onto the stage with explosive physicality, six performers challenge their physical and mental limits in a genre-bending new work.

Drawing influences from street dance, synchronised swimming, post-modern dance, tap, football, martial arts and contemporary African forms; **Radioactive Practice** from

award-winning American choreographer **Abby Zbikowski** and crew, shatters movement expectations and explores our instincts for survival. This powerful piece was recontextualised from the stage for film by director **Jeremy Jacob** to interrogate the complexities of contemporary living.

British visual artist and filmmaker **Hetai Patel** created a series of animations during lockdown in 2020. Initially intended to loop infinitely as individual works, they are presented as part of the Dance Umbrella Festival as a single screen taster series for the first time. Reflecting on his approach to all his multidisciplinary practices, Hetai is interested in the specificity of each medium he uses – in this case, some explorations for the body that are only possibly through animation. A highly sought after artist, Hetai's online performance work, including his 2013 Ted Talk, has been viewed over 50 million times. He recently joined the selection committee for the BAFTAs in 2023 and is currently working on a major project with Artangel.

Photographer and filmmaker **Hugo Glendinning** and choreographer **Rosemary Lee's** acclaimed short film, **Sentence**, explores the fleeting nature of dance through innovative animation techniques and slow shutter speed. Filmed in a former courtroom, dancer **Lauren Potter's** movements blur in and out of the dark wooden panels, an effect created using only variations in shutter speed and the dancer's actions which needed to be repeated for long periods of time to create short sequences. Crafted during the isolating period of lock down and accompanied by **Isaac Lee-Kronick's** haunting soundtrack, **Sentence** is both poetic and mysterious, and evokes a profound sense of longing.

Inspired by memories of the choreographer **Johana Pocková's** grandmother, **Folds of Touch** by **POCKETART** follows four female dancers, an eight-year-old girl and a 90-year-old woman, as they perform on stage. Based on the production Warehouses Full of Emotions, the film is both a documentary of the play and a fictional depiction of the women's lives in real time.

Dive into some of the most exciting minds in contemporary choreography. Now in its fifth year, this edition of **Choreographer's Cut** features **Ioanna Paraskevopoulou**.

Using everyday objects: umbrellas, plungers, and of course, coconut shells, **MOS**, which had its UK premiere at the Barbican as part of Dance Umbrella 2023, evokes the sound effects made by expert foley artists for film and TV. The physical act of generating audio while following the film becomes energetic dance, with tap numbers turned into recordings that are looped, distorted, paused and intensified. Filmed on the set of **MOS** at the Barbican, in this **Choreographer's Cut** Ioanna takes us behind the scenes to look at the inner workings of her innovative production, which was a sell-out success at last year's festival.

Choreographer **Lea Anderson** discovered the work of Austrian expressionist painter Egon Schiele years ago when leafing through the Arnolfini bookshop. Taken by the possibility of seeing Schiele's framing of repeated figures in the reproduction of his sketchbooks as a system for writing dance, she imagined Schiele as a choreographer whose dances had been lost in **The Featherstonehaugh's Draw on the Sketchbooks of Egon Schiele**. Originally created in 1998 as a live work, it was remade as a film in 2010 in collaboration with **Deborah May** of Kinoki and with new music by **Steve Blake** and **Will Saunders**. The film has never been publicly aired and will be a world premiere for Dance Umbrella 2024.

## ARTIST ENCOUNTERS

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

resonate. This year, **Lea Anderson** will lead the session which will be live streamed with a small amount of tickets available in person at Trinity Laban.

## **STUDIOS SESSIONS**

**Studio Sessions** is a presenter programme, introducing dance artists based in England to promoters from the UK and abroad, with the ambition of brokering new relationships for international co-commissioning and future touring. *Studio Sessions* is a partnership between [Dance Umbrella](#) and [FABRIC](#) that has been running since 2018.

Four artists will be sharing works-in-progress and preview performances at this year's *Studio Sessions* as part of Dance Umbrella 2024. Three of which are presented in partnership with The Place and one, *Mathroo Basha* by Hetain Patel, will be presented at The Pit, Barbican Pit.

A series of panel discussions will be announced in July.

Meanwhile, outside of the festival dates, returning for a second triumphant year, **London Battle** takes over Somerset House's iconic open-air courtyard on 17 August with a day of dance and breaking showcases, workshops, live DJs and a big outdoor party, all culminating in a head-to-head dance battle between the four corners of London.

In November, **Anthea Lewis** of **Blullili Projects** will be guest international curator at Dance In Vancouver (Canadian West Coast Dance Platform), supported by Dance Umbrella and FABRIC International.

Dance Umbrella Festival audiences may have previously seen **Marco da Silva's** work *førm inførms*, part of Via Katlehong's Via Injabulo, performed at Sadler's Wells in 2023. His new work **CARCAÇA**, inspired by the rave scene and traditional Portuguese dance, with a cast of 10 performers is presented as a shortlisted entry to the inaugural Rose Prize at Sadler's Wells on 1 and 2 February 2025..

## **ENDS**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **LISTINGS**

**Dance Umbrella 2024**

**9 - 31 October**

**Across London and Online**

<https://danceumbrella.co.uk/>

**Mamela Nyamza** (South Africa)

**HATCHED ENSEMBLE**

Wednesday 9 – Saturday 12 October, 8.15pm

Press performance: Wed 9 Oct, 8.15pm

Post-show talk Thu 10 Oct. *Free for same day ticket holders. BSL interpreted.*

Pre show Touch Tour Fri 11 Oct, 6.45pm

Audio described performance Fri 11 Oct

**Barbican Theatre**

Tickets: £16 - £30

£15 Young Barbican tickets available (14-25yrs)

Age guidance: 13+

Presented by Dance Umbrella and Barbican.

Supported by British Council, Cockayne Foundation and The Edwin Fox Foundation.

**Hetain Patel (UK)**

***Mathroo Basha***

Friday 11 & Saturday 12 October, 7pm

BSL interpreted performance Saturday 12 Oct

Post-show talk Sat 12 Oct. *Free for same day ticket holders. BSL interpreted.*

**The Pit, Barbican**

Tickets: £18

£5 Young Barbican tickets available (14-25yrs)

Age guidance: 7+

Presented by Dance Umbrella and Barbican. Supported by Cockayne Foundation and Fabric International.

**Studio Sessions**

Saturday 12 October, 2pm – 5pm

**The Place**

**Diana Niepce (Portugal)**

***The Other Side of Dance***

Presented by Dance Umbrella and the Southbank Centre

Wednesday 16 & Thursday 17 October, 7.30pm

Press performance 16 October

Extended post-show talks Wed 16 (*BSL interpreted.*) & Thu 17 Oct.

**Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall**

Tickets: £23 / £18

Presented by Dance Umbrella and the Southbank Centre

**Abby Z and the New Utility (USA)**

***Radioactive Practice***

Friday 18 & Saturday 19 October, 7.30pm

Press performance 18 October

Post-show talk Fri 18 Oct. *Free for same day ticketholders. BSL interpreted.*

**Sadler's Wells Theatre**

Tickets: £25 - £30

Presented by Dance Umbrella and Sadler's Wells. Supported by The Linbury Trust

**POCKETART (Czechia)**

***Fairy Tales***

Tuesday 21 & Wednesday 22 October, 7.30pm

Press performance 21 October

Post-show talk Tue 21 Oct. *Free for same day ticketholders. BSL interpreted.*

**The Place**

Tickets: £20 / £16

A Big Pulse Dance Alliance co-production. Presented by Dance Umbrella and The Place

**Adam & Amina Seid Tahir** (Sweden/Eritrea)

***several attempts at braiding my way home***

Thursday 24 & Friday 25 October, 7.30pm

Press performance 24 October

Post-show talk Thu 24 Oct. *Free for same day ticket holders. BSL interpreted.*

**Brixton House**

Tickets: £16 / £12

Presented by Dance Umbrella and Brixton House

**Dance Umbrella Family Weekend**

Presented in partnership with Unicorn Theatre and Team London Bridge. The Bobby Dazzler was created with support from Hackney Community Fund.

**de Stilt** (Netherlands)

***Eyecatchers***

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 October, 11am & 2pm

Press performance 26 October

**Unicorn Theatre**

£18.50 / £14.50

**Hackney Showroom** (UK)

***The Bobby Dazzler***

Saturday 26 October, times 12pm - 5pm

**Potters Fields Park**

FREE

**ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES**

**Lea Anderson**

Lea Anderson is an independent artistic director, filmmaker and choreographer, based in North Devon. She co-founded The Cholmondeleys dance company in 1984 and The Featherstonehaughs in 1988, creating over 87 works. Lea has collaborated on hundreds of projects. She received an MBE in 2002 for services to dance and an Honorary Doctorate of Arts from Dartington College in 2006. In 2014, she became a Regents Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. 2024 marks the 40th anniversary of The Cholmondeleys.

**de Stilte**

de Stilte is a professional dance company based in the Southern region of The Netherlands, that focuses entirely on developing productions and performing for children. They perform hundreds of shows every year, for both the public and for schools. Education is an integral part of de Stilte's activities. Since the foundation in 1994, de Stilte has expanded to become the most attended youth theatre producer in The Netherlands.

de Stilte wants to take as many children as possible out of the everyday world and into the abstract world of the senses, encouraging children to tell their own story using the boundless limit of the imagination. They believe that imagination pushes boundaries: by becoming part of the story, by experiencing it and using your imagination, your world becomes larger and more familiar. Based on that philosophy, founder and artistic director Jack Timmermans works with academically trained dancers to produce ambitious shows for young and old.



### **Hugo Glendinning**

Hugo Glendinning is a photographer and filmmaker. His output stretches across the cultural industries from contemporary art to music, dance and theatre. He is prolific and has developed close collaborative working practices with a wide range of international artists, notably Tim Etchells and Forced Entertainment, Paola Pivi, Martin Creed, Matthew Barney, Michael Clark, Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker, Siobhan Davies, Yinka Shonibare MBE and Franko B, recording both performances for camera and gallery/studio/public events.

His documentary film making includes work on Anna Halprin, Tehching Hsieh - both with Adrian Heathfield - Miranda July and Tamara Al- Mashouk.

### **Hackney Showroom**

Hackney Showroom is a development space for experimental theatre artists and makers of award-winning live performances. They support non-mainstream theatre makers, working across a range of performance disciplines to create new work for the stage. They work with some of the most experimental voices in the UK, offering them a rigorous approach to developing their practice, paving the way for artists to make astonishing and memorable work.

Hackney Showroom delivers year-round free creative and cultural projects for participants from babies to elders from their Kings Crescent Estate base.

### **Rosemary Lee**

Rosemary Lee is a choreographer and filmmaker with four decades of experience in various settings, including disused factories, beaches, and tree canopies. She works with both professionals and non-professionals, from children to elders, and creates solo and large cast pieces. Lee's award-winning films have been featured in broadcasts, galleries, and festivals internationally. Her work is known for its intimacy with audiences, emphasising performers' humanity and their connection with the environment. Lee is a Senior Research Fellow at C-DaRE, Coventry University, and an Affiliate Workplace artist. Her work is produced by Artsadmin.

### **Diana Niepce**

Diana Niepce is a dancer, choreographer, and writer. She graduated from the Escola Superior de Dança, completed an Erasmus at Teatterikorkeakoulun, and earned a Masters in Art and Communication from Universidade Nova de Lisboa. An associate artist at Espaço do Tempo, she created several pieces including *Forgotten Fog* and *Anda, Diana*. She collaborates with national and international artists and curates programmes for artists with disabilities. Her recent works include the book *Anda, Diana* and the article *Experimenting with the Body*. She also curates the *Political Bodies Cycle* at Culturgest.

### **Mamela Nyamza**

South African choreographer Mamela Nyamza, trained in ballet at Zama Dance School in Gugulethu, went on to attain a formal National Diploma at the Tshwane University of Technology, and continued at The Ailey School in New York, deconstructs classical dance in groundbreaking works like *The Dying Swan* (1998) and *Hatched* (2007). Her pieces challenge norms with autobiographical themes and address social injustices in works like *Black Privilege*. Nyamza's accolades include recognition at the Makhanda Standard Bank National Arts Festival and JOMBA! Dance Festival as Legacy Artist for the Year 2023. She was named the Standard Bank Young Artist for Dance in 2011 and received the IMBOKODO Award for Dance in 2016. Invited to participate in events around the world, she aims to use dance for social commentary through her non-profit company, MAMELAS ARTISTIC MOVEMENT.

### **Ioanna Paraskevopoulou**

Ioanna Paraskevopoulou, Athens-based dancer and choreographer, graduated from the Greek National School of Dance and currently studies at Ionian University's Department of AudioVisual Arts. Focused on merging audio-visual media and movement, she collaborates with artists like Iris Karayan

and Christos Papadopoulos. Notable awards include Best Performance for *Sans Attente* and second prize for *mneme [action] 21*. She received the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Artist Fellowship (2019-2020) and created *All She Likes Is Popping Bubble Wrap* for Onassis New Choreographers Festival 8, winning awards internationally. Her works *MOS* and *Coconut Effect* have garnered acclaim and awards. Selected for Aerowaves Twenty23, she tours with *MOS* and *All of My Love*.

### **Hetaim Patel**

Hetaim Patel is a London-based artist and filmmaker known for his work in various mediums including films, performances, and photography. His art has been showcased worldwide in venues such as Tate Modern, Venice Biennale, and Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art. His work, exploring identity and freedom, has been viewed over 50 million times online, including his 2023 TED talk *Who Am I? Think Again*. Hetaim has received several awards such as the Film London Jarman Award and the Best International Film award at Kino Der Kunst Festival. He is a patron of QUAD, Derby, and serves on various committees. Patel is represented by Chatterjee & Lal in Mumbai.

### **POCKETART**

POCKETARTcollective, led by choreographers Johana Pocková and Sabina Bocková, is an acclaimed international team in contemporary dance and physical theatre. They collaborate across disciplines, integrating dance, music, scenography, fine arts, and light design. Their work, featured in Aerowaves and European projects like *Shape it!* and *Big Pulse Dance Alliance*, addresses societal issues such as media manipulation, environmental threats, and corporate culture stress. Each piece explores unique physical expressions, delving into themes like individuality in competitive environments. With a focus on visual purity and original music, their performances aim to evoke spiritual reflection, engaging audiences with profound social commentary.

### **Adam Seid Tahir**

Adam is a dancer, choreographer and web developer interested in dreams and watery myths and their relationships to queer blackness. They are also deeply invested in what it means to be Afro-Nordic and have multiple heritage. Adam sees choreography as an opportunity to manifest dreams and loving speculations and use mediums including hair braiding, speculative somatics, 3D animation and sensor technology to create ephemeral worlds.

### **Amina Seid Tahir**

Amina is a Swedish-Eritrean artist and choreographer based in Stockholm and London. Her work is rooted in themes around resting and dreaming within the global majority community and grows through mediums such as sound, braiding, vibration, installation and performance. Braiding together her interests in ancestral knowledge with oral traditions and myths, she creates a universe between reality and fiction. Manifesting spaces where dreams can work like seeds to grow futures.

### **Abby Zbikowski**

Choreographer Abby Zbikowski created *Abby Z* and *the New Utility* in 2012 with dancers Fiona Lundie and Jennifer Meckley to experiment with the potential and choreographic possibility of the body being pushed beyond perceived limits, creating a new movement lexicon that triangulates dancing/moving bodies across multiple cultural value systems simultaneously. In 2016, Abby expanded the company to nine performer/collaborators for her first evening-length commission. *abandoned playground* premiered to a sold-out run at the Abrons Arts Center in New York in April 2017, leading to Zbikowski being honoured with the Juried Bessie Award, and was awarded the inaugural Caroline Hearst Artist in Residence at Princeton University, along with commissions from national and international organisations. *Abby Z* and *the New Utility* have been presented at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the Boston ICA, 92nd St Y, Movement Research at Danspace Project, Gibney Dance Center, Bard College, New York Live Arts, and the Fusebox Festival in Austin, Texas, among others. In 2021 the company was granted residency support at the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Ohio to rebuild work following a year long pandemic shutdown. Currently, they are working out of Columbus and New York City with collaborators locally, nationally, and internationally.

### **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 Artistic Director/co-CEO Freddie Opoku-Addaie's vision for the festival builds on its 45-year track record of commissioning and producing excellent work. This current chapter introduces a programme that puts emerging and diverse talent at its heart, reflecting the global identity of our London home. In 2024, Tanya Wilmer joined Freddie as co-CEO.

Dance Umbrella Festival 2024 will take place 9-31 October, across London and online. Watch this space for more spectacular shows announced in the coming months before the full festival launch in June.

[Danceumbrella.co.uk](https://danceumbrella.co.uk).

### **About the British Council**

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. We do this through our work in arts and culture, education and the English language. We work with people in over 200 countries and territories and are on the ground in more than 100 countries. In 2021–22 we reached 650 million people. [www.britishcouncil.org](https://www.britishcouncil.org)