

PRESS RELEASE

17 JUNE 2025

SHOW IMAGES [HERE](#)

ARTIST HEADSHOTS [HERE](#)

**DANCE UMBRELLA ANNOUNCES FULL 2025 FESTIVAL
PROGRAMME - 2 - 31 OCTOBER**

● **LIVE PROGRAMME INCLUDES:**

- THE UK PREMIERE OF ANDREA PEÑA AND ARTISTS' *BOGOTÁ* OPENS THE FESTIVAL AT SADLER'S WELLS EAST
- A DAY OF WORKSHOPS AND PERFORMANCES WITH CASA FESTIVAL AT BRIXTON HOUSE
- CHANGE TEMPO: LILIAN STEINER'S *SIREN DANCE* AND MARÍA DEL MAR SUÁREZ/LA CHACHI'S *RANDOM TARANTO* WILL BE PERFORMED AT THE PIT, BARBICAN
- ALSO AT THE BARBICAN, LES ARTS FLORISSANTS & AMALA DIANOR COMPANY PRESENT *GESUALDO PASSIONE* IN THE HALL
- DAVI PONTES AND WALLACE FERREIRA'S WORLD PREMIERE *REPERTÓRIO N.1* IN COLLABORATION WITH SERPENTINE
- TJIMUR DANCE THEATRE PRESENTS THE UK PREMIERE OF *BULABULAY MUN?/HOW ARE YOU?* AT THE PLACE
- FINALLY, ELENA ANTONIOU'S *LANDSCAPE* WILL BE PERFORMED AT SHOREDITCH TOWN HALL

● **DIGITAL PROGRAMME INCLUDES:**

- THE DANCE FILMS *6.58: MANIFESTO* BY ANDREA PEÑA & ARTISTS, *NOUN REC* BY AMALA DIANOR COMPANY & GRÉGOIRE KORGANOW AND *BULABULAY MUN?* BY TJIMUR DANCE THEATRE
- LEGENDARY SOUTH AFRICAN ARTIST VINCENT MANTSOE DISCUSSES *MEN-JARO* IN THIS YEAR'S CHOREOGRAPHER'S CUT

- TWO CURATED INTERNATIONAL FILM PROGRAMMES - BETWEEN BREATH & LENS BY HSEIH I-HSUAN & EMILY SHIN-JIE LEE, AND A COLLECTION FROM CHARLES LINEHAN OF LONDON INTERNATIONAL SCREEN DANCE FESTIVAL
- FINALLY, *DANCING CLASS* PODCAST HOSTED BY DR LAURA GRIFFITHS AND DR RACHEL KRISCHE, EXPLORES CLASS AND CULTURAL VALUE IN THE ARTS

Dance Umbrella, London's annual international dance festival, is delighted to announce the full 2025 festival programme taking place across London, and online from 2 - 31 October 2025.

Dance Umbrella's Co-CEO and Artistic Director Freddie Opoku-Addaie commented: *'This year's Festival brings together a vibrant mix of perspectives that highlight just how connected our lived experiences really are. Artists, creatives, and their wider communities help join the dots in an increasingly divided world, creating space for us to tune into the humanity within ourselves and in others. Seeing and feeling the power of that interconnectedness across London and beyond, is what keeps us going.'*

This year, the Festival will have a limited number of £10 tickets available at every show. It is hoped that this will help open up the Festival to more people and make it easier to explore more of the programme.

LIVE PROGRAMME

Announced today, Brazilian collaborators **Davi Pontes** and **Wallace Ferreira** present the world premiere of ***Repertório N.1*** taking place at a venue to be announced (17 & 18 Oct).

Repertório N.1 is the final piece of a trilogy by the Brazilian artists Davi Pontes and Wallace Ferreira. The powerful series of performances challenges the idea of generalised violence while seeking new ways to understand and represent global majority lived experiences. Drawing on postcolonial, gender and race studies, the *Repertório* trilogy interrogates the mechanisms of brutality and attempts to dismantle them. The performance explores how the body – and all it carries – can develop its own form of self-defence. By setting this choreographic repertoire of self-defence in motion, Pontes and Ferreira propose strategies of resistance – using the body to provoke thought and imagination, performing violence without perpetuating it.

A day of dance workshops and events in collaboration with CASA will take over **Brixton House** (4 Oct) as part of the venue's UPRISING festival marking the 40th anniversary of the 85 uprisings.

Tjimur Dance Theatre presents the UK premiere of ***bulabulay mun?/how are you?*** (21 & 22 Oct) at The Place. This visually arresting and deeply moving production tells the story of a community suddenly confronted by the immense power of wind and waves, awakening a heightened awareness of how far they have drifted from nature. Tjimur Dance Theatre is Taiwan's premier contemporary dance company dedicated to exploring and expressing the identity of the indigenous Paiwan people. Choreographed by **Baru Madiljin**, ***bulabulay***

mun? / how are you? draws on the historic Mudan shipwreck incident of 1874 – a traumatic chapter in Taiwanese history, to reflect on the relationship between human actions and their unforeseen consequences.

Cypriot performer **Elena Antoniou** presents **LANDSCAPE** (Shoreditch Town Hall 24 & 25 Oct) a bold and intimate solo that transforms the body into a living stage. Oscillating between pleasure and pain, **LANDSCAPE** invites us into a world where self-objectification becomes a radical act. Antoniou hypersexualises her form while holding space for trauma, teasing the edges of performance and provocation. The result is a dance that dares to confront the politics of looking — and being looked at. Antoniou has presented her work across Europe, collaborating with renowned institutions including Onassis Stegi and the Marina Abramović Institute. Her practice spans choreography, performance and movement direction, and she continues to push boundaries with internationally acclaimed artist Maria Hassabi. With **LANDSCAPE**, she delivers a performance that is both deeply personal and defiantly political — a vital new voice on the contemporary dance stage.

This year, Dance Umbrella also presents the **Dance Umbrella Film Series: Sunday Shorts** (12 Oct) which will run in the Barbican Cinema. It is a public film screening programmed by international curators **HSEIH I-Hsuan** and **Emily Shin-Jie Lee** who will draw on their global perspective for Dance Umbrella Festival 2025. The programme will be followed by a Q&A with curator Emily Shin-Jie Lee and guests.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

Opening the festival at **Sadler's Wells East** this year is **BOGOTÁ** (2 & 3 Oct). Visceral, transgressive and magnetic, Andrea Peña & Artists' UK debut production constructs a brutalist landscape out of choreography inspired by Colombia's political and spiritual heritage. With striking intensity, nine performers chronicle transformations between chaos and rebirth, incarnating the tensions of ever-unfolding and turbulent histories. This hybrid work employs the company's trademark use of movement as a vehicle for storytelling, embarking on an esoteric journey through a universe charged with magical realism. It uncovers passageways to transcendence, honouring the rebellion of deviant bodies and paying tribute to resilience within the post-colonial era.

Change Tempo (8 & 9 Oct) heads to the Barbican in 2025 to introduce London audiences to two distinctive artists set to make their mark, while challenging expectations of dance. This year's dynamic pairing of artists are known for pushing the boundaries of their forms. In **Siren Dance**, Stockholm-based Australian artist and Cullberg dancer **Lilian Steiner** plays with seduction, illusion and shifting truths. A siren beckons – her invitation laced with both desire and deception. As the dance unfolds, it morphs and adapts, slipping between honesty and artifice, drawing the audience into its magnetic pull. *Siren Dance* is a mesmerising exploration of power, transformation and the fine line between authenticity and disguise. Spanish flamenco dancer and actor **María del Mar Suárez/La Chachi's Random Taranto** turns the everyday into something extraordinary. Two women, Suárez and singer Lola Delores, share a moment – eating sunflower seeds, exchanging glances – until flamenco erupts, raw and electric. Stripped back to voice and movement, this take on the *Taranto* form pulses with improvisation, irreverence and unexpected humour. The result is a strikingly intimate yet playful reimagining of tradition, where dance and song intertwine in unpredictable ways.

Also at the Barbican this year is ***Gesualdo Passione*** (16 Oct), which blends a cappella singing with expressive movement. Choreographed by **Amala Dianor, Les Arts Florissants'** *Gesualdo Passione* is a modern creation inspired by 17th century composer Carlo Gesualdo's work, conducted by Paul Agnew. In this story of suffering and love, the body is central. Amala Dianor's choreography seamlessly blends classical, modern and hip hop movement vocabularies, mirroring the contrast within the music. Six singers from Les Arts Florissants and four dancers from Compagnie Amala Dianor unite past and present in this unique stage creation. Amala returns to the festival following the critically acclaimed *Emaphakathini*, commissioned by South African company Via Katlehong in 2023 at Sadler's Wells.

ARTIST ENCOUNTERS

Artist Encounters is a talk with an internationally renowned guest artist, focusing on cultivating practical skills, sharing knowledge and asking questions that resonate. This year, the event takes place at Shakespeare's Globe (11 Oct), in the atmospheric setting of the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse with choreographer and director **Ben Duke**. Ben is internationally renowned for his groundbreaking work both as an individual and with his company Lost Dog.

In this lecture demonstration, *Making Text Move* he will be joined by his collaborators to show live examples of his process and practice which seamlessly blends literature, theatre and dance to tell engaging stories.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Dance Umbrella will also host panel discussions this year. Firstly ***Sites of Meaning: Art, Identity and the Global City at Studio Wayne McGregor*** (3 October). A panel of internationally acclaimed artists, artistic directors and curators explore how art shapes – and is shaped by – the cities we inhabit.

At **Battersea Arts Centre** a panel of working-class artists, producers and changemakers will unpack how class shapes opportunity, access and visibility in the arts in ***Arts & Class*** (10 Oct).

STUDIO 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 collaboration between Dance Umbrella and FABRIC International that has been running since 2018, this year it takes place at Sadler's Wells East (11 Oct). Four companies, **Lost Dog, Yinka Esi Graves & Poliana Lima, Sung-Im Her** and **BULLYACHE** will be sharing works-in-progress of new performances, presented in partnership with Sadler's Wells.

DIGITAL PROGRAMME

For the 2025 Festival, Dance Umbrella has produced and curated a selection of innovative dance films with this year's festival artists, international curations and podcast episodes. If you can't be there in person, the Digital Pass is a great way to experience the festival from wherever you are in the world. Additionally this year, Digital Pass holders will be able access the content for an extra month at no extra charge.

Now in its sixth year, this edition of **Choreographer's Cut** features legendary South African artist **Vincent Mantsoe**. *Men-Jaro*, meaning "friendship" in township slang, marked a turning point in Mantsoe's choreographic journey. Fusing traditional African steps and ritual with contemporary expression, it celebrates the deep physical, emotional and spiritual ties between people and cultures. Accompanied by live, indigenous music and vocal performance, *Men-Jaro* creates a communal space where rhythm becomes connection and dance becomes dialogue. Filmed at IRIE! Dance Theatre (London, UK), this intimate reflection offers fresh insight into a work that redefined Mantsoe's choreographic language. Nearly two decades on since its presentation at Dance Umbrella in 2006, *Men-Jaro* continues to resonate with its message of connection, humanity and the power of shared rhythm.

6:58: MANIFESTO is a striking choreographic triptych by Montreal based Colombian artist **Andrea Peña** that interrogates the boundaries between the artificial and the human. This award-winning film delves through three distinct tableaux, five dancers, a DJ and an opera singer navigating the seductive constructs of artificiality that shape contemporary life. From an algorithm-driven improvisation dictated by Siri to an apocalyptic waltz laced with operatic vocals, and finally a rave-inspired exploration of collective euphoria, the work confronts the invisible forces that mediate our bodies, minds and desires.

With mechanical precision and emotional resonance, **6.58: MANIFESTO** is both a visual and philosophical provocation – an evocative digital experience questioning what it means to be human in a post-industrial, hyper-technological world.

Amala Dianor Company & Grégoire Korganow present **Nioun Rec**, which is a captivating film blending urban, contemporary and African dance styles amidst a striking architectural setting. Part of Dianor's Ciné-Danse series, this film was created in 2021 and marked the start of a creative partnership with visual artist Grégoire Korganow.

Filmed on location in southern Taiwan, **bulabulay mun?** is a visually striking, site-specific film from **Tjimur Dance Theatre**, the country's premier contemporary dance company dedicated to expressing the identity of the indigenous Paiwan people. Rooted in the historic Mudan shipwreck incident of 1874, this powerful work draws on traditional Mudan songs, ancient Paiwan ballads and evocative movement to revive ancestral memory. Blending the energy of professional dancers with the presence of local residents, the film embodies the strength of community and the spirit of place.

Choreographed by **Baru MADILJIN**, **bulabulay mun?** unfolds across dramatic coastal landscapes, echoing the production's central themes of loss, resilience and elemental connection. The wind, sea and mountains are not just backdrops, they are witness and participant in this poignant meditation on history, nature and the enduring will to remember.

International curators **HSEIH I-Hsuan** and **Emily Shin-Jie Lee** bring their borderless curatorial voice to this year's Digital Pass with a specially selected collection of films, in ***Between Breath & Lens***. This curated series mirrors the sensibility of their in-cinema programme at the Barbican, offering audiences a chance to encounter movement in its most expansive and evocative forms – from the dance of memory and time to the choreography of image and feeling. Many of the featured works highlight artists and filmmakers from Taiwan, whose practices move between the corporeal and the cinematic, drawing out resonances of presence, absence and the in-between.

Also available is ***Dance in Focus: Curation from London International Screen Dance Festival***. Dance in Focus features a selection of some of the most inventive and curious short films from around the world, curated by independent choreographer and London International Screen Dance Festival director, **Charles Linehan**.

Finally, **Dr Laura Griffiths** and **Dr Rachel Krische** host a thought-provoking podcast series that dives into how dance can drive social mobility in the UK. Several episodes have been selected to be exclusively available with the Dance Umbrella Digital Pass, offering rich, real-life insights into the potential for dance to transcend and work across class distinctions. Blending personal narrative with bi-neural sound and creative documentation, ***Dancing Class*** places dance centre stage in the conversation around class, opportunity and cultural value.

ENDS

Press Contacts:

clair@breadandbutterpr.uk | 07957 272 534
chloe@breadandbutterpr.uk | 07961 399 241
maisieallen@breadandbutterpr.uk | 07951 615 717

NOTES TO EDITORS

LISTINGS

Dance Umbrella Festival 2025

2 - 31 October

Across London and Online

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

Andrea Peña & Artists

BOGOTÁ

Thursday 2 & Friday 3 October, 7.30pm

Press performance: Thursday 2 October

Tickets: £15 - £30

BSL Interpreted Post-Show Talk: Thu 2 Oct

Sadler's Wells East

Sites of Meaning: Art, Identity and the Global City

Friday 3 October, 5pm

Tickets: £5

Studio Wayne McGregor

Brixton House Takeover with CASA Festival

Saturday 4 October

Brixton House

Tickets on sale soon

Lilian Steiner & Maria del Mar Suárez/La Chachi

Change Tempo

Wednesday 8 & Thursday 9 October, 7.45pm

Press performance: Wednesday 8 October

Tickets: £20 plus booking fee; £10 tickets available with free Young Barbican membership for 16-25s

The Pit, Barbican

Presented by Dance Umbrella and Barbican. Supported by The City of London Corporation's Inspiring London Through Culture Fund.

Panel Discussion

Arts & Class

Friday 10 October, 6pm

Tickets: Pay What You Can £4, £6, £8, £10

Battersea Arts Centre

BSL Interpreted

Studio Sessions

Saturday 11 October, 2pm

Sadler's Wells East

Ben Duke

Artist Encounters: *Making Text Move*

Saturday 11 October, 7pm

Tickets: £5

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe

Dance Umbrella Film Series

Sunday Shorts

Sunday 12 October, 3.30pm

Tickets: Standard £13, Members £10.40, Concessions £11, Under 18s £6, Young Barbican £6

Barbican Cinema

Les Arts Florissants & Amala Dianor Company

Gesualdo Passione

Thursday 16 October, 7.30pm

Tickets: From £15 plus booking fee; £12 Young Barbican tickets for 16-25s

Barbican Hall

Davi Pontes & Wallace Ferreira

Repertorio 1

Friday 17 & Saturday 18 October

Ticket price to be announced

Venue to be announced

Tjimur Dance Theatre

bulabulay mun? / how are you?

Tuesday 21 & Wednesday 22 October, 7.30pm

Press performance: 21 October

Tickets: £20, £16

BSL Interpreted Post-Show Talk: Tue 21 Oct

The Place

Presented by The Place and Dance Umbrella

Elena Antoniou

LANDSCAPE

Friday 24 & Saturday 25 October, 7pm

Press performance: 24 October

Tickets: £18, £15

Shoreditch Town Hall

Presented by Dance Umbrella and Shoreditch Town Hall

LANDSCAPE is presented with the support of Onassis Stegi – Touring Program

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Andrea Peña (she/her)

Andrea Peña, originally from Bogotá, Colombia, is a multidisciplinary artist working across art installation, choreography, and design. Since founding her practice in 2014, she has gained recognition in Canada and internationally for creating critical, alternative spaces that challenge perceptions of humanity. Her intricate, raw choreography has been presented worldwide, including in Hong Kong, Spain, India, and Canada. Peña has received numerous awards for her rigorous conceptual work, including the 2018 Banff Arts Centre's Clifford E. Lee Canadian Choreography Award and the 2018 Hong Kong International Choreography Award.

Andrea Peña & Artists

Andrea Peña & Artists is recognised for the creation of critical, alternative and spatial universes that rupture our notions of a sensible humanity. Interested in the depth of human individuality that breaches from a personal disposition as a bi-cultural artist, Peña's approach is known for its difficult choreography as a highly intricate, vulnerable and somatic raw physicality that engages in deep encounters between the physical body and a highly conceptual research approach. With a background in industrial design her work borrows from visual art practices and spatial qualities of creative making, questioning the body's material relationship to space and time.

Lilian Steiner (she/her)

Lilian Steiner is an Australian choreographer, dancer and performer based in Stockholm who has been with the Cullberg since 2023. Her work explores the body's intelligence in dance, visual arts and experimental sound. She has created numerous choreographic works presented in Australia and Europe. As a performer, she has worked with Lucy Guerin Inc, Phillip Adams' BalletLab, Melanie Lane, and others. Lilian has collaborated with architect Matthew Bird, sound artist Anna Homler and composer JLIN. She has received multiple awards, including three Green Room Awards and a Helpmann Award for best dancer.

María del Mar Suárez/La Chachi (she/her)

La Chachi reinvents flamenco, following outsiders like Israel Galván and Rocío Molina. An actress and dancer from Málaga, she trained in flamenco with La Lupi and has explored physical theatre, dramaturgy, and contemporary dance, blending them into her unique style since 2008. Her acclaimed works include *La gramática de los mamíferos* (2017), *La Espera*, *Los inescalables Alpes*, *buscando a*

Currito (Godot Dance Award 2022), and Lâs Alegrías (2025). Supported by major venues like Teatros del Canal and Teatro Central, she continues to push flamenco's boundaries.

Lola Delores (she/her)

Lola Delores, born in 1983 in Puente Genil, Córdoba, has lived in Málaga since 1988. Raised with a passion for flamenco, she is also self-taught in soul, pop, R&B, and rock styles. As a backing vocalist, she toured nationally and internationally with artists like La Mala Rodríguez (2007–2010). She later studied acting at Málaga's ESAD and has performed in a range of theatre productions. Currently, she explores new musical projects and collaborates with María Del Mar Suárez/La Chachi and Luz Arcas' La Phàrmaco. She has featured in productions like Los Inescalables Alpes, buscando a Currito, Taranto Aleatorio, and Lâs Alegrías, now touring.

Ben Duke (he/him)

Ben is Artistic Director and co-founder of Lost Dog. He trained at Guildford School of Acting and London Contemporary Dance School and holds an English Literature degree from Newcastle University. His work blends theatre, dance, and literature. Lost Dog won the 2023 National Dance Award and its Royal Opera House co-production Ruination earned Best Modern Choreography and an Olivier nomination. Other notable works include Juliet and Romeo, A Tale of Two Cities, and It Needs Horses. Beyond Lost Dog, Ben has created for Scottish Dance Theatre, Phoenix Dance Theatre and others including Death Trap for Rambert, with multiple Olivier nominations across his career.

HSIEH I-Hsuan (she/her)

HSIEH I-Hsuan is a film curator, writer and researcher based in Amsterdam and Taipei with a background in anthropology. She programmes for Women Make Waves Film Festival Taiwan and the Singapore Film Festival, and also works independently with a focus on East and Southeast Asian cinema. She offers film festival strategy consultancy for short films and documentaries, helping filmmakers navigate the international circuit. She is editor-in-chief of Taiwan Documentary E-Paper and a member of the Taiwan Film Critics Society. Her writing centres on non-fiction and artists' films, highlighting underrepresented voices in Asian cinema and broader film Discourse.

Emily Shin-Jie Lee (she/her)

Emily Shin-Jie Lee is a cultural practitioner based in Amsterdam, currently head of research at Framed. Her work focuses on residencies, fellowships and cross-institutional collaborations shaped through discursive formats. She studied anthropology at National Taiwan University and holds a research master's in art studies from the University of Amsterdam. Since 2022, she has been pursuing a PhD at ASCA, exploring art residencies in relation to ecological, feminist and decolonial concerns. Emily is a founding member of Lightbox in Taipei, and co-founder of Limestone Books in Maastricht and Hide & Seek Audiovisual Art, a collective for cultural mediation and alternative pedagogy.

Amala Dianor (he/him)

Amala Dianor, a self-taught hip hop dancer, trained at the Centre National de Danse Contemporaine Angers, graduating in 2002. After a decade as a performer, he founded his company in 2012, developing a signature style that blends movement techniques with raw expression. Collaborating with musicians and visual artists, he explores hybrid forms of dance. His works include CinéDanse (2021), Siguifin (2022), and DUB (2023). With 21 creations and six short films, his company tours globally. Honoured as a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres in 2019 and an Officer in 2024, Dianor remains a leading choreographic voice.

Paul Agnew (he/him)

British tenor and conductor Paul Agnew is renowned for his expertise in 17th- and 18th-century music, particularly high-tenor roles in the French Baroque. A close collaborator of William Christie and Les Arts Florissants, he began conducting for the ensemble in 2007, leading a celebrated Monteverdi madrigal cycle. He has directed productions including *Platée* and *L'Orfeo* and co-directs *Le Jardin des Voix*. As a guest conductor, he has worked with leading orchestras across Europe and the US. Recent projects include *Bach, A Life in Music* and *The Fairy Queen*. In 2024–25, he will conduct *Jephte* and *Resurrezione*.

Davi Pontes (he/him)

Davi Pontes is an artist, choreographer, and researcher with a BA and MA in Arts from Universidade Federal Fluminense and additional studies at ESMAE (Portugal). Since 2016, he has presented work at major institutions and festivals across the U.S., Europe, and Brazil, including the University of Pennsylvania, International DANCE Festival München, MITsp – Festival Internacional de Teatro de São Paulo, and the Biennale de la Danse de Lyon. He has completed residencies at ImPulsTanz [8:tension], La Becque, and MAM Rio, among others. Pontes received the Young Choreographers' Award at ImPulsTanz, the Artlink 100 Award, and a Fundación Ama Amoedo grant (2024–25). He participated in the 35th Bienal de São Paulo and choreographed *Variação* for Balé da Cidade de São Paulo. His practice engages with research-based performance and has been featured in galleries, theatres, and international festivals.

Wallace Ferreira (she/they)

Wallace Ferreira is a choreographer, performer, and visual artist. With a degree in dance from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and Parque Lage, and a residency at the Inclusartiz Institute, she received the ImPulsTanz Award for Young Choreographers (2022) and the FOCO ARTRIO Award (2024), and was named Artist in Focus at MITbr2025. Her work consists of studies of social codes choreographed by dissident bodies. Since 2018, she has performed at prestigious galleries and festivals in Europe and the Americas, such as the Lyon Dance Biennale, the 35th São Paulo Biennial, and the Panorama Festival, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, Serralves Museum, Rumos Itaú Cultural. At Ballroom Legendary Mother at Kiki House of Mamba Negra. Director of *Atraque* and *Vogue Funk*.

Tjimur Dance Theatre

Founded in 2006 in Timur, a Paiwan community in Pingtung, Tjimur Dance Theatre is Taiwan's first professional contemporary dance company dedicated to Paiwan culture. Led by Artistic Director Ljuzem Madiljin and Dance Director Baru Madiljin, the company developed Tjimur Physical Skills, a unique method transforming Paiwan traditions into contemporary movement. With over 150 performances across Europe, Asia, and the Americas, Tjimur has earned acclaim at major festivals and award nominations. In 2018, they launched the Tjimur Arts Festival and a cultural initiative to deepen ties between community and contemporary performance, sustaining Paiwan identity through innovative artistic expression.

Baru MADILJIN (he/him)

Baru is from the Timur Village of Paiwan. He graduated from the School of Dance, Taipei National University of the Arts. Since 2006, he has been the Dance Director and Choreographer of Tjimur Dance Theatre. In 2014, *Spiked*, an online magazine in the UK, praised his work, stating "the choreography was strong". In 2017, *Le Figaro*, a major newspaper in France, said, "this piece inherited not only the traditions from ancestors but also the spirit of Martha Graham". In 2016, Elena Hernández wrote in *EL DIARIO*, a daily newspaper in Mexico, "this high-quality piece was sensational and strongly attracted the audience's attention." In 2022, Baru was selected as the Performing Arts Redefined Person of the Year in Taiwan.

Maurice LAI (he/him)

Maurice, born and raised in Hong Kong, has pursued a multifaceted career across video, dance, drama and diet culture. He holds a BA and MFA in Film and Television from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. He creates commercials, video designs and image records for television, film and stage. In 2015, he became the first to win the Hong Kong Dance Alliance Dance Award for a dance video. He later received the City Contemporary Dance Laureate award (2017) and, with Sue Healey, won the 2018 Dance Award for Outstanding Visual Design for ON VIEW: HONG KONG.

Elena Antoniou (she/her)

Elena Antoniou is a dance and performance artist from Cyprus. She trained at the Greek National School of Dance and London Contemporary Dance School, performing with Edge dance company. A recipient of scholarships from the Koula Pratsika Foundation and ImpulsTanz's DanceWeb Programme, she has presented work across Europe and collaborated with institutions including Onassis Stegi, MAI, and NEON. Since 2021, she has performed with Maria Hassabi and worked as a choreographer in theatre. She was nominated for the Cyprus Theatre Organisation Creator of the Year award. She won the choreographer award for Diary of a Madman and was nominated for Beckett5. Her latest work LANDSCAPE has toured major European festivals.

Vincent Mantsoe (he/him)

Vincent Sekwati Koko Mantsoe is an internationally renowned choreographer whose work fuses African spiritual and street dance traditions with contemporary movement. Raised in Soweto within a family of Sangomas (traditional healers), his early experience of ritual and rhythm shaped a distinctive physical and choreographic language. Trained at Moving Into Dance Mophatong, he developed a powerful Afro-fusion style rooted in Zulu, Xhosa, Pedi, Venda and Shangaan heritage. Mantsoe's work is celebrated for its spiritual depth, emotional intensity and technical precision. Based in France since 2005, he continues to create, teach and perform across the globe, inspiring artists and audiences alike.

Dr Laura Griffiths (she/her)

Laura is Senior Lecturer in Dance at Leeds Beckett University. Her research interests cohere around the relationship between dance and archives including the role of oral narrative in documenting the past. Recent research has investigated the role of dance content on social media as modes of social connection and as an archival method. Laura is active in advocacy for the best practice in dance teaching, access and inclusivity in Higher Education within her role as Vice Chair of Dance HE, the national representative body for academics and practitioners in Higher Education Dance Departments.

Dr Rachel Krische (she/her)

With a performance career spanning over 33 years, Rachel has performed, made work, movement directed, conducted research and taught extensively in diverse, international contexts. She has collaborated with over 30 different artists/companies such as Deborah Hay, La Ribot, Akram Khan, Siobhan Davies. Within academic research, Rachel investigates embodied knowledge, embodied cognition, body as archive and social class in dance within art practice and education. She mentors artists and post-graduate students and is a member of advisory panels within the professional sector. Occasionally she still busts a few moves ... in front of an audience.

Grégoire Korganow (he/him)

Grégoire Korganow is a French photographer and filmmaker whose work blends documentary, performance and visual art. A graduate of the École Estienne, he began as a photojournalist in 1991, contributing to major international publications. Known for immersive projects such as Prisons and Père et Fils, his work explores themes of identity, vulnerability, and the unseen. He has exhibited widely in France and internationally, and has created films and installations focused on dance and

incarceration. Korganow's poetic, research-driven approach prioritises collaboration and critical reflection, offering nuanced perspectives on contemporary life. He also teaches workshops in France and abroad.

Charles Linehan (he/him)

Charles Linehan is an independent choreographer who has held residencies at The Place, London; Joint Adventures, Munich; and Dance4, Nottingham. He directs the London International Screen Dance Festival and curates Brighton Screen Dance Festival. His company debuted at Dance Umbrella in 2001 and has since performed at major venues and festivals across Europe, North America, and Russia. His dance film *The Shadow Drone Project* has screened globally, including at the Lincoln Center and Dance Umbrella, earning a Winning Film award at POOL: Internationales TanzFilmFestival Berlin in 2019. He is also a panel member for Screen Dance International, Detroit.

Sung Im Her (she/her)

Sung Im Her is a South Korean choreographer and performer based in the UK. She studied contemporary dance at Hansung University and Belgium's P.A.R.T.S., and has worked with acclaimed companies such as Ji-Gu Dance Theater, Les ballets C de la B, Needcompany, and Opéra de Lille. Her UK-based works include *You Are Okay!* (2017), *Nutcrusher* (2019), and *Tomorrowisnowtodayisyesterday* (2024). The Guardian named her one of 2023's top ten stage sensations. Her choreography blends minimalism with strong political themes, tackling subjects like migration and sexual violence through precise, iterative movement and theatrical elements.

Yinka Esi Graves (she/her)

Yinka Esi Graves is a British dance artist whose work bridges flamenco and African diasporic forms. Trained in Madrid and Seville, she has performed with Remedios Amaya and Concha Buika. Her practice spans stage and site-specific work and is influenced by artists such as Nora Chipaumire. Her acclaimed solo *The Disappearing Act* premiered in 2023 and continues to tour internationally, accompanied by her illustrated lecture *On Erasure*. Yinka co-created *Clay* (2016) and has appeared in *Mailles* and *Cuerpos Celestes*. She is currently developing a new solo for 2027 exploring themes of visibility and historical presence.

Poliana Lima (she/her)

Brazilian-born choreographer Poliana Lima is based in Madrid, where she creates work rooted in identity, memory and pedagogy. With a background in sociology and diverse dance training, she has created over a dozen works, including *Es Como Ver Nubes* and *Hueco*, both of which toured widely. Her 2020 piece *Las cosas se mueven pero no dicen nada* was selected for *Aerowaves 2021*. Poliana is developing *El cuerpo común*, a trilogy about the body and cultural legacy. She co-directs *EspacioTiempo* studio and collaborates with Yinka Esi Graves on *A Place to Dance*, while preparing *Carnaval* for 2027.

BULLYACHE

BULLYACHE is a UK-based duo formed by Courtney Deyn and Jacob Samuel. Fusing dance, live music and pop spectacle, their work draws on ballroom, performance theory and rigorous physicality. Their productions *TOM* and *Who Hurt You?* earned international acclaim, with Frieze calling the latter "queer performance art defined by confession and self-affliction." Supported by Arts Council England, Warp Records, and the Genesis Foundation, they've held residencies at Barbican and Studio Wayne McGregor. In 2025, they became the first dance artists to record at Abbey Road Studios and premiered a new piece at Paris Fashion Week with *Loverboy*.