



PRESS RELEASE

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DANCE UMBRELLA ANNOUNCES FULL 2026 FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Dance Umbrella, London's annual international dance festival, is delighted to announce the 2026 festival programme taking place across London and online from 7 - 27 October 2026. Curated by Artistic Director & Co-CEO **Freddie Opoku-Addaie**, the festival brings the best of international contemporary dance to London audiences.

LIVE PROGRAMME INCLUDES:

- THE ANNUAL ARTIST ENCOUNTERS TALK WITH THE RENOWNED CHOREOGRAPHER AKRAM KHAN
- SOUTH AFRICAN CHOREOGRAPHER MAMELA NYAMZA RETURNS TO DANCE UMBRELLA WITH *THE HERD/LESS* AT SADLER'S WELLS EAST
- BRAZILIAN CHOREOGRAPHER POLIANA LIMA AND BRITISH FLAMENCO ARTIST YINKA ESI GRAVES PRESENT *A PLACE TO DANCE* PERFORMED AT THE PLACE
- ALSO AT THE PLACE, DUTCH ARTIST ARNO SCHUITEMAKER PRESENTS *AFTER AFTER*
- SCOTTISH ARTISTS JACK ANDERSON AND CHARLOTTE MCLEAN IN COLLABORATION WITH MALIN LEWIS PRESENT *NOT FOR GLORY* AT CECIL SHARP HOUSE
- AT THE BARBICAN LEBANESE FRENCH CHOREOGRAPHER OMAR RAJEH PRESENTS *DANCE IS NOT FOR US*
- FOR FAMILIES, THEATRE-RITES AND MIGUEL ALTUNAGA TO TOUR *ESHU* AT *THE CROSSROADS* TO THE ALBANY, *CASA* AT BRIXTON HOUSE AND THE PLACE
- FOUNDER OF BLULILI PROJECTS AND GUEST CURATOR ANTHEA LEWIS PRESENTS *TOUCH THE FLOOR* AT RICH MIX

- **OMAR RAJEH'S SPACES OF ENCOUNTER WILL BE SCREENED AT THE BARBICAN CINEMA AS PART OF DANCE UMBRELLA'S FILM SERIES: SUNDAY SHORTS**

DIGITAL PROGRAMME INCLUDES:

- **OMAR RAJEH & MAQAMAT PRESENTS *THE ODOR OF ELEPHANTS AFTER THE RAIN* PLUS A CURATION OF FILMS FROM SPACES OF ENCOUNTER**
- **INTERMEDIA PRODUCCIONES PRESENTS *GURUMBÉ: AFRO-ANDALUSIAN MEMORIES***
- **YINKA ESI GRAVES AND MIGUEL ÁNGEL ROSALES PRESENTS THREE FILMS *THE COAST I, THE FOREST AND THE DOOR***
- **MJW PRODUCTIONS & CANDOCO DANCE COMPANY PRESENT PIONEERING FILM *OUTSIDE IN***
- **POLIANA LIMA PRESENTS *POLIANA LIMA 15 AÑOS (15 YEARS)***

Dance Umbrella's Artistic Director and Co-CEO Freddie Opoku-Addaie commented:

"I continue to be inspired by the generosity, rigour and imagination of artists and their creative teams in building communities and creating work that holds space for our shared humanity, especially at a time when so much around us says otherwise.

This year's festival invites audiences to experience dance as a meeting place for cultures, histories and communities, while also celebrating the joy of coming together. Alongside witnessing extraordinary performances, many of this year's works invite you to throw a few shapes on the dance floor too. So yes, bring your dancing shoes and your good vibes - they're very much wanted on dance floors across your global city's festival."

For the second year, Dance Umbrella has made a number of **£10 tickets** available at each performance in order to open up the Festival to more people and make it easier to explore more of the programme. This year, the scheme is supported by ARC Ratings.

LIVE PROGRAMME

Announced today, Brazilian choreographer **Poliana Lima** and British flamenco dance artist **Yinka Esi Graves** draw on their multiple cultural heritages and distinct artistic languages in ***A Place To Dance*** (9 & 10 October) at **The Place**. A captivating new performance work shaped by rhythm, dialogue and an innate desire to celebrate shared experiences.

Dissolving the boundaries between audience and performer, participation and observation, the world unfolds in-the-round with a tour de force of collaborators. Framed by opening and closing sets from **DJ Oumoukala**, this immersive invasion becomes a celebration of the body in its collective dimension - communal, porous and thrillingly alive.

Also at **The Place**, Dutch artist **Arno Schuitemaker** brings seven dancers together beneath a single strip of light in ***After After*** (21 October). Drawing on the spirit of the dancefloor, seven distinct voices and ways of moving unfold side by side. Through touch, attention and

care, the dancers create a shifting field of difference, connection and possibility. An electronic score and striking lighting transform the space around them as small gestures gather momentum, creating an atmosphere that is both intimate and exhilarating.

The joyful and imaginative ***Eshu at the Crossroads*** is also announced today, presented by pioneering puppetry company **Theatre-Rites** and Afro-Cuban choreographer **Miguel Altunaga**. At a mysterious crossroads, a traveller must decide which way to turn. Watching over them is a powerful rooster, while nearby waits Eshu – the playful and unpredictable trickster spirit who delights in mischief, surprises and unexpected possibilities.

Touring across London to The Albany (24 October), CASA at Brixton House (25 October) and The Place (27 October), ***Eshu at the Crossroads*** is a vibrant family adventure for aged 5+ inspired by Yorubic culture, myth and storytelling.

Taking place at **Rich Mix** is ***Touch the Floor*** (24 October), a multidisciplinary curatorial programme exploring the history and evolution of Black British music cultures through the informal spaces where people gathered, danced, connected and created community. DU26 Guest Curator **Anthea Lewis** (Blulili Projects), traces the way sound and movement have shaped collective experience in the UK, exploring the relationship between Black British music, social dance and cultural production across generations. Bringing together artists, dancers, DJs, academics and audiences ***Touch the Floor*** creates space to gather, move and reflect on the histories, communities and creative legacies carried through Black British music and social dance.

The festival also presents the **Dance Umbrella Film Series: Sunday Shorts** (18 October), which will run at the Barbican cinema. ***Spaces of Encounter*** is a specially curated programme of short films selected by dance artist, festival director and filmmaker **Omar Rajeh**. Throughout his work, Rajeh explores the relationship between bodies, memory and place, examining how movement can reveal the social, political and emotional landscapes we inhabit. For this edition of Dance Umbrella's Sunday Shorts, he brings together a collection of films that reflect these ongoing artistic enquiries.

LIVE PROGRAMME - PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

South African artist **Mamela Nyamza** returns to the Dance Umbrella Festival with the UK premiere of ***THE HERD/LESS*** (8 - 10 October), presented at Sadler's Wells East. ***THE HERD/LESS*** draws on the dual meaning of the 'herd': a collective moving in harmony and a group controlled, shaped and directed by cultural and physical forces. Power emerges through ritual, repetition and the quiet surrender of the individual to the group. Cloth and cultural sticks - traditional southern African objects associated with masculine authority - become both symbols of position and tools for control. This year, Mamela Nyamza was awarded a 2026 Venice Biennale Silver Lion for her work bringing new urgency and ancestral traditions to dance.

The London premiere of ***Dance is Not for Us*** (16 & 17 October) takes over the Barbican's Pit, by **Cie Omar Rajeh & Maqamat**. Marking a rare London appearance from Omar Rajeh, the founder of Maqamat and BIPOD - Beirut International Platform of Dance, and recipient of France's Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. Rajeh brings over two decades of

practice to an intimate solo that is at once a personal memoir and a political act. Alone onstage, he dances and speaks of a past that no longer exists - of Lebanon, of loss, of a world that froze before it could become a future. Raw, urgent and deeply human, this is a work that asks what it means to keep dancing when everything around you says stop.

Finally in the live programme is *not for glory* (13 & 14 October) a restless, relentless unraveling of traditional dance and music at Cecil Sharp House. **Jack Anderson** and **Charlotte Mclean**, in collaboration with **Malin Lewis**, brings together Highland dance, Irish dance and live piping in a dance-theatre gig that is as thrillingly physical as it is emotionally charged. Rebellious, funny and fiercely alive, *not for glory* makes a powerful case for reclaiming what we inherit on our own terms. Whether you know your reels from your jigs or have never been within ten feet of a set of pipes, this is a show that will pull you onto the dance floor and not let go.

ARTIST ENCOUNTERS: ANATOMY OF A STORY

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, taking place at **The Bhavan**, one of the most influential dance artists of his generation and multi-award winning choreographer **Akram Khan** brings his distinctive voice.

This landmark event will offer a rare window into the inner workings of Khan's artistic process. Through conversation, reflection and live discussion with collaborators, he will explore how storytelling, personal history and intention underpin every stage in developing his internationally acclaimed productions.

Presented in the intimate setting of The Bhavan, a space long connected to South Asian arts and one that holds a personal significance for Akram, *Anatomy of a Story* offers a unique opportunity to experience the thinking and philosophy behind the work of a leading choreographic voice during a poignant moment in his artistic journey.

PANEL DISCUSSION

This year's panel discussion, *Curating in Context* brings together artists, curators and cultural leaders to explore how dance is programmed across different geographies and whose perspectives inform these choices.

Taking place at Somerset House, and facilitated by **Isabel Moura Mendes**, Senior Relationship Manager for Theatre and Dance at the British Council. Further panellists are to be announced.

DIGITAL PASS

For the 2026 Festival, Dance Umbrella has produced and curated a selection of innovative dance films with this year's festival artists. The Digital Pass is a great way to experience the festival from wherever you are in the world, and it remains available until 30th November 2026.

Cie Omar Rajeh & Maqamat presents a deeply personal work in ***The Odor of Elephants After the Rain*** which was created in Beirut in the aftermath of the devastating explosion at the port in August 2020. Commissioned by the Edinburgh International Festival, the film forms part of Rajeh's wider artistic inquiry into memory, displacement and resilience.

A number of the films from ***Spaces of Encounter***, specially curated by dance artist, festival director and filmmaker **Omar Rajeh** for Dance Umbrella Film Series Sunday Shorts will be made available to watch as part of the digital programme.

Also in the programme is director **Miguel Ángel Rosales'** documentary film, ***Gurumbé: Afro-Andalusian Memories*** which reveals the fundamental contribution of Afro-Andalusian communities to the music, dance and cultural expression that has shaped flamenco. Through historical research, music and performance, the film traces the experience of enslaved Africans brought to Spain during the colonial era, and explores how their cultural practices are woven into Andalusian society.

Choreographer **Yinka Esi Graves** and filmmaker **Miguel Ángel Rosales** bring together three films from their The Disappearing Act series: ***The Coast I, The Forest*** and ***The Door***. Created through a series of site-responsive interventions, the films emerge from Graves' exploration of places shaped by colonial discourse. Filmed in locations across Spain, Portugal and Ghana, they respond to landscapes that hold traces of brutal displacement and erasure, yet often bear few visible signs of the histories they contain.

Created by acclaimed choreographer **Victoria Marks** and the visionary filmmaker **Margaret Williams, MJW Productions** and **Candoco Dance Company** presents ***Outside In***. Originally commissioned by the BBC and Arts Council England's pioneering *Dance for Camera* series, the film features co-founder of Candoco **Celeste Dandeker-Arnold** alongside a cast of disabled and non-disabled dancers. Playful, inventive and quietly revolutionary, *Outside In* challenged perceptions of dance and disability at a time when inclusive performance was rarely seen on mainstream screens. The film is one of the BBC's most celebrated dance films, receiving multiple international awards and standing today as a remarkable document of Candoco's pioneering early years.

Finally in the digital pass is **Poliana Lima's 15 años** (15 years). The internationally acclaimed artist explores questions of identity, belonging and visibility through a personal lens. Reflecting on gender, age, migration and cultural lineages, she asks what lies beneath the labels we use to define ourselves, and how we connect with one another beyond them.

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

LISTINGS

Dance Umbrella Festival 2026

Live programme: 7 October - 27 October 2026

Digital Pass: 7 October - 30 November 2026

Across London and Online

danceumbrella.co.uk/festival/

Panel Discussion - Curating in Context

Wed 7 October, 6pm

Tickets: £8

Somerset House

Mamela Nyamza - *THE HERD/LESS*

Thu 8 – Sat 10 October, 7.30pm

BSL interpreted post-show talk: Thu 8 Oct

Tickets: £15 - £30 + £4 transaction fee

Sadler's Wells East

Poliana Lima & Yinka Esi Graves - *A Place to Dance*

Fri 9 & Sat 10 October, 7.30pm

Tickets: £22, £18 (concessions)

The Place

Akram Khan Company - *Artist Encounters: Anatomy of a Story*

Mon 12 October, 7pm

Tickets: £10

The Bhavan

Jack Anderson and Charlotte Mclean in collaboration with Malin Lewis - *not for glory*

Tue 13 & Wed 14 October, 7pm

Tickets: £20.50, £16.50 (under 30s)

Cecil Sharp House

Cie Omar Rajeh & Maqamat - *Dance is Not for Us*

Fri 16 & Sat 17 October, 7.45pm

BSL interpreted post show talk: Fri 16 Oct

Tickets: £21.50 including transaction fee

The Pit, Barbican

Dance Umbrella Sunday Shorts - *Spaces of Encounter* (on sale 25 June)

Sun 18 October, 2pm

Free post-screening Q&A with curator Omar Rajeh and guest facilitator

Tickets: £13 standard

Barbican Cinema 3

Arno Schuitemaker - *After After*

Wed 21 Oct, 7.30pm

BSL interpreted post-show talk

Tickets: £22, £18 (concessions)

The Place

Theatre-Rites & Miguel Altunaga - *Eshu at the Crossroads*

Sat 24 Oct – **The Albany**

Sun 25 Oct – **CASA at Brixton House** (on sale soon)

Tue 27 Oct – **The Place**

Ticket prices and show times vary

Anthea Lewis / Blulili Projects - *Touch the Floor* (on sale soon)

Sat 24 Oct, 1pm – Late | Rich Mix

Digital Pass

Available from 7 Oct – 30 Nov | Online

About Dance Umbrella

Dance Umbrella is London's annual international dance festival, established in 1978. Each year, the festival presents contemporary dance by UK and international artists across venues, public spaces and online platforms throughout the capital. Its programme reflects the diversity of London and regularly introduces international work to UK audiences for the first time.

Dance Umbrella commissions and co-produces new work with partners in the UK and internationally, supporting the development of choreographic talent. Alongside the live festival, the organisation presents a curated online programme of dance films and artist encounters.

Supported by Arts Council England and the British Council, Dance Umbrella leads Diversifying Curatorial Stewardship (DCS), an initiative focused on developing new pathways for diverse curatorial leadership through residencies, fellowships and international advocacy.

Dance Umbrella is led by Artistic Director & Co-CEO Freddie Opoku-Addaie and Executive Director & Co-CEO Tania Wilmer.

Dance Umbrella Festival 2026 takes place this October across London and online.

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

ARC Ratings

ARC Ratings is an independent, global credit rating agency with a 37-year history. Registered with ESMA, UK FCA and HKSFC, and holding ECAI status, ARC provides public and private ratings across structured finance, corporates, and financial institutions. With a strong European heritage, the firm operates from offices in London, Lisbon, and Hong Kong, combining global methodologies with local expertise to deliver unbiased, technology-driven credit analysis.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Mamela Nyamza (she/her)

Born in Gugulethu, Cape Town, Mamela Nyamza is a South African dancer, choreographer, director and activist whose work has redefined the boundaries of dance theatre. Training in ballet from the age of eight, she went on to study at the Alvin Ailey International School in New York before launching a practice built on unapologetically deconstructing the norms of classical dance. Her landmark works include the celebrated HATCHED ENSEMBLE, which

opened the 2024 Dance Umbrella Festival to widespread critical acclaim. In 2026 she was awarded the Silver Lion at the Venice Biennale. She runs non-profit company Mamela's Artistic Movement.

Poliana Lima (she/her)

Poliana Lima is a Brazilian choreographer, dancer and teacher whose work combines her background in sociology and dance to explore the body as a site of expression, research and encounter. Interested in creating stage works that communicate with audiences in both simple and profound ways, she has developed a distinctive choreographic practice over the past 15 years. Lima has created eight full-length works alongside numerous shorter pieces and projects and was an associate artist at Condeduque Madrid from 2018–2020. Her work has been supported by leading international organisations and festivals including Teatros del Canal, CND Pantin, Festival Dias da Dança and Aerowaves.

Yinka Esi Graves (she/her)

Yinka Esi Graves is a British choreographer and dancer based in Spain. Her work explores connections between flamenco and contemporary performance through an Afro-diasporic lens, positioning the body as a site of memory, dialogue and transformation. Working across stage productions, live composition and collaborative projects, she has developed a distinctive choreographic voice that bridges cultures and traditions. Her acclaimed solo work, *The Disappearing Act* (2023), premiered at the Nîmes Flamenco Festival and has since been presented at leading international festivals including El Grec, Tanz im August and the Avignon Festival, establishing her as one of the most distinctive voices working across contemporary dance and flamenco today.

Akram Khan (he/him)

Akram Khan is one of today's most acclaimed dance artists, renowned for creating imaginative, accessible and emotionally powerful work over a 25-year career. His productions, including *XENOS*, *DESH*, *Jungle Book reimagined* and *Giselle*, have had a major impact in the UK and internationally. A natural collaborator, he has worked with leading artists across dance, music, theatre and visual arts. Celebrated for storytelling that is both intimate and epic, he contributed to the London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony. Khan has received numerous international awards, was appointed an MBE in 2005, and serves as Chancellor of De Montfort University.

Jack Anderson (he/him)

Jack began Irish dancing professionally in 2008, touring with Rhythm of the Dance and Celtic Legends before working with Breandán de Gallai in Ériu Dance Company. This sparked a curiosity about new ways of moving, leading him to train at Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance. After more than a decade away, he returned to Irish dance through the development of *not for glory*. As a performer he has worked with Michael Clark, Barrowland Ballet, Farah Saleh and others, and maintains ongoing collaborations with Éowyn Emerald & Dancers and Shotput. He lives and works in Glasgow.

Emma Jones (she/her)

Emma is a Lighting Designer based in Scotland, working across the UK and abroad. Emma has lit shows for numerous companies including Scottish Opera, Charlotte Mclean and Collaborators, Solene Weinachter Dance, Perth Theatre, Birmingham Royal Ballet, The Tron Glasgow, National Dance Company Wales, Dundee Rep Theatre, Royal Conservatoire of

Scotland, Derby Theatre, Scottish Dance Theatre, Stellar Quines, National Theatre of Scotland, The Royal Lyceum Edinburgh, Catherine Wheels Theatre Company and The Citizens Theatre Glasgow.

Malin Lewis (they/them)

Malin Lewis is a bagpiper, fiddler, instrument maker and award-winning composer, and one of Scotland's most exciting musical innovators. They meld Scottish west coast tradition with a newly invented, self-made bagpipe, creating melodies inspired by European folk traditions, queerness and the universe. Their debut album Halocline was released on Hudson Records in May 2024. Through their work, Malin explores the space between the gender binary — a space with its own colourful and unique culture.

Cleo Rose McCabe (she/her)

Cleo is a costume designer, supervisor and maker based in Edinburgh. She has 14 years' experience working in costume departments across Scotland, including Royal Lyceum Edinburgh, Dundee Rep Theatre, Scottish Dance Theatre and the Traverse Theatre. Her design credits include: These Mechanisms (Robbie Synge & Christine Thynne) The Chosen Haram (Sadiq Ali, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, 2022, & International Tour, 2023); Ode to Joy (Stories Untold Productions, Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2023); Remedy for Memory (Stories Untold Productions, 2022).

Helen McIntosh (she/her)

Helen is a creative producer specialising in dance, movement and choreographic practice, based in Edinburgh. Working independently since 2019, she collaborates with artists including Charlotte Mclean, Farah Saleh, Rob Heaslip and Solene Weinachter. Previous organisational credits include Imagine, Dance Base, Scottish Dance Theatre, Stellar Quines, Edinburgh International Film Festival and Traverse Theatre.

Charlotte Mclean (she/her)

Charlotte Mclean studied at London Contemporary Dance School and works internationally as a performer, choreographer and interdisciplinary creative. Named Dance Fellow of 2025 by The Arts Foundation, her work has been commissioned by The Place London and Tojo Theater Bern and presented at the V&A, Tramway Glasgow and Alte Münze Berlin among others. Her practice draws from her childhood in Scottish Highland Dance and is rooted in community values and intersectional feminism. She co-founded movement bands badbodychaoscode and Die Berner Band, and also performs for Barrowland Ballet and Eva Recacha Productions.

Omar Rajeh (he/him)

Omar Rajeh is a choreographer, dancer, founder and artistic director of Maqamat, based between Lebanon and Lyon. Across more than twenty choreographic works presented on major international stages, he develops a practice that questions the politics of gatherings and relationships, treating space as a living composition shaped by how it is arranged, occupied, and negotiated. Central to his approach is maqam – a practice of instant composition that conceives the body as a constellation of shifting centres. He founded BIPOD – Beirut International Platform of Dance, and was distinguished by the French Ministry of Culture as Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Arno Schuitemaker (he/him)

Amsterdam-based choreographer Arno Schuitemaker creates immersive performances that fuse dance, performance and visual art. Working across movement, light, music and scenography, he crafts striking sensory worlds that engage audiences physically, emotionally and imaginatively.

His work has been presented at leading festivals and theatres in more than 25 countries and is known for its distinctive blend of physical intensity, precision and atmosphere. Recent works include *After After* (2024), *The End – part 2* (2023), *30 appearances out of darkness* (2022) and *O S C A R* (2021). In 2019, *The Way You Sound Tonight* received the Zwaan, the Netherlands' most prestigious dance award.

Anthea Lewis (she/her)

Anthea Lewis is a multidisciplinary creative practitioner, curator, producer and founder of Blulili Projects. With over 20 years of experience as a performer, she brings a background in contemporary dance and physical theatre to an established career producing and curating interdisciplinary work.

Her practice centres on amplifying underrepresented voices and exploring themes of identity, embodiment and inclusion. She is the founder of UnTamed, a platform supporting female choreographers, and has worked with organisations including Dance Umbrella, Tate Modern, The Young Vic and Bernie Grant Arts Centre.

A choreographer, movement director and educator, Anthea is committed to creating inclusive, process-led spaces for artistic development.

Sue Buckmaster (she/her)

Sue Buckmaster is the Artistic Director of Theatre-Rites, a puppetry expert and the fifth generation of theatre practitioners in her family. She is known for her unique puppet whispering technique and her work exploring animism.

Sue has created over 30 site-specific and theatre productions for Theatre-Rites including MIF17's *The Welcoming Party*.

She has worked with a wide variety of companies as a dramaturg and director including the National Theatre and the Akram Khan Company.

Sue holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Essex and is the co-author of *Theatre-Rites: Animating Puppets, Objects and Sites* with Dr Liam Jarvis. She is an Advisor for Sadler's Wells and Polka Theatre.

Miguel Altunaga (he/him)

Miguel Altunaga is a Cuban-British choreographer, movement director and dancer whose international career spans leading companies including Danza Contemporánea de Cuba, Rambert, Hofesh Shechter Company, Akram Khan Company and Lost Dog. As a choreographer and movement director he has created work for organisations including Phoenix Dance Theatre, Royal Ballet and Opera, the Royal Ballet School, Elmhurst Ballet School, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Acosta Danza, Tate Modern, Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, Theatre-Rites, Emergence Dance, Hampshire Youth Dance Company and Holland Dance Festival. His work combines contemporary, classical and Afro-Cuban influences.

Miguel's achievements include the Cuban Best Male Solo Award and nominations at the Critic's Circle National Dance Awards in the UK for Outstanding Male Performance, Best Dancer, and Best Modern Choreography.

He has also served as a judge for BBC Young Dancer, supporting emerging artistic talent.

Yinka Esi Graves (she/her)

Yinka Esi Graves is a British choreographer and dancer based in Spain. Her work explores connections between flamenco and contemporary performance through an Afro-diasporic lens, positioning the body as a site of memory, dialogue and transformation. Working across stage productions, live composition and collaborative projects, she has developed a distinctive choreographic voice that bridges cultures and traditions. Her acclaimed solo work, *The Disappearing Act* (2023), premiered at the Nîmes Flamenco Festival and has since been presented at leading international festivals including El Grec, Tanz im August and the Avignon Festival, establishing her as one of the most distinctive voices working across contemporary dance and flamenco today.

Victoria Marks (she/her)

Victoria (Vic) Marks is an Alpert Award-winning choreographer, Guggenheim and Rauschenberg Fellow, and Fulbright Distinguished Scholar, who has been making dances for stage and film for the past 45 years. Her work migrates between choreo-portraits and action conversations for individuals who don't identify as dancers (veterans, dads, moms, sorority and fraternity students) -- and dances for and with dancers that fuel Marks' inquiries into movement. Marks' long-term collaboration with filmmaker Margaret Williams includes the award-winning dance films: *OUTSIDE IN* (BBC); *MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS* (Channel 4); *MEN* (BBC); and *VETERANS*.

Margaret Williams

Margaret Williams (1953–2024) was an award-winning film director, producer, mentor and writer, internationally respected for her distinctive creative vision and innovative approach to filmmaking. She was acclaimed for her dance and music-drama films, as well as arts documentaries made in locations undergoing significant social change, including South Africa, Israel, Northern Ireland and East Berlin. Her long collaboration with choreographer Victoria Marks produced celebrated works such as *Outside In*, *Mothers and Daughters*, *Men* and *Veterans*. Other notable projects include *One Man Walking* and films for the Royal Opera House, alongside acclaimed productions including *Hamlet the Film*, *Written on Skin* and *Owen Wingrave*.

Candoco Dance Company

Founded in 1991 by Celeste Dandeker-Arnold OBE and Adam Benjamin, Candoco Dance Company has spent 35 years redefining who can create and perform dance. Renowned for work by disabled and non-disabled artists, Candoco has toured nationally and internationally, challenging perceptions of dance and disability. Now evolving into a producing and artist development organisation, its work centres on four pillars: Performance & Commissions, Skills & Leadership, Partnerships, and Advocacy. Supporting D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists at all career stages, Candoco drives inclusion across the sector through an innovative Artistic Assembly model that champions collaborative decision-making.

Miguel Ángel Rosales (he/him)

Director and screenwriter, Miguel Angel has written and directed several short films: Luz en los Márgenes, Atrapados al Vuelo, La Maroma. His feature film Gurumbé. Chansons de ta Memoire Noire (2016), which has enjoyed a long international run, is the first film to address the presence of African descendants in Spain and their influence on flamenco and Andalusian culture. His documentaries have won numerous awards and have been selected for many festivals, including São Paulo, SEMINCI, the Minneapolis Latin Film Festival and L'Alternativa in Barcelona.