

ENCOUNTERS

YORKSHIRE
DANCE

Dancing In Your Shoes | 7–8 July 2023

A 2-day festival of dance in Leeds city centre
exploring gender, community and identity



Part of

LEEDS
YEAR OF
CULTURE **2023**

yorkshiredance.com



WELCOME

"We are delighted to welcome our European Partners and friends from Performing Gender: Dancing In Your Shoes to Leeds for this latest edition of the Encounters Festival.

This festival shines a light on the "epicness" of humans and the incredible impact of people coming together, sharing their lives and their stories.

Through workshops, films and performances, we hope you enjoy immersing yourself in thought-provoking experiences and save enough energy to join us for a final celebration as we party into the night with Fresh Junk Arts!"

- Hannah Robertshaw & Kirsty Redhead, Yorkshire Dance

The festival is part of European project, Performing Gender: Dancing in Your Shoes which works with partners and communities across 8 countries. Performing Gender is supported by Creative Europe. The project holds the firm belief that gender, sexuality and LGBTQIA+ identities can be explored through dance and local community engagement.



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

Festival Venues and Travel

Festival events take place at Yorkshire Dance with a headline Double Bill performance at Leeds Playhouse as part of their Open Season.

Yorkshire Dance and Leeds Playhouse are just a 2-minute walk from each other and are both located in the cultural quarter of Leeds city centre. Yorkshire Dance is opposite BBC Yorkshire and Leeds Conservatoire. Leeds Playhouse is directly opposite Leeds Bus Station.

Both venues are a 2-minute walk from Leeds city centre bus station and a 15 minute walk from Leeds train station.

There is limited on-street parking available for Blue Badge holders on St Peter's Square. There is also car parking available nearby at Victoria Gate in Leeds.

For any travel related queries please contact
admin@yorkshiredance.com

Access at Encounters

We want everyone to enjoy Encounters Festival. Both venues are accessible. If you have any specific access needs or queries please give us a call on 0113 243 8765 or email us at access@yorkshiredance.com.

Booking Information

At Yorkshire Dance, we're committed to making our work affordable for everyone so all our events are Pay As You Feel. However we ask that you book in advance of the 7 July.

You can book tickets for each event on our website at www.yorkshiredance.com or by phoning our box office on **0113 243 8765**.

#EncountersFestival



Cover image: Company of People © Elly Welford

Talk

Taking Space – a talk on coproduction, power and identity With Laura Kumin

Fri 7 July, 17:00–18:30
Studio 1, Yorkshire Dance



Taking Space, facilitated by Laura Kumin, is a relaxed talk, exploring questions around coproduction, power and identity.

Hear from the artists and communities involved in the Performing Gender: Dancing in Your Shoes project, as they discuss their experiences of creating dance together, building empathy and understanding within a group and how personal stories and identities shape a choreographic process.

Inviting in broader perspectives from guest artists, Jo Fong and Dee Rogers, the talk will explore how to dismantle hierarchy in creative processes, what the challenges are when shifting from process to performance and how to redefine our expectations of community dance practices.

We warmly invite you to join us, to share your experiences and to meet some of our local and international guests.

Image: Encounters Festival, 2023 © Brian Slater

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Performance

But First We Are Going to Eat By Community of 's-Hertogenbosch, Theaterfestival Boulevard

Friday 7 July, 19:00 – 20:30
Studio 3, Yorkshire Dance



Eight people are searching for the ways and the words to share their stories and find a collective voice.

Connected by their Former Dutch East Indies and Moluccan roots, but different in how they express themselves, the performers reflect on their experiences as a minority in the Netherlands. Both fragmented and united, they overcome the silence to create a new understanding with each other and their audience.

But First, We are Going to Eat is a production by Theaterfestival Boulevard, based in the Netherlands, one of the partners in the Performing Gender: Dancing in Your Shoes project.

THEATERFESTIVAL
BOULEVARD
'S-HERTOGENBOSCH

**PERFORMING
GENDER**
DANCING
IN YOUR
SHOES

Image: Theaterfestival Boulevard © Jean Philipse

www.yorkshiredance.com

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About Our Workshops

These are practical sessions which invite you to dance. No previous dance experience is necessary, and everyone is welcome. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a bottle of water.



Express Yourself with Ágnes Grélinger

Sat 8 July, 9:30–11:00
Studio 3, Yorkshire Dance

In this guided workshop, participants are invited to connect to themselves and others, and discover inner depths.

Ágnes will lead the group in celebrating the parts of our identity that we sometimes keep hidden, in a safe, fun and gentle environment.

Participants can expect playful tasks involving music and clothing with the opportunity to embrace the diversity of our human experience.

Landing on Feathers with Jija Sohn

Sat 8 July, 9:30 – 11:00
Studio 1, Yorkshire Dance

Join us for this participative workshop with Dutch artist Jija Sohn. Jija will lead a refreshing morning warm-up before introducing a short film of her project Landing on Feathers.

In 2021 Jija Sohn, Alexandra Lemm, Nica Roses & Julia Reist began a research project with visual artist Elmer Kouwenberg, who was paralysed in a car accident 28 years ago.

This research resulted in Landing on Feathers, a poetic short film exploring the relationship between ability and disability, care-giver and care-receiver and asking where self-care fits into these dichotomies.

The film is followed by a physical ‘conversation’ as Jija leads simple and playful exercises to reflect on and question the themes within the film.

Collective Self-Care with Ágnes Grélinger

Sat 8 July, 11:30–13:30
Studio 3, Yorkshire Dance

What if we could start the day addressing our needs, desires and intentions?

What if it was a priority to care for ourselves as it is for the ones around us, finding out together what serves both the individual and the collective body?

In the first part of the workshop, participants will tune into their bodies' wisdom through somatic practices, visualisation and guided movement. In the second part we address our individual needs through creative exercises.

Collective Self-Care is a group experience to allow creativity to move through the body with ease, so we can move through the world with more grace, confidence and joy. We are practicing the creation of safe, conscious and consensual spaces to enhance our imagination of what is possible.



Dancing in Your Shoes a series of short films Drop in anytime

Sat 8 July, 9:30 - 15:00
North Space, Yorkshire Dance



We warmly welcome you to drop in to our film screening which presents a series of short documentary style films from six European partners involved in the Performing Gender project, including the Leeds community.

All films are subtitled and include 'behind the scenes' footage, interviews with artists and communities and extracts of choreographic material.

Films will be played on a loop and you are welcome to come and go as you please.

Films featured include:

The community of Bologna, Italy, the community of Tilburg, Netherlands, the community of Leeds, UK, the community of Umea, Sweden, the community of Madrid, Spain and the community of Marseille, France.



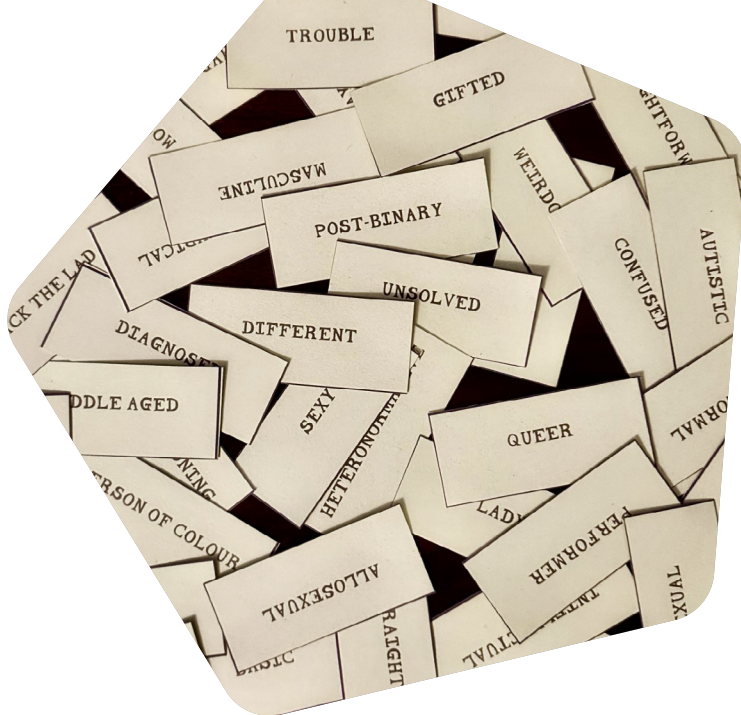
Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

Workshop

Unsolved

with Jo Fong and
Dee Rogers

Sat 8 July, 11:30–13:30
Studio 1, Yorkshire Dance
For ages 16+



Feeling different and being seen as different is a complicated business. It can be exciting, distressing, temporary, permanent, liberating, advantageous, dangerous and a cause for celebration.

Join Jo Fong and Dee Rogers for a workshop based on their new work 'A Brief History of Difference'.

Jo and Dee invite you to join them in considering some tricky questions around the subjects of difference, identity, positioning and belonging.

In this workshop we will move, share, listen, play, be curious and keep in mind that our key questions will, most likely, remain unsolved and that's ok!

'A Brief History of Difference' is an interactive theatre performance rooted in conversation, knowledge sharing, questioning and personal narrative. It seeks to open up new ways of thinking about and experiencing what it means to be different and to find a sense of belonging as a person of difference.

Image: Unsolved © Jo Fong and Dee Rogers

Workshop and Conversation

Body + Archive with Jija Sohn, Bakani Pick-Up & House of Flava

Sat 8 July, 11:30–13:30
Studio 2, Yorkshire Dance



Netherlands based Artist Jija Sohn returns to Leeds to reconnect with House of Flava, a Queer, Trans, Intersex, Black & People of Colour community, to share their experiences of working together.

We invite you to join a workshop centring around care and community. Asking how we can hold space for our own bodies as well as others and examining the ways the body leaves traces behind, revealing where it has been and where it is going.

Following the workshop join Jija Sohn, Bakani Pick-Up and House of Flava members for a 'Living Library'. At the entrance, instead of books, you will find people available for one-on-one conversation to reflect on the Performing Gender project, sharing their knowledge or their life story.



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Image: Body + Archive, Jija Sohn © Sophie Okwondo

Performance

Performing Gender: Dancing in Your Shoes Double Bill

15:00–16:30

Quarry Theatre, Leeds Playhouse

Nobody Whistles Anymore by City of Women

Exploring the role of gender
in modern society, Nobody
Whistles Anymore examines

power relations, archetypes and
stereotypes that often
spontaneously find their way into
artistic processes as well as
everyday life.

Nobody Whistles Anymore was
created by City of Women
Festival's newly formed Company.
The Company, aged 27-74, were
all new to dance and theatre and
join us from Ljubljana, Slovenia to
share their new work, devised
through workshops led by theatre
director Brina Klampfer and
choreographer Vita Osojnik.



Image: Nobody Whistles Anymore
© Nada Zgank

'Epic Stories of Our Everyday' by TC Howard and Company of People (with dance artists Kate Cox, Izzy Brittain and Bakani Pick-Up)

'We are guided by the invisible
bonds that connect us.
Bonds born out of curiosity
and play and freedom to be
'other'. We are an unlikely and
beautiful mixed community of
ages, cultures and identities
finding the humour, pride
and ownership of who we
are and how we live.'

Following in the footsteps of
Company of People's previous
work, epic stories of everyday
lives are at the heart of this
new performance which
exposes intimate details and
elevates 'everyday' culture,
literature and history to
the grandeur of high art.

Company of People is an
intergenerational group
rooted in the communities
of Chapeltown and Harehills
in Leeds. The group

worked collaboratively
with choreographer TC
Howard to create Epic
Stories of Our Everyday.

*These performances are
followed by a 45-minute post-
show discussion, inviting in
reflections from the audience,
artists and performers
about co-creation, identity
and creative risk taking.*



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

phf Paul Hamlyn
Foundation

YORKSHIRE
DANCE

Image: Company of People © Elly Welford

Party



Lets Dance! with Fresh Junk Arts

Sat 8 July, 19:30 – 22:30
Studio 3, Yorkshire Dance

Join Leeds based DJ
Collective, Fresh Junk Arts in
celebrating two days of dance,
community and discovery.

Fresh Junk aim to create an
environment that feels like a
warm and welcoming house
party whilst being open to all.

Enjoy good music, company
and some light refreshments
as we party the night away.

Image: Ageless Festival Party, 2022 © David Lindsay



SAVE THE DATE

ENCOUNTERS

Children & their grown ups
28 October 2023

A festival exploring the imaginations
and playfulness in all of us.

Image: Skydiver, Xenia Aidonopoulou
© Nikolas Louka

FESTIVAL TIMETABLE

FRIDAY 7 JULY 2023

	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm
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Talking Space: a talk on coproduction, power and identity														
But First, We are Going to Eat														

SATURDAY 8 JULY 2023

	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm
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Landing on feathers workshop														
Express Yourself workshop														
Performing Gender: Dancing in Your Shoes Film Screening (Drop in)														
Collective self-care workshop														
Unsolved workshop														
Body + Archive workshop & conversation														
Performing Gender: Dancing in your shoes Double Bill Followed by a Q&A														
Party														

- Talk
- Performance
- Workshop
- Film Screening
- Party

Access At Encounters

Encounters festival takes place across two venues in the cultural quarter of Leeds, Yorkshire Dance and Leeds Playhouse. The access provisions of these venues vary. If you have any specific access needs or queries please give us a call on 0113 243 8765 or email us at access@yorkshiredance.com.

Braver Spaces

Yorkshire Dance aims to be an accessible and inclusive place for all. This means you will be welcomed by our staff. We create a 'braver space', where you feel able to express yourself in a supportive and empowering way. You will be treated with respect by Yorkshire Dance staff and we expect and encourage everyone at Encounters to do the same.

You can find more details at: yorkshiredance.com/about/policies

Yorkshire Dance

All doors in the building are wheelchair accessible and all floors can be reached via a lift.

Accessible and gender-neutral toilets are available on all floors. We encourage everyone to use the toilets which best align with their gender identity or expression.

A quiet space is available throughout the festival if you want to step away from the action. Just ask a member of staff to point you in the right direction.

Leeds Playhouse

Leeds Playhouse's recently renovated building has larger capacity lifts and improved wheelchair positions in the auditoria. There are more accessible toilets and assistance dogs are very welcome.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

We're passionate about creating opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to see, make and take part in dance.

Support our work at yorkshiredance.com/Donate



YORKSHIRE DANCE

Yorkshire Dance
3 St Peter's Buildings
St Peter's Square
Leeds, LS9 8AH

Yorkshire Dance
Registered Company No.2319572
England & Wales
Registered Charity No.701624



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LEEDS
YEAR OF
CULTURE 2023



PERFORMING
GENDER
DANCING
IN YOUR
SHOES



Co-funded by the
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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

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Return to Cultural Vibrancy



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL



UK Government

**LEVELLING
UP**

**West
Yorkshire**
Combined
Authority



**Tracy Brabin
Mayor**
of West Yorkshire

