
DANCE IN THE NORTH

Connecting
dance artists and
organisations



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INTRODUCTION

‘Dance in the North’ is an informal and evolving network of organisations with a strong shared desire to build stronger connectivity and support for artists across the North West, Yorkshire and the North East, exploring how greater alignment can better benefit audiences and artists.

Born of a desire to create and nurture opportunities to collaborate, share and learn across the region, we hope that ‘Dance in the North’ is a network which can contribute to a thriving dance ecology in the North of England.

We welcome other partners with a shared interest in artist development and programming of dance across the North to get in touch and be part of the conversation.

Dance in the North is an informal network of organisations based in the North West, Yorkshire and the North East who are committed to programming dance and supporting the development of independent dance artists and companies. The network began to form in 2021, through a series of conversations amongst a growing group who found shared interest in artist development. The network currently includes Yorkshire Dance, Bradford Arts Centre, Dance City, Cheshire Dance, The Civic in Barnsley, Lowry in Salford,

Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds, Lancaster Arts, CAST Theatre in Doncaster and Culture Warrington. We are working together to explore ways in which we can further support the development of dance across the North of England.

Our aim is to create space for meaningful connections between independent artists and organisations and to have open conversations around some of the key issues facing independent artists and the dance sector in the North of England.

We will reflect and respond to ongoing conversations with artists and partner organisations to inform network events. Together, we share ambition to:

- Increase opportunities for artists to better research and develop work in the North and increase the sustainability of their careers
- Increase investment in the research and development of that work
- Build relationships between artists and promoters / contexts

This brochure collates information on what dance organisations in the North can offer to artists. You can find out about each organisation’s artistic policy, what kind of artists they work with, what support they can (and can’t) offer, and how to contact them. We will update information on an annual basis.

THE CIVIC

barnsleycivic.co.uk



Who Are We?

Barnsley Civic was built nearly 150 years ago with a mission to empower and educate the working men and women of Barnsley. Over the decades since, our historic walls have held a theatre, a library, an art school and much much more. Today we are a modern art centre with a significant programme of theatre, dance, music and visual arts. We are a place to experience culture, and also a place to make art for yourself.

Artistic policy

As we grow our cultural programme and expand our community engagement ever further, we envision a Barnsley Civic at the heart of its town, and at the centre of an ever expanding network of cultural, heritage and community partners.

We continue to offer local audiences and artists a place to make and experience all forms of art, culture and heritage; as well as sharing the very best of music, dance, theatre and visual arts from across the UK, and beyond, with the people of Barnsley.

With 150 years of history behind us, we work tirelessly to ensure that Barnsley Civic continues to be a thriving, independent home for entertainment, creativity and community.

What kind of artists do we work with?

We are keen to support local and regional artists to build a connection with them and our audience. We also programme national and international touring performance that resonates with our audiences.

Available Support

We present between 3 – 6 indoor dance/circus performances per year.

Barnsley Civic also has a rich history of championing both emerging artists and established companies. Working closely with creatives across multiple disciplines,

Barnsley Civic has built enduring partnerships that support the creation of bold, innovative work. These relationships, alongside deep connections with local communities, are central to everything Barnsley Civic does.

We understand the challenges artists face in accessing the support they need to develop their work. That's why we're dedicated to providing opportunities for artists of all genres who live in or want create work in Barnsley.

We work with artists in lots of different ways including:

- Creative Socials (On the first Thursday of every month 6PM – 8PM)
- Artist Residencies (5 Day residencies in our studio Free of Charge)
- Civic Family (Associate Artists)

To find out more about each of these please visit our website here <https://barnsleycivic.co.uk/get-involved/artist-support/>

What we can't help with

Our funding is limited so we can not produce work in house or offer large commissioning budgets.

Spaces & Capacities

- Assembly Theatre – 394 flexible performance space
- Studio Theatre – 50 Seat Studio Theatre
- Mandela gardens – outdoor flat(ish) grass performance space

How to approach us / Contact details

Preferred contact via email
programme@barnsleycivic.co.uk

Telephone 01226 327000

Bradford Arts Centre

bdartscentre.co.uk



Who Are We?

Bradford Arts Centre is a performance space, meeting place and creative home that spotlights the city's brilliant culture, set in the historic heart of Bradford city centre.

We're here for everyone. Whether you're taking time out, exploring your creativity, developing new work, or seeing exceptional South Asian dance and contemporary performance — this is your space.

Located in Bradford city centre, between the Broadway Shopping Centre and Bradford Cathedral. We have specialist studio and theatre spaces, desk space and an onsite café.

Artistic policy

We help artists be more creative and make more work.

Supporting artists working in dance, theatre, and music to create work and develop their creative practice is a core part of what we do at Bradford Arts Centre. This includes providing studio space, offering organisational and developmental support and help and guidance with writing funding applications. We have 3 Programming Strands— all work the company supports and/ or presents needs to align with at least one of these. You should consider which of these strands your work aligns with before approaching the organisation.

The company has a particular focus on supporting Classical Indian dance and South Asian art forms.

What kind of artists do we work with?

Bradford Arts Centre support artists that are creating work that aligns with their Programming Strands. They are particularly interested in supporting dance artists with a relationship with Bradford District and artists of South Asian heritage, or who are working in a South Asian artform.

What support is available?

- Paid performance opportunities (Bradford Arts Centre programmes 12 months in advance).
- In-kind studio space for rehearsals (booked 6 months in advance but some standby available).
- Organisational development support and mentoring with staff team members.
- Arts Council funding/bid writing/project grants support.

What we can't help with

- Bradford Arts centre has a very limited commissioning budget.
- They can't support work that doesn't align with one of their Programming Strands.

Spaces & Capacities

- Theatre: 150 Fixed seats (with the option to add an additional 20 seats in front| Lighting and Sound rig | Performances and Rehearsals• 128 retractable seats.
- Studios: 5 spaces including 2 dance studios with sprung floors and mirrors and 1 dark studio or working on projection etc.

How to approach us / Contact details

Main contact: Alex Corwin, Marketing & Programme Manager
Email (preferred): alex.corwin@bdartscentre.co.uk
Phone: 01274 303340

In your initial contact, Bradford Arts Centre advises you to outline your idea and be clear about how it aligns to the company's Programming Strands. www.bdartscentre.co.uk

CAST

castindoncaster.com



Who Are We?

We're a multi-artform theatre venue in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. We have two auditoria (620 seats and 180 seats) plus two 'making' and two 'meeting' spaces. We programme a wide variety of work from classic and contemporary drama to spoken word, circus, comedy, new writing, music, contemporary dance, ballet, international, children's work and work for early years. Although mainly a receiving house we occasionally produce our own work.

Artistic policy

We try to produce a balanced programme of all types of work, we are lead by quality and audience need. We programme approximately one or two pieces of contemporary dance work every year but also host (some) circus and (some) live art/performance art.

What kind of artists do we work with?

In the programme ... artists that have box office appeal ie. can pull audiences, that don't need a two day fit up, that veer toward narrative rather than abstract, that are nice to work with, that are relatively inexpensive and can bring 'added value' such as workshops, pre-show talks, schools visits, open rehearsals, audio described, etc.

Through Talent development ... early to mid-career practitioners of every hue, we're not prescriptive about artform. From time to time we have Associate Artists that get additional support and we also engage freelance artists on community projects on an ad hoc basis.

Available Support

We can offer R&D space, performance dates (... for the right show, on a split deal), one to one support.

What we can't help with

Commissions are very, very rare and funding dependent; production time in our spaces is similarly rare; we can't do your marketing for you – come with an idea of your audience and where they're going to come from; we can't populate a sharing so if you're in for an R&D and want a sharing you'll need to invite industry and peers yourself.

Spaces & Capacities

- Main Space – 620 seats on two levels; 10m x 10m stage; flying system; fully equipped lighting rig.
- Second Space – Flexible black box studio, up to 180 seats on two levels
- Dance Space – 15 x 15m double height rehearsal space; limited rig; sprung floor; mirrors; fixed ballet barre
- Dressing Rooms – nine of varying sizes

How to approach us / Contact details

Katy McLeod, Artist Development —
katy@castindoncaster.com

Deborah Rees, Performance opportunities —
deborah@castindoncaster.com

CHESHIRE DANCE

cheshiredance.org



Artistic policy

Cheshire Dance works to ensure everyone has access to dance and can benefit from its transformative power.

Through the ongoing development of innovative, person and community centred dance practices and collaborations with participants, audiences, artists and other organisations, we champion dance and the voices of those who engage and we do this with a commitment to excellence and diversity.

We make space for, listen to, engage and celebrate with participants, audiences, artists and other organisations to enable everyone's dancing voice to be nurtured and heard. Through our own creative practice and as part of a sector rich in expertise we develop and promote excellence in dance through our creative values. We encourage diversity, foster innovation in practice and develop participation and audiences. Collectively we work towards a strong, sustainable and flourishing dance and arts sector, where those touched by the transformative power of dance are living and working in a society that is thriving.

What kind of artists do we work with?

Cheshire Dance are not a venue based organisation, so we are best able to support artists who are exploring alternative ways to create and perform work – particularly, but not exclusively, those who wish to connect with the communities with whom we work (older adults, young people, people with learning disabilities, health and education settings.)

Cheshire Dance supports artists working in any area of practice (performance, professional development, participation) but prioritise artists whose work has a connection to one of our communities of interest as participants, audience or beneficiaries.

We are interested in supporting new ideas, new models of engagement, innovative and alternative practices and approaches.

What support is available?

We support dance artists living and/or working in Cheshire on a bespoke basis through:

- Space
- Funding support and guidance
- Mentoring
- Small bursaries (where budget/ funding allows)
- In-kind match funding for applications (space, marketing, mentoring)

1:1 Artist Surgeries are offered by all of the Cheshire Dance core team. These respond to artist's development needs and can cover both artistic and organisation/ development.

What we can't help with

- We are not venue based
- We do not have a performance programming budget (except when connected to additional funding for festivals/events which are normally outdoors)
- We do not have a budget/funding for producing new work (except when connected to additional funding for festivals/events)

Spaces & Capacities

We have access to a studio space that we can offer for free to dance artists for R&D, making, or rehearsals. Please note that this space is shared with Winsford Library, Winsford, CW7 2AS, and so availability varies and there is regular activity in the studio that needs to be worked around.

How to approach us / Contact details

Please look around our website www.cheshiredance.org to familiarise yourself with our work and contact Jane McLean, Creative Director to arrange a conversation - jane.mclean@cheshiredance.org.

Cheshire Dance has partnered with a group of highly respected venues and dance promoters in the North West to bring about a new model for dance talent development in the region. Founding members include: Blackpool Grand, Bluecoat, Cheshire Dance (Chair), Co. Chameleon, Contact, Culture Liverpool, Culture Warrington, hÅb, Lancaster Arts, Lowry, Storyhouse and Unity Theatre. The partnership's first priorities are to create new commissioning opportunities for North West-based dance artists, with emphasis amongst those whose voices are under-represented in our society, and to help new work reach audiences across the UK through a coordinated approach to touring.

The new partnership has published the five-point Dance North West NOW Action Plan that aims to strengthen dance talent development through collaborative commissioning, national touring, professional development and audience growth.

Find out more and read the Dance North west NOW Action Plan at www.cheshiredance.com/groups_and_projects/dance-north-west-now/.

COMPANY CHAMELEON

companychameleon.com



Image: Joel Chester Fildes

Who Are We?

Company Chameleon make original, inspiring dance theatre in Manchester, and perform across the UK and the world.

Our vision for the studio is to create a dance hub packed with possibilities for everyone. Alongside performances, our growing programme of classes includes opportunities for professional dancers, young people and adults to enjoy and feel the benefits of dance.

When we're away from home, we're either performing as part of our touring schedule, or taking dance out into local, national and international communities, introducing people to a different side of dance and movement in classes and workshops.

In 2019, Company Chameleon welcomed Dame Darcey Bussell on board as the Company's first-ever Patron.

Artistic policy

A dance hub packed with possibilities for everyone, which we will work towards by creating valuable and meaningful dance experiences, for the community on our doorstep and the communities we connect with across the world.

What kind of artists do we work with?

Alongside our core team of company dancers, we create the space and opportunity for people to have meaningful dance experiences in our community and beyond. We welcome professional dancers and final year dance students as well as adults wanting to reignite their passion for dance or reconnect with their body through movement, young dancers developing their skills, and interested collaborators from diverse backgrounds.

Available Support

- Regular free Company Class for professional dancers
- Masterclasses with guests artists from across the country to explore their creative process
- An Artist Development programme to nurture and support Dance Artists

- Space hire with reduced costs for freelance artists.
- On the day space hire available at a reduced cost to Greater Manchester freelance artists (studio 2,3,4 Monday-Friday)

What we can't help with

- We cannot offer funding or commissions outside of our artist development programme.
- Studio 1 space hire is limited due to company rehearsals
- We cannot offer technical support.

Spaces & Capacities

- Studio 1 - retractable theatre style seating and curtains with an audience capacity of 100. Workshop / class capacity: 20-25 adults / 25-30 Young People. Space dimensions: 24m length | 10m width | 7.5m height (in the middle).
- Studio 2 - Workshop / class capacity: 4-5 adults. Space dimensions: 8m length | 6m width | 4m height
- Studio 3 - Workshop / class capacity: 4-5 adults. Space dimensions: 6m length | 7m width | 4m height
- Studio 4 - Workshop / class capacity: 4 adults. Space dimensions: 7m length | 7m width | 3m height.

How to approach us / Contact details

Booking and general enquiries:
Clare Brennan | Company Co-Ordinator
+44(0)161 223 6280 | info@companychameleon.com

Marketing & Communications
Jess Howell | Marketing Manager
+44(0)7852737996 | jess@companychameleon.com

Learning, participation & workshop bookings:UK
Beth Payton or Sam Broadbent, Co-Learning & Participation Managers
+44(0)161 223 6280
beth@companychameleon.com
sam@companychameleon.com

CULTURE WARRINGTON

culturewarrington.org



Who Are We?

Culture Warrington is a charitable trust responsible for Warrington's three cultural venues; The Pyramid Arts Centre, Parr Hall and Warrington Museum and art gallery.

We lead on the development and delivery of programmes within each venue through performance, exhibitions and education whilst telling the stories of Warrington through our museum and archives collections.

In addition to this we host the annual Warrington Arts Festival, which relaunched in 2024 after receiving funding through Arts Council England's Place Partnership Fund. Warrington Arts Festival is created with, by, and for the people of Warrington. Through a year long collaboration with Warrington's community, young people, and creatives, we celebrate the town through arts, culture, people, and place. These collaborations are at the heart of a vibrant summer festival, which animates spaces and places across the town centre with an accessible and dynamic line-up of performances, events and activities. By presenting exceptional local and national creative talent, the festival programme invites audiences of all ages to enjoy new experiences in their town.

Artistic policy

By delivering Arts, Culture and heritage in well-loved venues and transformed spaces and places to nurture, Culture Warrington aims to develop and showcase local, regional and national creative talent. We celebrate the town with exhibitions, festivals, events and programmes that place our communities at the heart of everything we do.

Pyramid Arts Centre is currently undergoing refurbishment, which will deliver a new vision for the venue/ organisation: The re-mastered Pyramid Arts Centre will create an ambitious cultural change in Warrington town centre, providing a vibrant environment where our communities can experience excellence in the arts and a dynamic space for creatives to create new work across all art forms. Welcoming visitors throughout the day and evening, Pyramid Arts Centre will be a bustling creative hub, the centre of Warrington's cultural life and home to Warrington's creative community, where talent is nurtured and every generation is inspired. creative community, where talent is nurtured and every generation is inspired.

What kind of artists do we work with?

- North West artists looking to develop new work and engage with Warrington's communities.
- North West artists/ companies who perform work that connects to our communities.
- Artists creating work for families, children and young people.
- Artist creating work outdoors and in public spaces.

Available Support

- Artists development support, training, peer support, sharing of work, networking.
- Access to the museum collections and archives.
- Access to schools & communities with support from our education team and creative producers.
- Scratch platforms
- Opportunities to present work at Warrington Arts Festival and throughout the year at town centre events (Mela, Lunar New Year, Pride, Disability Awareness Day)
- Support and opportunities to present work at our venues or in town centre public spaces

What we can't help with

- Commissions are through open calls to ensure fair process.
- No match funding
- Restricted space available due to refurbishment in Pyramid Arts Centre.

Spaces & Capacities

Current:

- Pyramid Arts Centre due to reopen Spring 2026
- Warrington Museum and Art gallery as performance space
- Parr Hall: 1100 cap

How to approach us / Contact details

General Enquiries: Leah Biddle Cultural Manager — lbiddle@culturewarrington.org
 Programming and Artist Development enquiries: Lauren Banks for Warrington Arts Festival - lbanks@culturewarrington.org

See examples of our work and commissions on social media — [@warringtonartsfest](https://www.instagram.com/warringtonartsfest)

DANCE CITY

dancecity.co.uk



Who Are We?

Dance City is catalyst, convenor, and creator of excellent dance and movement experiences from the North-East, for the North-East and the world. Dance City is not a building, Dance City has a building. We act as a home and incubator for artists; a place where participants and audiences can experience dance and a place for students (including participants of non-accredited learning) to learn and create. Activity that takes place in our building is not the limit of how dance programmes are delivered. From Berwick to Teesside and from Hexham to Sunderland, Dance City will ensure that great quality dance and movement programmes can be experienced locally.

Artistic policy

We want the artists of the North-East to make world class, export-quality work here with us. We will invite artists from every corner of the globe to share their dance with our community - and we will welcome them as a friend, so when they go back home, they take a little bit of the North-East back in their heart with them.

What kind of artists do we work with?

We support artists who have a strong connection and commitment to the North East and who are dedicated to developing the dance ecology in the region.

What support is available?

- Regular professional dance training from in-house dance specialists and visiting dance professionals.
- In-kind studio space for rehearsals booked on an ad hoc, weekly basis, depending on availability.
- Regular Producer Surgeries, one-to-one 40-minute sessions to support artists ideas and plans.
- Residencies which can be between 3-14 days at our Newcastle base to develop new or early ideas.

- Creative Summer Residency Programme which consists of up to 6 six weeks of in-kind studio space between July – September. At the end of each, all artists hold a sharing for the sector and invited Programmers and Producers.
- Two annual Dance Edits performances to platform new dance work at an early stage of development.
- Annual Commissioning opportunities.
- Programming opportunities.

What we can't help with

We cannot support work that doesn't align with one of our Programming Strands.

Spaces & Capacities

6 x Studios:

Studio 1 – 148sqm
Studio 2 – 114sqm
Studio 3 – 90sqm
Studio 4 – 148sqm
Studio 5 – 48sqm
Studio 6 – 38sqm

1 x Theatre – 15x10m stage with seated capacity 240
2 x Meeting Rooms
1 x Boardroom

How to approach us / Contact details

Graeme Thompson, Senior Producer –
graeme.thompson@dancecity.co.uk –
0191 269 5586

LANCASTER ARTS

lancasterarts.org

Who Are We?

Lancaster Arts is a contemporary arts organisation that is housed within Lancaster University with a concert hall, black box studio theatre and art gallery and has been presenting combined arts seasons for over 20 years. Lancaster Arts also acts as a producer of new work which is often site-specific in the Lancaster District or further afield in outdoor environments. We are a connector of artists, academics and communities and act as an incubator for new ideas through artistic practices.

Artistic policy

Our annual programme includes performances, exhibitions, commissions, and artist development opportunities such as residencies. We are committed to social and environmental justice through our work and prioritise an artistic programme which pushes the boundaries of artforms. Our starting point is ideas, with a thematic approach to our annual two seasons and in 2024, this was Flight, in 2025, the theme will be Land. As part of an institution that values global partnerships, Lancaster Arts seeks to connect artists from beyond English borders with locally based artists and audiences.

What kind of artists do we work with?

We work with artists of all contemporary artistic practices; artists who cross boundaries of artforms or work with others in different practices or in other artform spaces. We encourage collaborations with academic disciplines and always have working with communities at the heart of our commissions. We have long-term relationships with artists and companies but welcome artists new to us and prioritise artists working in the north of England.

Available Support

Paid performance opportunities. We programme 6 - 12 months in advance but can respond to ad hoc opportunities. There are annual call-outs for residencies and commission opportunities that align with our themes or specific briefs.

Residencies are more about developing new ideas or practices less about creating new work.

What we can't help with

We generally do not act as a venue for touring productions as a one-off experience but seek to shape relationships with artists and our audiences over time.

We have limited technical capacity both in terms of equipment and staff. If your production is technically complex, we will struggle to achieve it. In these instances, we require plenty of discussion in advance and flexibility from you.

Spaces & Capacities

- Nuffield Theatre: Black box studio theatre with lighting and PA. Seats 189.
- Peter Scott Gallery: Gallery space over 2 floors. Occasionally acts as a performance space.
- Great Hall: Seats up to 650. Excellent acoustics but limited by overhead lighting only. Limited technical infrastructure.

How to approach us / Contact details

Lancaster Arts takes care to shape a balanced, diverse and original programme. We would stress the importance of looking at our programme to see the character of the work and artists we work with, before you get in touch with us. Proposals are shared with our team in programming meetings and may take time to get to that point. In your initial contact, please outline your idea or show detail and be clear how this relates to our programme approach or theme.

Visit our programming page for more information — www.lancasterarts.org/about-us/programming-policy/

Email: proposals@lancasterarts.org

LOWRY

thelowry.com



Image: Matthew Koon Scratch Night 2022

Who Are We?

LOWRY is one of the UK's largest and leading arts and entertainment centres, with three theatres, galleries, performance studios, public foyer spaces, conference facilities and a range of meeting spaces. Based in Salford in Greater Manchester, Lowry sits in the heart of Media City UK, which includes BBC, ITV, University of Salford and Imperial War Museum North.

Artistic policy

Across three theatres, we programme a wide range of theatre, dance, circus, musicals, comedy, digital and cross-arts performance. In terms of dance, this includes all genres from ballet, contemporary, hip-hop, South Asian dance, African dance forms, flamenco, and other dance styles. We present work that is relevant and urgent for our times and our audiences, and newly created, innovative contemporary performance can be seen across all scales - Lyric, Quays, and Aldridge Studio - encompassing and challenging all performance forms. Productions are often multi-disciplinary featuring physical, visual, and digital practice, and stories old and new are told in innovative ways embracing linear and non-linear narratives and diverse cultural practice beyond the Western tradition.

We present work from local, national and international artists and companies and also welcome the freshest and most exciting work being made by emerging and mid-career performance artists and practitioners as part of our contemporary performance programme.

Our Lyric and Quays theatre programme also regularly features the latest productions from nationally and internationally renowned partners such as the National Theatre, Rambert, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Opera North, Royal Court, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures and Wise Children as well as the very best touring commercial theatre.

We live stream selected performances across the year to increase access for audiences who are unable to visit our venue in person.

We also occasionally offer an outdoor and off-site programme working creatively with Salford communities to bring great performances to

their doorsteps across the year – whether in parks, pubs or other public spaces.

We find work by seeing as many performances as we can, discussing and sharing recommendations with other programmers and producers, meeting artists, and considering approaches made by email though we're less likely to book work from artists we haven't previously seen.

What kind of artists do we work with?

We work with artists at all stages in their career and in all genres. We are particularly interested in artists who collaborate with other artform or work in hybrid genres.

Available Support

We offer a range of different financial deals from fees through to guarantees and splits depending on the needs of the work, our relationship with the artist or company and how confident we are that there is a strong audience for the work. We occasionally commission new work, and are part of regional and national partnerships including Dance Consortium, to develop and present new work.

LOWRY also has a dedicated Artist Development Programme supporting artists working across performance, visual and interdisciplinary practice at all stages of their careers. We focus on nurturing talent and provide bespoke pathways to develop and present work that is original, bold and dynamic to audiences at our home Salford, across Greater Manchester, and at venues across the UK and internationally.

What we can't help with

Our spaces are in high demand, and we cannot offer long residencies and accommodation facilities for visiting companies. It is very rare that we can support production days or weeks, unless this falls within one of our Artist Development relationships. We are also less likely to book



productions of well-known titles in the Studio as these are well represented on our other stages.

Spaces & Capacities

- Lyric Theatre, 1700
- Quays Theatre, 450
- Aldridge Studio, 140

Full details of performance spaces can be found on our [website](#).

How to approach us / Contact details

For Programming: Eckhard Thiemann,
Programming Associate – Dance:
eckhard@eckhardthiemann.com

For Artist Development: Antonia Beck,
Senior Producer Artist Development:
antonia.beck@thelowry.com

If you have a finished show, send us:

- Tour pack including images, reviews, short tech spec (if you have them)
- But please don't send documents larger than about 4MB.

If you are looking for support for a new show, tell us about:

- Your company and your experience to date
- Your proposed project and its audiences
- How the project will move forward your practice
- What kind of support you will need, bearing in mind that often we will be more able to give support in kind than cash.

NORTHERN SCHOOL OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE

nscd.ac.uk



Image: Bevan Cockerill

Who Are We?

Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD) is a leading centre for dance education and development. Based in Leeds, it is the only conservatoire for dance in England outside of London. Professional training and development are offered at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, in a supportive, nurturing learning environment. Students graduate from NSCD as versatile and enterprising dance artists with highly-tuned technical, creative and performance skills.

Riley Theatre is Yorkshire's largest dedicated dance house and situated at the heart of the NSCD building. It provides an opportunity to see excellent and ground-breaking work from some of the most original choreographers on the UK and international scene. Housed in a Grade II listed former synagogue, the 240 seat theatre offers an atmospheric space to welcome and celebrate professional touring dance companies, emerging dance artists, and our local community.

Artistic policy

We programme a wide range of high quality, diverse, cutting-edge and entertaining dance work from local to national and more international artists and companies. Our programming aims to reflect our diverse society in all its forms. We believe great things happen when artists of all backgrounds meet and engage in artistic creation and collaboration.

We provide high quality, affordably priced performances for audiences on our doorstep to enjoy, as well as attracting visitors from further afield to Leeds. We are increasingly looking to develop our offer for young families in the region.

Whilst we predominantly programme dance, we occasionally host theatre performances, spoken word and music events.

What kind of artists do we work with?

We nurture artists at varying stages of their careers, who are committed to their practice and put forward compelling proposals and cases for support. We are interested in artists of the global majority, supporting artists who are based in the North and artists and companies who are looking to research, create and tour work for children and young people and their families.

Available Support

Working in partnership with other organisations, both regionally and nationally, we provide artist support throughout the year. We currently have opportunities supported through NSCD's Artist Development programme, made possible with funding from Arts Council England as an NPO (National Portfolio Organisation).

NSCD specifically supports artists of the global majority with a vision to develop their work, increase their visibility and enhance their creative voice within the sector and across the North of England.

We have several bespoke Artist Development packages per year with artists who create work for Children and Young People (CYP) and their families or adapt their work for various settings including libraries, village halls, schools and other spaces or who require assistance to network across potential programmers in the North. Advice and collaboration is also offered to artists and companies to assist in planning, researching and including CYP voices in their performance work.

Verve Research Commissions are paid opportunities for artists of any movement background and at any stage of their career to research their practice with VERVE, the postgraduate company of NSCD, without a prescribed outcome. These commissions support artists in building a relationship with the company and NSCD through a focused week of studio practice, bookended by bespoke support. Artists also have the opportunity to connect with other areas of NSCD beyond VERVE. Current residencies are focused on artists of the global majority and particularly from the African Diaspora.



What we can't help with

Our spaces are in high demand so we can rarely accommodate ad-hoc rehearsal or production space. We are limited in our capacity for commissioning and producing new work.

Spaces & Capacities

Riley Theatre seats up to 240 (stalls & balcony). Theatre equipment including PA, lighting rig and projector are available to hire. www.nscd.ac.uk/riley-theatre/hire/

Rehearsal studios:

NSCD has seven large dance studios, all of which have:

- Comprehensive audio system
- Piano
- Ballet barres
- Mirrors
- Fully sprung dance sub-floor
- Grey dance top floor (all except one which has a wooden floor)
- Video projection or monitor playback facilities

Lighting studio

Suitability: Intimate space with lighting facilities. Ideal for photography and filming.

Size: 9.5m x 9.2m

Floor: Sprung, Covered

How to approach us / Contact details

To make an initial enquiry email info@nscd.ac.uk either for the attention of the Programming Team or Artist Development Team.

YORKSHIRE DANCE

yorkshiredance.com



Photo by: Voices by Zoe Katsilerou © David Lindsay

Who Are We?

Yorkshire Dance is a dance development organisation based in a 4 storey home in the centre of Quarry Hill in Leeds. Our mission is to work through dance to create happiness, health, connection and change. We support independent artists, create new opportunities for people who face barriers to benefit from dance, and we support the infrastructure for dance across the region.

Artistic policy

We want to change the world and work with dance makers from all backgrounds who do so, however big or small. We are excited by the diversity of dance in all its forms and styles and we want to support artists who take risks and experiment, instead of reproducing previously held ideas about what is allowed or what is beautiful. We are interested in where dance intersects with other art forms, recognising the richness of interdisciplinary collaboration.

We're passionate about social justice and want to support artists who ask questions of themselves, their work and of the world. We believe in dismantling hierarchy both within the creation of dance and within our programming.

What kind of artists do we work with?

Independent dance makers from a wide variety of dance backgrounds and career stages who are based in and/or committed to working in and benefitting Yorkshire.

Available Support

- Unpaid residency studio space.
- Heavily discounted last minute studio space for artists.
- One to one bespoke advice and guidance covering planning, fundraising and producing support.
- Dance Partner Projects. One year programme offering a £3,000 cash investment, studio space and producer support for developing an artistic idea.
- Paid roles on our Artist Advisory Group.
- Annual scratch night.

- Performance opportunities in three biannual Encounters festivals themed around age, LGBTQ+ identities and children and young people.

What we can't help with

- Programming touring shows that have no connection to our festival themes.
- Programming mid-scale work.
- Production of mid - large-scale works.
- Commissioning new work that doesn't relate to our key areas of interest or audience groups.

Spaces & Capacities

Three studios with air conditioning and natural daylight and a meeting room.

Studio 1 - 165sqm

Studio 2 - 88sqm

Studio 3 - 192sqm equipped with a harlequin dance floor, modest lighting rig and retractable (flexible) seating for 80 people.

How to approach us / Contact details

For a residency application form: yorkshiredance.com/opportunity/residency/

For any questions or to book a 1-2-1 contact Tammy Tsang, Creative Projects Assistant — tammytsang@yorkshiredance.com

Joao Maio, Artist Development Producer — joaomaio@yorkshiredance.com

DANCE IN THE NORTH

Barnsley Civic

Bradford Arts Centre

Cast

Cheshire Dance

Company Chameleon

Culture Warrington

Dance City

Dance City

Lancaster Arts

Lowry

Northern School of Contemporary Dance

Yorkshire Dance



Image: Skydiver by Xenia Aidonopoulou © David Lindsay