26 October 2022

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A SSOCIATES To Start With / Ben Duke

John-William Watson Magnus Westwell Olive Hardy Vidya Patel

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Welcome



Photo © Hugo Glendinning

Welcome to Sadler's Wells and to this performance of To Start With, by the Sadler's Wells Young Associates under the artistic guidance of Ben Duke.

In November last year, the Lilian Baylis Studio hosted sell-out performances introducing the new dance talent of our second cohort of Young Associates. Now their journey sees John-William Watson, Magnus Westwell, Olive Hardy and Vidya Patel take to the Sadler's Wells stage with this world premiere evening.

We're delighted to be able to offer this platform and programme to these four exceptionally talented artists. The Young Associates programme aims to invest in and support new dancers and we believe that these choreographers are important new voices in dance. We're also grateful to Ben Duke for providing guidance, care and support to these artists. His knowledge and experience has been an invaluable resource as the Young Associates take to the Sadler's Wells stage.

The Young Associates programme is supported by The Mohn Westlake Foundation, The Garrick Charitable Trust, The Noël Coward Foundation and the Garfield Weston Foundation.

I hope you enjoy the performance.

Sir Alistair Spalding CBE Artistic Director and Chief Executive



About Young Associates

Young Associates is a two-year programme for talented dance artists aged 18-24 and 18-30 for d/Deaf and disabled choreographers. The programme is designed to give young artists that all-important first step into their career as choreographers.

Every two years, a panel selects four young dance artists to become Young Associates. The programme combines training and professional development activities alongside the opportunity to collaborate with other young creatives to create innovative new work that is presented at Sadler's Wells.

This performance marks the culmination of the programme for the second cohort of Young Associates. The 2023-24 Young Associates will be announced in early 2023.

Note from Ben Duke

It has been humbling to step into a situation as the supposed voice of experience and find myself face to face with four artists whose choreographic voices already feel so developed. I've had the rare privilege of observing these four choreographers work and I'm pretty sure I've learnt more than I've imparted.

My role has been to set up something for the choreographers to respond to, not to impose my own tastes on their creative processes.

My provocation to the choreographers was to ask them to identify, as a playwright would, what their story was, why they were the right person to tell it, why they were telling it with dance, and why they were telling it now. I wasn't pushing them towards narrative work but using the idea of storytelling to help them identify what was at the heart of their work. The artists responded to this brief with works that have clarity, integrity and works that are completely of them. And they have managed that precarious translation from idea to stage with enormous skill.

The works are disparate and yet for me they all share a sense of generosity, they all offer an invitation to enter into an internal world and to see what lives and dances there.



Image: Camilla Greenwell

Ben Duke Artistic Guidance

Ben is Artistic Director and co-founder of Lost Dog. He trained at Guildford School of Acting, London Contemporary Dance School and has a degree in English Literature from Newcastle University. His work is an attempt to reconcile those three subjects.

For Lost Dog Ben has created, A Tale of Two Cities, Juliet and Romeo, Paradise Lost (lies unopened beside me) and the Place Prize Winning It Needs Horses. Lost Dog are currently creating a Christmas show for the Linbury theatre at the Royal Opera House.

Outside of Lost Dog Ben has created work for Rambert (Cerberus and the Olivier Award Nominated Goat), Scottish Dance Theatre (The Life and Times of Girl A), Dance Umbrella (The Difference Engine), Phoenix Dance Theatre (Pave up Paradise), and the contemporary circus company Barely Methodical Troupe (Kin).

Ben also created the Swan Lake inspired There Were Definitely Swans with Hi Fliers dance company and he collaborated with composer Orlando Gough to create a dance theatre piece for stroke survivors with Rosetta Life (Stroke Odyssey).

He has choreographed for theatre projects by The National Theatre of Scotland (Dolls), the Gate Theatre, London (Sexual Neuroses of our Parents) and Handspring UK (CROW).

As a performer he has worked at the Gate Theatre (I am Falling), The National Theatre of Scotland (Dolls), Hofesh Shechter Company (Political Mother) and Punchdrunk (Faust).

Ben is an Associate Artist at The Place. In 2016 Ben won the National Dance Critics Award for Outstanding Male Performance for Paradise Lost (lies unopened beside me).



Ryan Joseph Stafford Lighting Designer

Ryan works across the UK and Europe as a Lighting Designer for theatre and dance. He trained at Rose Bruford College, graduating with a First Class BA Honours Degree in Lighting Design.

In 2019, Ryan received the 'Michael Northern Award for Excellence in Lighting Design' from the Association of Lighting Designers.

In 2020, Ryan studied for an MA in Art & Politics at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Recent designs include: Vortex (Russell Maliphant Dance Company); Shades of Blue (Sadler's Wells, Matsena Productions, BBC Arts); Natalia Osipova: Force of Nature (Bloom Dance Project); Grimeboy (Birmingham Rep); Dance for Ukraine (London Coliseum); Codi (National Dance Company of Wales); Young Associates: Mixed Bill (Sadler's Wells); Isla (Theatr Clwyd & Royal Court); Greater than Lion (Kennedy Muntanga Dance Theatre, Messums); Generation Goldfish (Bayerisches Staatsballett, Munich); NYDC X Russell Maliphant (Sadler's Wells); Left from Write (Norwegian National Ballet II, Linbury, Royal Opera House); Together, Not the Same (Sadler's Wells); The Island (Fio, UK Tour); The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives (Elufowoju, Jr. Ensemble, Arcola Theatre).

Ryan has credits as an Associate Lighting Designer for Michael Hulls, Richard Howell, Nic Farman and Hansjorg Schmidt.

Ryan is an Associate Artist of Red Oak Theatre Company and Bohemian Theatre Company.



Tim Casson Young Associates Programme Leader

Tim is a Choreographer, Educator and Performer, creating for theatre, public, unusual and online spaces. His company Casson & Friends, are known for making accessible, interactive and joyful dance projects with productions including, PREPPERS, Choreocracy, Night at the Theatre, and the Guinness World Record Breaking, The Dance WE Made. Tim's work has been presented across the world including France, Austria, Sweden, The USA, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, The UAE and Zimbabwe.

Tim has worked extensively in education for over 20 years as a teacher, mentor, dramaturg and consultant for a wide range of artists, institutions, and organisations including NYDC and Sadler's Wells where he is Programme Leader for the Young Associates scheme. Tim performed and taught extensively for Jasmin Vardimon Company, founding their JV2 Training Programme, and has also worked as a performer with Ben Wright, Katie Green and Nigel Charnock. Tim also notably worked with Disney, Star Wars, and Public Health England, to create their Train Like a Jedi programme.

A DanceEast Associate Artist (2018-22), Tim previously held associate positions at Pavilion Dance South West, Metal Peterborough and dancedigital. He is also a SERIOUSWORK Certified Facilitator of Lego® Serious Play® Method and Materials.

John-William Watson Hang in there, baby

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About Hang in there, baby

"The you of today, but also tomorrow; somehow."

- Richard Life, CEO and Director of Life & Stuff Incorporated

Are you sick and tired of life? The constant decision making? The horrid dark abyss of uncertainty we call the future?

Then boy do we have a solution for you.

In Hang in there, baby, Watson explores our relationship with destiny, fate and decision making from the depths of a new year's office party. With an original score by Antwerp-based sound-artist and composer Adam Vincent Clarke and an original script written by Watson, this creation marks a first in their collaboration with both original music and playwriting.



Credits

Concept, Creation, Set & Costume Design John-William Watson

Performance & Co-Creation Beth Emmerson, Nya Bardouille, Magdalena Anna Górnikiewicz, Lara Peres Rocha

Lighting Designer Ryan Joseph Stafford

Rehearsal Direction & Creative Consultant Jasmine Lily Norton Original Composition and Sound Design Adam Vincent Clarke Violin Sarah Bayens Piano Markiyan Popil Cello Mikko Pablo Design & Creative Consultant Joshua Cartmell (MELSH Studio) Mentor Caroline Finn Special thanks Nora Fay







John-William Watson

Concept, Creation, Set & Costume Design

John-William Watson is a dance theatre maker from Leeds. They are a Northern Connections Artist 2021/22, the co-founder of Another Collective and alumni of The Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp.

Drawing influence from Surrealism, Watson's work abstracts and plays with every-day, utilitarian and pedestrian movement. With a focus on the tragi-comedic, their work explores narratives that deal with the relationship between existentialism, the comedy of the mundane, nostalgia and time.

As an artist that emerged from the pandemic their work has been hued significantly by a surrealist ethos - that existential themes can lie beside the everyday and the mundane not only beautifully and humorously but purposefully. As a result, their work aims to tell the stories around us in the way they are actually presented to us daily, often without sense, or reason.



Adam Vincent Clarke Composer

Adam Vincent Clarke is an Antwerp-based composer of contemporary music and sound artist. Rooted in Canada, developed in Germany, before establishing in Belgium; he is a vagabond of Canada's East Coast. Adam draws inspiration through storytelling and folk tradition, composing with a tone of gewaltsame Schönheit (violent beauty).

Adam realizes creations, through independent projects and his dancetheatre company Âmok/Âmok. With Daniel Domenech he developed Y Tú and I don't (we) know for the Royal Ballet of Flanders. Adam was nominated for the 2022 East Coast Music Award:Classical Composer of the Year.

"...rich in sound, always surprising with new harmonies. It never becomes descriptive in an easy way but opens the imagination of the listener, only suggesting to him the outline of an image... I think that's characteristic for real composers: they can freeze a poetic image in sound. They do more than just writing a nice tune: they paint". Radio Klara Belgium



Olive Hardy And I know nothing again once more





Credits

Choreographer Olive Hardy Sound Artist Samir Kennedy Lighting Designer Ryan Joseph Stafford Costume Designer India Ayles Pattern Cutter and Design Assistant Florence Grellier Design Assistant Rowan Kelly Collaborator, Rehearsal Director and Dancer Annie Edwards Collaborators and Dancers Bun Kobayashi, Iona McGuire, Lydia Walker, Lewis Walker

Mentors Leah Marojević & Jules Cunningham





About And I know nothing again once more

Time keeps going and the body keeps moving, that is as much as I know. Parts of us are dying all the time; it's clear that this is an endless process, a regeneration. There is only one way through, so to aid us on the way, we ask the question: Is it happening to me or are am I happening to it?

When there is something that can't be put into words, when we're not sure where we're going, or when we get stuck, we can choose to rest. There are times of shielding and times of witnessing – there's life in the carnage. We often don't have control, but we do have the capacity to go through it.

A special thank you to Leah Marojević and Jules Cunningham for their wisdom, insight and advice whilst making this piece of work.



Olive Hardy

Choreographer

Olive Hardy is a choreographer and performer based in London. She makes visceral, embodied and emotive performance. Her approach is collaborative and process driven, where she focuses on a collective agency between the meetings of the people she works with.

Through improvisation, she finds the practice and structure for the dancers to work inside, embracing the movement language innate to the individuals performing the work. They form together and gain clarity together, allowing for an exchange of generous ideas.

Her training began at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, and she graduated from London Contemporary Dance School in 2019. She has worked with artists and choreographers such as Samir Kennedy, Leila McMillan, Will Pegna, Seke Chimutengwende, Izaak Brandt, Wilkie Branson and Hongxi Lee.



India Ayles Costume Designer

India Ayles is a costume designer working in film and dance. She studied at Cambridge University and trained in historical costume at The Museum of the City of New York. She has worked in design teams for films such as 'Ammonite' [BAFTA Nominated Costume Design], 'The Electrical Life of Louis Wain' [BIFA Nominated Costume Design] and 'Empire of Light' which premiered at London Film Festival earlier this year. This is India's costume debut on the Sadler's Wells Theatre stage and she's delighted to be collaborating with Olive!



Samir Kennedy Sound Artist

Samir Kennedy is a British/Algerian dance, performance and sound artist based between London and Marseille.

He makes interdisciplinary works across video, sound and performance that centres the body as a site from which to perform notions of class, race, otherness, queerness and abjection. His work reflects a keen sense of contemporary political precarity and urban apathy. He makes work that wants you to feel something, anything...

He has shown work at Arts Admin (UK), Southbank Centre (UK), Cca Glasgow (UK), The Place Theatre (UK), Hackney Showroom (UK), Metal (UK), Humber Street Gallery (UK), Clay (UK), Latitude (Uk), Spill Festival (Uk),]performance s p a c e[(UK), Quarterhouse Folkestone (UK), Queertopia Festivalen (SE), and Sophiensaele (DE) to name a few.

He has worked extensively as a performer and collaborator with other artists such As Yvonne Rainer, Florence Peake, Lucy Mccormick, Colette Sadler, Theo Clinkard, Charles Linehan, Simon Vincenzi, Joe Moran, Rahel Vonmoos, Liam Warren and Pablo Bronstein and has performed these works in both high profile and underground spaces across the UK and internationally.

Vidya Patel Don't Mind Me

About Don't Mind Me

What does it feel like to be dissociated? Disconnected from your body, space, time, feelings and identity... Kaha shuroo? Kaha khatm? (in Hindi) meaning – Where does it start? Where does it end?

Patel explores the trans generational nature of these experiences and the defence mechanisms our mind creates to protect itself, with an original score by composer Shammi Pithia which features the text & spoken word of Zia Ahmed and Indian vocals of Abi Sampa.

This work follows the process of unburdening the several versions of ourselves we have in our minds. How can we reconnect our body and mind?





Credits

Concept, Choreography and Direction Vidya Patel Set Designer/ Dramaturg Shankho Chaudhuri Lighting Designer Ryan Joseph Stafford Composer Shammi Pithia Writer & Spoken Word Artist Zia Ahmed Indian Vocals Abi Sampa Costume Designer Manuela Fleming Psychiatrist & Mental Health Advisor Dr Devika Patel Senior Psychotherapist, MBACP Accredited, EMDR Accredited, CRM Practitioner Laurent Lagasse Rehearsal Director Monique Jonas Assistant Rehearsal Director Dominic Coffey Co-Creators & Dance Artists Aishani Ghosh, Akshay Sharma, Dominic Coffey, Monique Jonas, Tommy Khosla

Special thanks to the entire team of artists & collaborators who have joined me to make this vision come to life. Thank you to my mentors Thick & Tight for their advice and encouragement during this creation, as well as the incredible Learning Engagement team. Thank you Yashwant & Vanita Patel and Nirmal Chohan.

Mentors Thick & Tight (Daniel Hay- Gordon & Eleanor Perry)





Vidya Patel

Concept, Choreography and Direction

Vidya is a Birmingham based movement artist, choreographer, performer and collaborator. Training in Kathak from a young age, Vidya takes influences from various languages and experiences of working with a diverse range of artists within dance, music and visual arts. Her work focuses on autobiographical narratives drawing on themes of identity, belonging and empowerment.

In 2015, Vidya represented the South Asian Category in the Grand Finals of the inaugural BBC Young Dancer 2015 at Sadler's Wells and has since performed and presented work nationally and internationally with several companies, artists and collaborators including Richard Alston Dance Company, Gary Clarke, Hetain Patel, Thick & Tight, Connor Scott, Shammi Pithia, Sujata Banerjee Dance Company amongst others. Vidya's choreographic commissioned work has been on the stages of Royal Opera House, Sadler's Wells, Trinity Laban and across the UK.

Experiences of connecting with people through her work has been integral to informing Vidya's curiosity-based practise which is embedded in collaboration, care whilst continuously striving to challenge herself through new experiences. Whilst a Young Associate at Sadler's Wells, she has initiated the formation of Sadler's Wells South Asian Advisory Panel, and continues to advocate for wider representation within the arts. vidyapatel.com



Shankho Chaudhuri Set Designer and Dramaturg

Shankho is a Set and Graphic designer.

He received an MEng in Mechanical Engineering from Imperial College London , followed by a joint MA MSc in Global Innovation Design from the Royal College of Art and Imperial.

Previous Designer credits include: Kabul Goes Pop: Music Television Afghanistan (Brixton House); TRAPLORD (180 The Strand / Sadlers Wells), Five Plays (Young Vic), Ghost Walk (Poltergeist Theatre), Final Farewell (Tara Theatre), Inside (Orange Tree Theatre), Living Newspaper (Royal Court), Art Heist (New Diorama Theatre). As Associate Set and Graphic Designer: Is God Is (Royal Court). As Assistant: Death of England: Delroy, Death of England (National Theatre).



Shammi Pithia Composer

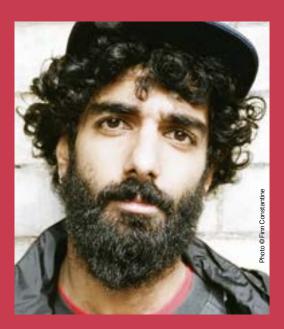
With a number of successful albums to his name, Shammi Pithia has become an in demand creative composer, producer and collaborator and has been performing his music around the world for the past 12 years with notable appearances at Glastonbury Festival, Wembely Stadium, Serendipity Arts Festival (Goa) and sold-out solo shows at London's Southbank Centre.

As a collaborator Shammi writes and performs music for dance in the kathak and contemporary fields, as well as writing for film, large ensembles and directing music for large scale shows.



Manuela Fleming Costume Designer

Manuela is a Bristol-based costume designer, maker, and wardrobe manager who graduated Wimbledon College of Arts in 2020. Her specialisms lie in costuming for dance and circus arts. Recently, she has designed for Journey South by Vidya Patel and Secret by George Frampton/James Cousins Company at Trinity Laban (2022). Other design credits include Tamerlano at Cambridge Handel Opera Company (2022 - Associate Designer) and Venus and Adonis at Blackheath Halls (2021 - Assistant Designer). As a costume and wardrobe specialist, she has worked with Ballet Black (Say it Loud/Black Sun - 2022), Fools Delight Circus (2022), Bristol Old Vic (Dr Semmelweis -2022), and Giffords Circus (The Hooley – 2021). manuelafleming.com



Zia Ahmed Writer & Spoken Word Artist

Zia is a poet and writer hailing from North-West London. He is part of the London Laureates, having been shortlisted for London's Young Poet Laureate 2015/16. He is a former Roundhouse Slam Champion and a Writer in Residence at Paines Plough as part of Channel 4's Playwright Scheme 2017. In 2018 he was chosen to be a part of the Bush Theatre's Emerging Writers Group. In 2019, Zia's stage debut I WANNA BE YOURS premiered at the Bush Theatre. Zia has also written for My White Best Friend and is currently under commission with the Royal Court and the Bush Theatre. He is a recipient of the Royal Court Theatre Jerwood New Playwrights Programme 2021. He is currently an Associate Artist at Gate Theatre.

You can find Zia at @ziaahmedx



Magnus Westwell SUNDER



About SUNDER

I don't want your perception to be guided or restricted by my words, instead I want to offer a world for you to inhabit. *SUNDER* is a sonic, visual and physical work which explores ineffable sensations and emotions. It begins with my experience of the world, and grows from there through the people who perform it and the people who experience it.

Credits

Choreographer, Composer & Music Producer Magnus Westwell Lighting Designer Ryan Joseph Stafford Stylist Marianthi Hatzikidi Rehearsal Director Olivia Grassot Movement Artists Chandenie Gobardhan, Toon Lobach, Max Cookward, Zhuo Chen, Océane Robin, Elisabeth Mulenga, Samara Langham Featured Music Recording Artist HforSpirit Mentor Tic Zogson

Special thanks to Serapis, Sanktoleono, Sage Nation and Jessica Luostarinen

SUNDER Score

Live Violin/FX/Electronics Magnus Westwell

Tracklist

Sunder I

Composed, Produced and Mixed by Magnus Westwell Sax parts created and recorded by Siel

Swarm (feat. HforSpirit)

Composed, Produced and Mixed by Magnus Westwell Cello parts composed by HforSpirit Sax parts created and recorded by Siel

Sunder II

Composed, Produced and Mixed by Magnus Westwell **Sax parts recorded by Siel, arranged by** Magnus Westwell.

All tracks mastered at AIR Studios







Magnus Westwell

Choreographer, Composer & Music Producer

Magnus Westwell is a Scottish Artist who works with choreography and music composition.

Magnus' creations can be raw, romantic and haunting, often looking at the extremes of ecstasy and emptiness. Their work has been performed across the UK and Europe in theatre, club, gallery and festival contexts, and featured online via Nowness, FACT and MTV.

Magnus has choreographed and directed movement for Marcelino Sambé and Dua Lipa, as well as collaborating with artists including Agnes? and Machine Woman. They have recently performed live sets at Cafe OTO and FOLD, manipulating live violin samples and experimenting with how orchestral textures can exist within electronic music.

Magnus co-produces and curates Lazarus, a club night which platforms queer artists and DJs in late-night events across London.



HforSpirit Featured Music Recording Artist (Swarm)

HforSpirit is a multi-instrumentalist composer conducting a catharsis in sound. They have made appearances at the Roundhouse, Royal Albert Hall and Kraftwerk Berlin and exhibited at ICA, The White Hotel and Dak'Art Biennale. Their music has been used by Rambert Dance, Chanel and Sarabande Foundation. Recent collaborations include Blackhaine, Space Afrika and the Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra.



Marianthi Hatzikidi Stylist

Marianthi Hatzikidi is a costume designer, stylist and creative director, based in London.

She is part of the female art collective at Stoa42 in Athens and an Associate Lecturer in Fashion at London College of Fashion, UAL.

Her background is in Fine Art and Design with a BA Hons in History of Art and a MA in Art and Fashion Curation.

Marianthi is aiming to express the current cultural stimuli into the creation of visual content for performance and fashion whilst promoting empowerment via wearables. She is actively involved with practices that promote fashion sustainability and upcycling.

Marianthi's work encompasses a wide spectrum in contemporary fashion, performative arts and film industry. She has an extensive clientele with acclaimed artists, choreographers, brands, directors and dance companies including Emma Portner, Lux Artists, i-D, Vogue, Iconoclast, Port magazine, Frank Ocean, Alexa Chung, Katherine Waterston, Clod Ensemble and more. She has worked in the fashion departments of Wallpaper*, Tank, Carpark and others, and has collaborated with designer houses including Burberry, Gucci, Julien McDonald, Eudon Choi, Vivienne Westwood. She has exhibited work in galleries in London, Paris and Athens.

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About Learning & Engagement at Sadler's Wells

Sadler's Wells delivers an extensive learning and engagement programme that provides life enriching experiences through dance for people of all ages. Through this work Sadler's Wells aims to increase access to our artistic programme and supports, celebrates and showcases the creativity of all the participants who engage our learning and engagement activities.

Through our Associate Schools and Community Engagement programmes we provide on-going opportunities for people within our local communities to connect with the artistic programme at Sadler's Wells and have the chance to explore their own creativity. Nurturing young talent is a core aspect of learning and engagement at Sadler's Wells and through the National Youth Dance Company and Young Associates it plays an important role in developing the next generation of exciting and diverse dance artists.

sadlerswells.com/learning Enquiries learning@sadlerswells.com

For access materials please visit sadlerswells.com/youngassociatesaccess

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