

Sadler's Wells breakin convention 2026

THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF HIP HOP DANCE THEATRE

FEATURING GLOBAL CREWS:

Ivan Michael Blackstock's TRAPLORD UK
ILL-Abilities BRAZIL / NETHERLANDS

Femme Fatale FRANCE / MEXICO / SOUTH KOREA

PLUS LOCAL ACTS:

STREET BEAT ELITE | BUST-A-MOVE LEEDS | DANCEDAZE UK
AND Cyphers | Battles | Graffiti Art | DJs | Workshops



CAST

WED 3 JUNE
CAST

breakinconvention.com/tour



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BREAKIN' CONVENTION NATIONAL UK TOUR

Wassup people!

I am Jonzi D, founder and Artistic Director of Breakin' Convention. It's a privilege to bring this festival to stages across the UK in 2026, sharing the voices, stories and innovations of the hip hop theatre community.

Hip hop shaped me. Born from the creativity of Black and Brown communities in the Bronx, it taught me expression, resilience and connection. Back then, there were no formal pathways – no institutions or frameworks to validate what we did. We learned from each other, in cyphers, on streets, in communities. That spirit still lives at the heart of this festival.

Alongside my journey in hip hop, I trained in contemporary dance, navigating spaces where our culture wasn't always recognised as "art". But I never accepted that limitation. Hip hop is not confined to any one space – it is expansive, innovative and constantly evolving. It adjusts and fills every space, like air.

Breakin' Convention was created to platform hip hop theatre. What started as a dope idea has grown into an international movement connecting artists, audiences and communities across the world. This UK tour continues that mission, bringing together exceptional talent who are pushing boundaries and redefining what hip hop theatre can be.

This is more than performance – it's a gathering, a celebration and a statement. Our culture is limitless.

Let's start Breakin' Convention.

Jonzi D
Founder and Artistic Director, Breakin' Convention



BREAKIN' CONVENTION NATIONAL UK TOUR

RUNNING ORDER

- 5.30PM** Doors open & foyer activities (see below)
- 7.30PM** Act 1: Street Beat Elite (UK), Bust-A-Move Leeds (UK), Femme Fatale (France/Mexico/Korea), Dancedaze UK (UK), ILL-Abilities (Brazil/Netherlands)
- 8.30PM** INTERVAL (30 minutes)
- 9.00PM** Act 2: TRAPLORD (UK)
- 9.45PM** SHOW END

IN THE FOYER from 5.30pm

Live rap performances, a live DJ, live drummers, graffiti, dancefloor takeovers, cyphers, food and more.

Line-up correct at time of publication

CONTENT WARNINGS & AUDIENCE ADVICE

Breakin' Convention is recommended for children over 12+.

The second half of the performance featuring **TRAPLORD** is recommended for audiences over 16+.

This age guidance is at the discretion of the accompanying parent/guardian. Above all, Breakin' Convention Festival is a celebration of the best hip hop has to offer, highlighting incredible artists from all over the world and we look forward to welcoming you.

Content warnings: This production contains strobe lighting, vaping and strong language and themes of violence, identity and mental health.

ARTISTS



Bust-A-Move Leeds (UK)

The Groove Guide

Choreography: Marie Mathias, Chris Banks, Katie Higginson, Connor Woodhouse

Performers: Chris Banks, Helen Maguire, Hugo Bragg, Katie Higginson, Kristine Dukalska, Kumi Akutsu, Beth Low, Leila Sabrina Taleb, Connor Woodhouse, Marie Mathias

The Groove Guide, brings a talking book to life, a narrator that opens its pages to reveal the history of dance.

Through five chapters : Locking, Popping, Waacking, Breaking, and House, the show celebrates the origins and spirit of dance culture. Blending storytelling and movement, we journey from the streets of Los Angeles to the clubs of Chicago.

As the book's pages turn, each dance style becomes a living story ending with an invitation to the audience themselves to continue the story of Groove.

Dancedaze UK (UK)

Choreography: Sinead Darnell

Performers: Brooke Taylor, Olivia Pymm, Emmie Gray, Riley Gray, Harry Osborne, Ed Vernon, Joe Lawrenson, Layla Amers, Connie Race, Isabella Beddow, Layla Bartholomwe, Renae Hamilton, Millie Palmer, Ruby Brooker, Ella Taylor, Lucy Stenton

Our dance piece is a heartfelt tribute dedicated to the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, whose influence continues to shape generations of dancers worldwide. Inspired by his creativity, musicality, and groundbreaking style, we set out to honor not only his legacy but also the evolution of street dance culture that he helped popularize.



ARTISTS



Femme Fatale

(FRANCE/MEXICO/KOREA)

Visual Voice

Choreography and Performers:
Marie Poppins, Lily Frias, Dassy Lee

Three women, three countries, one shared passion. **Femme Fatale**, from Mexico, France, and South Korea, brings to life a stage performance scored by CloZee using instruments from their homelands. *Visual Voice* is a journey through their lives—showing the struggles, obstacles, and the many voices that society often tries to silence.



ILL-Abilities

(BRAZIL/NETHERLANDS)

Broken Source

Choreography and Performers:
Redouan “Redo” Ait Chitt & Samuel “Samuka”
Henrique Silveira da Lima

International dance crew **ILL-Abilities** have reshaped physical adversity into a unique movement language. *Broken Source* is a raw and poetic duet by two of their world-class breakdance artists, Redouan “Redo” Ait Chitt (The Netherlands) and Samuel “Samuka” Henrique Silveira da Lima (Brazil). Drawing inspiration from the Japanese philosophy of repairing broken things with gold, this work is not about what was lost, but about what is discovered in the breaking.

ARTISTS



Age guidance 16+

Ivan Michael Blackstock (UK)

TRAPLORD

Director and Choreographer:

Ivan Michael Blackstock

Associate Choreographer: Chaldon Williams

Performers: DOMINANT, Kaner Scott, Kyron Nykro Jake, Magero, Wild G, Chaldon Williams

TRAPLORD is an Olivier Award-winning production by choreographer and cultural innovator Ivan Michael Blackstock, exploring cycles of life, death, and rebirth through a visceral fusion of dance, theatre, and spoken word. Suspended between dream and reality, the work takes audiences on a fractured heroic journey toward self-actualisation.



Steet Beat Elite (UK)

Unleashed

Choreography: Ayisha Gravel, Kayleigh Rose, Kim Oakley-Duffill

Performers: Arianna DeVito, Emily Henry, Eva Pettinger, Eva Prosser, Harper Glew, India Whittaker, Isabella Fleet, Jax Pendrey, Joe Hall, Macie Tiereny, Mae Hoyle, Marney Gordon, Marth Gibson, Oliver Morely, Phoebe Nettleton, Raiyana Hoque, Ruby Coles, Ruby Holmes, Rebecca Bacanu, Layla Langdon, Maggie Harrison, Rudy Bragg, Taylor Cousins

Unleashed is an explosive hip-hop piece fusing a range of hip-hop styles with a strong emphasis on power and performance. Bringing together dancers from both younger and older crews, the work celebrates unity, strength showcasing the next generation of hip-hop talent.

ABOUT US

Jonzi D

Host & Artistic Director

An MC, dancer, spoken word artist and director, Jonzi is the foremost advocate for hip hop who has changed the profile and influenced the development of the UK British hip hop dance and theatre scene over the last two decades.

Since founding Breakin' Convention in 2004, Jonzi has triumphed in raising the profile and giving a platform to hip hop disciplines, which has gained worldwide recognition as being at the vanguard of the development of the art form. Through professional development projects Open Art Surgery and Back to the Lab, Jonzi has supported hundreds of hip hop dance and rap/poetry artists on their journey to creating theatre.

Afro Pierre

Breakin' Convention Rep

Afro Pierre is a charismatic, energetic, positive person who loves what he does. He began dancing and entertaining at the late age of 18. After his success on top TV dance programmes and worldwide commercials, he became recognised as one of the biggest personalities in the UK street dance circuit. It's his absolute passion, and it shows in the work he produces. Whether that is preparing/choreographing a set or production, teaching students in classes/workshops, or performing and hosting as a whole.

Afro Pierre created his business, Art Of PALM, to allow other aspiring dancers/entertainers to develop, train, and do this professionally. This is also the place where Afro Pierre runs events and creates social media content for entertainment and educational value.



ABOUT US

Breakin' Convention represents the origins and evolution of hip hop culture from around the world and around the corner.

Since 2004, Breakin' Convention has represented the origins and evolution of hip hop culture from around the world and around the corner. Working with the most respected, innovative and inspirational artists, Breakin' Convention is at the vanguard of the development of the hip hop theatre genre, through its world-renowned festivals, international touring, professional development, youth projects and educational programme.

breakinconvention.com

BREAKIN CONVENTION TEAM

Artistic Director **Jonzi D**
Director **Michelle Norton**
Tour Producer **Lisa Parkes**
Assistant Producer **Natalie Thompson**
SW Marketing Manager **Natalie Zagaglia**
Marketing Consultant **Martha Quigley**
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Hebe Salmon
Social Media & Campaigns Officer
Dominic George Hamilton
Projects Manager **Shay Rafati**
Interim Assistant Producer **Kate Bodner**
Coordinator **Aliyah Reid**
Trainee **Yasmine Akebsi**
Press **ABSTRAKT**
Design & Logo **Benjamin Wachenje**
Local Reps **Afro Pierre**

TECHNICAL TEAM

Production Manager & LX **Joe Pilling**
Company Stage Manager **Lisa Parkes**
Deputy Stage Manager **Helen Lainsbury**
Sound Engineer **Enrico Augrigemma**
SW Technical Production Manager **Adam Carrée**

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