

National Youth Dance Company

NYDC

National Youth Dance Company

Alleyne Dance

**Memory
Keepers**

SADLER'S
WELLS

Sadler's



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Welcome



Photo: Jason Dimmock

Welcome to this performance of Memory Keepers by National Youth Dance Company and their Guest Artistic Directors, Kristina and Sadé Alleyne.

Thirty-one talented young dancers from across the country have come together to create this new production. They have worked with Kristina and Sadé, founders of award-winning Alleyne Dance, and an inspiring creative team over four intensive residencies - totalling just 28 days.

Sadler's Wells is immensely proud to run National Youth Dance Company (NYDC). For over a decade, we have brought together exceptional young dancers from across England to create and perform ambitious, innovative and influential new work each year, with some of the most celebrated choreographers.

The company offers life-changing opportunities at a pivotal moment - nurturing the skills, confidence and professional insight to support the brightest talent at the start of their careers. They are the dancers, choreographers, producers and directors who will shape the future of our artform.

We thank our residency and touring venues for their ongoing support of the programme. This year, NYDC will be touring nationwide to Ipswich, London, Leeds, Falmouth and Coventry.

We also give thanks to our supporters, who believe in young artists and invest in the next generation of dance talent: Arts Council England, Barclays and Three Monkeys Trust. We must continue to support and inspire young dancers throughout the country with opportunities to create, perform and learn, so that dance is accessible for all.

NYDC has established a reputation for producing challenging, world-class work and developing dancers who are open-minded, curious and brave. It is exciting to see the next generation take to the stage and we hope you enjoy their performance.

Britannia Morton & Sir Alistair Spalding CBE
Executive Director & Artistic Director / Co-Chief Executives

Memory Keepers on tour

Since 2013, over 58,000 people have seen NYDC perform across 20 different towns and cities, including our first international tour date in Berlin in 2025. The 2026 tour of Memory Keepers includes performances across the country in studio theatres and large scale venues.

DanceEast, Ipswich
Sadler's Wells, London
Leeds Playhouse, Leeds
AMATA, Falmouth
Sadler's Wells East, London
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Saturday 11 April at 7.30pm
Saturday 30 May at 7:30pm
Saturday 27 June at 7:45pm
Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 July at 7:30pm
Saturday 18 July 7:30pm
Thursday 23 July at 7:30pm.

Running time: Approx. 70 mins (no interval)



Programme Note

Memories are stored in the body just waiting to be released.

Memory Keepers is a powerful collaboration between Alleyne Dance and NYDC that explores how memories shape who we are.

An original work created with the dancers and inspired by their own experiences, the work brings personal stories to the stage through bold, rhythm-driven movement.

Blending contemporary and hip-hop styles, the choreography captures how our senses of sight, smell, sound and touch can evoke remembering. Our memories may be joyful, challenging and inspiring, they are part of growing up and moving forward.

Shifting between intimate moments and explosive ensemble sections, the dancers become living memory keepers, celebrating identity, connection, and the strength of a new generation finding its voice.



Memory Keepers

by Kristina and Sadé Alleyne

Creative Team

NYDC 25/26 Guest Artistic Directors and Choreographers Kristina and Sadé Alleyne
Composer Giuliano Mordarelli
Music Design Sadé Alleyne
Lighting Design Salvatore Scollo
Costume Design Ryan Dawson Laight
Stage Design Emanuele Salamanca

Dramaturge Dr Fiona Graham
Rehearsal Directors Iro Konti, Robert Dunkley-Gyimah
Costume Makers Jordan Edwards, Kate Healy, Andy Roberts, Julie Sayers and Katie Vacara
Wardrobe Assistant Joshua Cartmell
Producers Christopher Haddow and Bia Oliveira
Production Manager Adam Carrée
Touring Production Manager & Relighter/ LX Programmer Matt Carnazza
Head of Sound Zak Nicholls
With thanks to LionHeart, Jamaal O'Driscoll and Jacob Neff
Executive Producer for Alleyne Dance Grace Okereke

NYDC Dancers

Ellie Bamber, Lucy Bosworth, Kenya Bowry, Isabelle Cerna, Daniel Cort, Kitty Crook, Lewis Cuming, Antony Dearlove, Dylan Duharty, Jonathan Dyer, Abri Holmes, Sona Jawara, Amelia Leone, Lola Mair, Coco Missen, Aimée Morgans, Isla Morris, Michael Omoruyi, Jay Philips, Elliot Twum, Amelie O'Hanlon, Emmanuel Owusu-Boachie, Amelie Poulter, Charlie Ratcliffe, Lily Alba Reyes, Liv Midgley, Jack Shelton, Zak Michael Kwaku Smith, Nya Steward, Hannah Tittle, Zachary Turner-Powell

NYDC Team

Guest Artistic Directors 2025/26 Kristina and Sadé Alleyne
Sadler's Wells Director of Learning & Engagement Joce Giles
Head of NYDC Hannah Kirkpatrick
Company Managers Waddah Sinada and Becky Leslie
NYDC Coordinator Annie-Rose Grantham
NYDC / Learning & Engagement Trainee Mojisayo Robson
Creative Support Artists Corinne Meredith (Head), Maiya Leeke, Nya Bardouille
Company Support Jo Beattie (Head), Bethany Emmerson, George Frampton, John William Watson
Company Wellbeing Dr Lucie Clements (Dance Psychologist), Alexandra Haydon (Osteopath), Sarah Joice (Physiotherapist), Anna Turgoose (Physiotherapist)
NYDC Schools Consultant Lucy Muggleton





Kristina



Sadé

Kristina and Sadé

Guest Artistic Directors

Multi-award-winning Alleyne Dance creates bold, emotionally charged work that fuses West African, Caribbean, Hip Hop and Kathak influences within a contemporary dance language. Known for its rhythm-driven physicality, the company's distinctive style combines athletic intensity with intricate texture, precision, and lyrical fluidity.

Founded in 2014 by award-winning sisters Kristina and Sadé Alleyne, the company produces work for stage, outdoor spaces and film, while nurturing dancers through training and creative development that centres collaboration and artistic voice.

Alleyne Dance has been commissioned by leading international companies including Martha Graham Dance Company (USA), Phoenix Dance Theatre (UK), 2Faced Dance Company (UK), and Tiroler Landestheater Ballet (Austria).

Their work has received multiple accolades, including Best Independent Company at the National Dance Awards and awards for their critically acclaimed dance films.

Special Note by Kristina & Sadé Alleyne

We would like to thank the Sadler's Wells team for their trust and support, and the extraordinary young movers of NYDC 2026.

When we were their age, we were often training to fit in. Today, we feel incredibly fortunate to be in a position where we can encourage young artists to celebrate their individuality and create work that champions their unique strengths. Through movement, we strive to build confidence, purpose, and a sense of power, allowing each dancer to feel as though they can fly.

While our role was to choreograph a full company work, we naturally became mentors, fostering trust, humility, bravery, creativity, and a strong work ethic within the studio. Together, we embraced achievement, playfulness, challenge, and failure as part of the creative process.

We are deeply proud of the passion these dancers bring to the stage and are excited to witness their continued growth as they tour and move into the creative industry.

Kristina & Sadé Alleyne





Giuliano Modarelli

Composer

Giuliano Modarelli is an Italian guitarist, composer, producer, and educator whose work is rooted in cultural exchange and collaboration. He is the co-founder of Kefaya, an award-winning collective that, with Hazara singer Elaha Soroor, fuses Afghan folk with jazz, electronic music, and psychedelic rock. Their music explores immigration, gender equality, and social justice.

Giuliano studied jazz performance and composition at Leeds College of Music and trained in Hindustani classical music with Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta and Pandit Prattyush Banerjee. He has collaborated with artists including Shankar Mahadevan, Talvin Singh, Nitin Sawhney, and choreographers Gregory Maqoma, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, DV8 and Alleyne Dance.



Salvatore Scollo

Lighting Design

Salvatore is a Lighting Designer and Lighting Specialist with more than 20 years of experience in the performing arts. He has worked as Lighting Designer, Associate Lighting Designer and Touring Lighting Designer on many different projects, tours, and venues around the world. Salvatore collaborates with many dance companies in the UK and Europe and he’s currently resident Lighting Designer for an educational company based in France called Arles Youth Ballet Company.



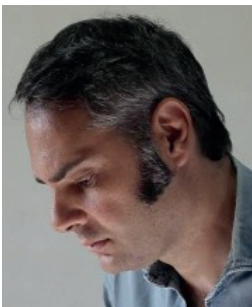
Ryan Dawson Laight

Costume Design

Ryan is a set and costume designer whose work has been seen across plays, musical theatre and dance. He was nominated for the Olivier Award for Best Costume Design for La Cage aux Folles at Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre, for which he also won the WhatsOnStage Award for Best Costume Design.

Dance includes: For Akram Khan, Memories of the Future (Bradford 25); For Botis Seva, Until We Sleep (Sadler’s Wells/International Tour), Good Youts Walk (UK Tour), BLKDOG (Sadler’s Wells. Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production); For Boy Blue, Gravity (NYDT), Blak Whyte Gray (Barbican. Nominated for Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production), REDD (Barbican); For Drew McOnie, Nutcracker (Southbank Centre), Drunk (Leicester Curve/Bridewell); For Gary Clarke Company, Detention (CAST Doncaster), Wasteland (UK Tour), Coal (UK Tour. UK Theatre Award for Achievement in Dance).

Costume Design for Theatre includes: Redlands (Chichester Festival Theatre); Twelfth Night, La Cage aux Folles (Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre. WhatsOnStage Award for Best Costume Design); Burlesque: The Musical (Manchester Opera House/Glasgow Theatre Royal).



Emanuele Salamanca

Stage Design

Born in Catania in 1981, Emanuele began his career in set design in 2004, after graduating from the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan. His career has been multifaceted and complex, beginning as a prop designer and set designer, working for many years with major opera houses such as the Verona Arena, the Teatro Regio in Parma, and the Teatro Massimo in Palermo. His work then evolved to include roles as technical director and set designer at the Teatro Franco Parenti in Milan. Since 2018, Emanuele

has collaborated with British contemporary dance companies, including the Aakash Odedra Company and Alleyne Dance, with whom he has toured throughout Europe, the United States, Australia, and China. His experience spans a variety of fields, from set design for film and advertising to opera, prose theater, Greek tragedy, and events. He continues to passionately contribute to the creative world thanks to his keen eye for design and ongoing, multidisciplinary research.

Iro Konti

Rehearsal Director

Iro Konti was born and raised in Athens. She is a graduate of the State School of Dance and the Law school of the Democritus University of Thrace. As a dancer, she has collaborated with choreographers and directors such as Alleyne Dance Co., Romeo Castellucci, Russell Maliphant, RootlessRoot (Linda Kapetanea & Jozef Fucek), Jasmin Vardimon, Jenny Argyriou, Yiannis Kakleas,among others, performing in Greece and abroad.

In August 2020, she presented her first solo work, titled Numbed Emotion. In July 2024, she premiered her second personal work, Modulus of resilience and in March 2026 she performed her new work Mirrořing, a work for two performers.

She has also choreographed movement for theatrical productions and worked as an assistant choreographer to Konstantinos Rigos,-Artistic director of the Greek National Opera ballet-, for the productions the Nutcracker, Microdances (a collaboration with Aterballetto Dance Co.) and the upcoming production “Τόσσις φοραίς τόσο κοντά”, dedicated to C. P. Cavafy.

Robert Dunkley Gyimah

Rehearsal Director

Robert Dunkley Gyimah is a South London based Performer, choreographer and teacher trained in classical and hip-hop styles.

He was a finalist on BBC young dancer 2022 and presented with the collaboration award.

Rob started his dance journey with contemporary through Dillon Dance, later venturing to learn hip hop styles from Unity UK and open classes. Rob graduated from Rambert School in 2024 followed by a North American tour of ‘Be no end to’ by lecturer and choreographer Jason Mabana Dance.

Rob has since been freelancing within the commercial and contemporary industry. Credits include: Zonation’s Ghost Ships, Netflix, Roehampton University (Assistant choreographer), Far From The Norms’ Normground 2025, Lamborghini, Saul Nash x Lululemon London Fashion Week, Zonation’s Ebony Scrooge.





Ellie Bamber

Ellie is from Thornton-Cleveleys. She has danced with Dance Syndrome in Preston for five years and as of 2025 became an employed dance leader for the company and a youth role model. Ellie has a passion for many dance styles such as commercial, street dance, ballet, lyrical and jazz, but her favourite style is contemporary. Outside of dance Ellie also trains in aerial hoop and loves swimming. If Ellie summed up NYDC in three words it would be fun, challenging and creative!



Lucy Bosworth

Lucy Bosworth is a 16-year-old dancer from Leicestershire. She is currently working on her diploma year for her BTEC in performing arts at Studio 79. Outside of college, she has been attending weekly sessions at CYCC and CAT* Nottingham. NYDC has helped her find a good balance between finding individuality and unity throughout the company. One of her strengths is her connection to musicality, as she grew up singing and playing the piano. She is specifically interested in storytelling, inspired by her previous experiences watching performances, and hopes to perform on more stages in the future.



Kenya Bowry

Kenya is a 17-year-old dancer from Leeds and has been dancing since she was seven years old. She attends weekly classes at RJC Dance and is going into her 5th year on the CAT* scheme at Northern School of Contemporary Dance. Through this, she has performed at events like UDance and FRESH and has gained many opportunities working with different companies. She hopes that this experience with NYDC x Alleyne Dance will enhance her performance skills to prepare her for a career in dance.



Isabelle Cerna

Izzy is a 17-year-old dancer from Exmouth who has been dancing since she was five. She studies an Extended Diploma in Dance at Exeter college and started in contemporary with Chhaya Youth. She also trains in musical theatre. She hopes to complete a musical theatre degree and work on stage in dance and musical theatre. She hopes that NYDC will help continue to inspire and fuel her passion for contemporary dance, as well as give her the opportunity to meet like-minded people and perform such a powerful piece.



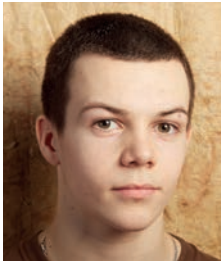
Daniel Cort

Daniel is a 17-year-old dancer from London. He started dancing at the age of five doing ballet at the Royal Academy of Dance. He currently attends The Brit School as well as attending weekly classes at Rambert PreVoc, Central School of Ballet and BirdGang to allow himself to be a diverse dancer. Daniel has been on stage before, including being part of a professional national touring production of Motown the Musical, and is hoping that his participation in NYDC will allow him to develop his performing skills and mature into a capable industry professional.



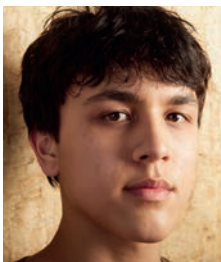
Kitty Crook

Kitty is an 18-year-old dancer from Devon. She has immersed herself in creative dance from a young age and has progressed through the Exeter CAT* programme, UAL Dance Course at Exeter College and is now taking it further with NYDC x Alleyne Dance. She would love to be a professional dancer and a choreographer in the future. Her main goal in life is to pursue creative involvement in all that she does.



Lewis Cuming

Lewis is a 17-year-old dancer from Preston. He began dancing at the age of six, initially training in Freestyle Hip-Hop before going on to develop his skills across all major dance styles. Lewis trains at Tracy Rigby Dance and Fitness and Rare Studios Liverpool and regularly takes open classes around England to continue expanding his versatility and experience. A notable highlight of his training journey includes taking class with Luther Brown. Lewis is excited to be part of NYDC and hopes the experience will support his ambition of becoming a professional backing dancer and travel the world through dance.



Antony Dearlove

Antony is a 17-year-old dancer from Bournemouth who has attended dance classes with Lawlor School of Dance since the age of 11. He was a part of the CAT* scheme at The Place for four years, where he trained in contemporary and ballet techniques, as well as gaining more confidence with improvisation. He was a member of Hampshire Youth Dance Company for two years, which gave him both insight into dance as a career and many performance opportunities - something he wishes to further through NYDC. He is now a member of Rambert School's Pre|Voc programme and hopes to either go into vocational dance training or study medicine at university.



Dylan Duharty

Dylan started dancing at his local sports centre. From there he joined street dance classes at his primary school and went on to join Zonation and Boy Blue. He attends Central School of Ballet, Rambert PreVoc, Khoronos and BirdGang. He is currently at The Brit School and is also a cygnet with Matthew Bourne's New Adventures. Dylan is excited to join NYDC and learn from the brilliant Alleyne Dance and make friends with other dancers from around the country.



Jonathan Dyer

Jonny is a 17-year-old contemporary dancer from London. He started with local ballet classes at the age of seven, and over the years has moved through a range of contemporary and hip hop classes, which have helped him find his own style that he continues to expand throughout NYDC. Jonny currently dances for Trinity Laban Youth Dance Company once a week. For Jonny, NYDC has been a beyond amazing experience and is making him dream big about what a future dance career could look like, potentially starting with vocational training.



Abri Holmes

Abri Holmes Abri is a Dancer, Inclusivity Advocate by lived experience and Climber, based in Kent. Her formative years include training in Gymnastics and Scottish Highland Dance. Further dance training included Prima Associates with Prima Stage School, English Youth Ballet and Trinity Laban CAT; before restarting training with National Youth Ballet 'All In', and now NYDC- setting a foundation for her to broaden her skillset in the adaptation and translation of creative movement. Abri is excited to see where this journey will take her.



Sona Jawara

Sona is a dancer from Newcastle who has been training at Dance City in Newcastle for four years on the CAT* programme and has spent most of her life doing sports. She started doing acrobatic gymnastics, which has helped her with her flexibility and determination to do well when it comes to training and performances. She has never performed a show on this scale and is very excited to be a part of the piece and is grateful to be given the opportunity to show her talent.



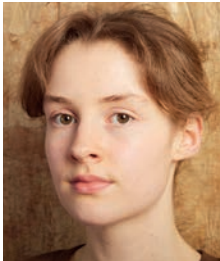
Amelia Leone

Amelia Leone is an 18-year-old dancer from Middlesbrough who taught herself using YouTube videos from her favourite choreographers. She started performing in 2022 with some of her own choreography and since then has danced more and more. She has choreographed for local carnivals, festivals and events, before getting involved with TeesDance Youth Company, which she has been a member of since late 2024. Now she is looking to start an accessible and inclusive dance company to improve the dance community in her hometown.



Lola Mair

Lola is a dancer from Sheffield who has spent most of her life dancing. She is currently in her final year of CAT* at Northern School of Contemporary Dance and is also a member of the One Dance UK Young Creatives programme. Lola hopes that her NYDC experience will further equip her with the skills, insight, and professional understanding necessary to build a sustainable career within the contemporary dance industry.



Liv Midgley

Liv is from Cambridge and began dancing at three years old. She has always been movement-oriented, and dance is an essential part of her life as a mode of expression. Liv is particularly passionate about the positive impacts of dance and hopes to be able to help more people gain access to the joys she experiences when dancing. NYDC has given Liv the chance to push the boundaries of dance and delve into the creative process, broadening her understanding of the profession.



Coco Missen

Coco is a 16-year-old dancer from Brighton. She has been dancing for Project Female UK from the age of 14, focusing on hip hop fusion and commercial dance. She also attends Advanced Streetdance Collective through Project Female. NYDC has helped Coco train in contemporary dance, which is new for her. She hopes NYDC will help her gain insights into what working at a professional level and touring is like.



Aimée Morgans

Aimée is 18 years old and started gymnastics at a young age. She then went on to find her passion for dance at GCSE and then further while doing A-levels. NYDC has pushed Aimée out of her comfort zone and she has immersed herself in the world of dance. She is really looking forward to being able to perform on a stage for a large audience. In September, she is going to study dance at university with hopes to later pursue a career within dance.



Isla Morris
Isla is 17 and from London. She has been attending dance classes from a young age, and her ambition is to become a professional dancer and choreographer. She currently trains at Rambert PreVoc and Dulwich Ballet School, and is a member of hip-hop dance company BirdGang with whom she performed at last year’s Breakin’ Convention at Sadler’s Wells. Since 2023 she has been studying and training full time at The Brit School. Through her past and current training and now with NYDC, Isla continues to strive to improve her skills and versatility as a dancer. Delighted and honoured to be part of this current cohort, she is excited for the tour and everything NYDC has to offer.



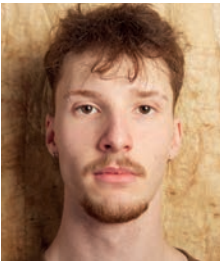
Amelia O’Hanlon
Amelia is a contemporary dancer in her last year of sixth form. She is studying A level dance at High Storrs School in Sheffield. Before joining the CAT* scheme at Northern School of Contemporary Dance in 2021, her training was mainly commercial and urban based, where she was part of a youth crew ‘CARBON’ at INK Dance Sheffield. NYDC has helped Amelia grow and develop her artistic style while making connections she’ll keep for life. She hopes to go into full time training next year and take with her the skills she has learnt during her time in NYDC.



Michael Omoruyi
Michael is an 18-year-old dancer from Blackpool. He started dancing around age four with traditional styles such as ballet, tap and modern. At the age of eight he then discovered and trained in hip hop with House of Wingz. He is also a fashion student and hopes to use his newly found creative outlook to be successful in both fields.



Emmanuel Owusu-Boachie
Emmanuel is an 18-year-old dancer from London. From the age of 11-13 he performed in the West End with School of Rock and toured with The Bodyguard The Musical. He has now extended his skills by training with places like Rambert pre-pare, Artistry Youth Dance and Trinity Laban Youth Company. He continues his training with Boy Blue Adult Company, Trinity Laban CAT* programme and GSB. He wanted to join NYDC to strengthen his contemporary skills and to experience the professional world whilst combining his multiple disciplines. His future goal is to share his language through movement and more with the world.



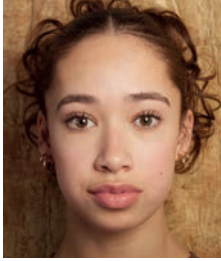
Jay Phillips
Jay is an 18-year-old contemporary dancer from Berkshire. He studies on the CAT* scheme at Trinity Laban and is now completing his fifth year of the course. He also trains at Strodes College and Wentworth Dance Centre. Jay uses his hip hop background and contemporary training to create movement and in the future hopes to use these skills to choreograph pieces for stage.



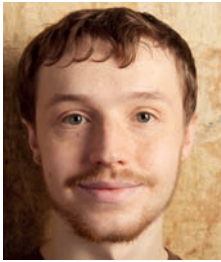
Amelie Poulter
Amelie is an 18-year-old dancer from Lewes who has grown up dancing at SLH Dance Academy. She now trains in contemporary styles with Project Female and at college, where she is studying A-level dance and performs in BHASVIC Dance company. Alongside her passion for dance, she trains as both a competitive and artistic swimmer. Amelie hopes her experience in NYDC with Alleyne Dance will allow her to explore her creativity whilst working with a diverse range of dancers, in addition to preparing her for full time training next year at Northern School of Contemporary Dance.



Charlie Ratcliffe
Charlie is a 16-year-old dancer from Blackpool. He started his dancing journey at the age of four and thanks House of Wingz for being a big part of this. He is also currently taking triple music BTEC at sixth form playing the drums and DJs on the side. Charlie says being part of NYDC is one of the best opportunities of his life so far and has given him the ability to try a new style and express himself in a way that he didn’t think was possible. His future goals are to either be a successful Afro house DJ or a professional hip hop battle dancer.



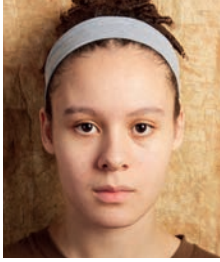
Lily Alba Reyes
Lily is a 16-year-old dancer from Nottingham. She has been training weekly with Fabric CAT* Nottingham, Curve Young Company and Linden Youth for over four years. She has enjoyed many performance opportunities and worked with dancers and choreographers who have helped develop her as a dancer. Lily feels that her NYDC x Alleyne Dance experience provides a unique opportunity to train and tour with a company and help her prepare for a professional career.



Jack Shelton
Jack is a dancer from Washington, near Newcastle. Two years ago he joined Gosforth Civic Theatre Company, and prior to that performed at Barbara Priestman Academy. With them, he took part in Making Moves at Sadler’s Wells and learned various dance styles. Jack joined NYDC to help fulfil his dream of becoming a professional dancer.



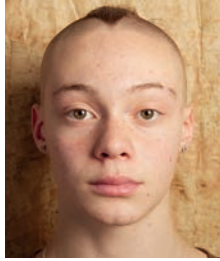
Zachary Turner-Powell
Zachary is a 17-year-old dancer from Birmingham. He was at Ace Dance and Music for 11 years as well as a current dancer at Marshon Dance academy. He has been passionate about the arts from a young age and has been developing his skills from dancing with several different choreographers. He was introduced to NYDC through many different sources and believes it’s an amazing opportunity to understand what professional life as a dancer is like. He currently studies music at college and aspires to be either a sound engineer or choreographer.



Nya Stewart
Nya started off as a self-taught dancer until she was accepted onto the Lowry CAT* scheme in Manchester at the age of 16, where she now continues her formal training in contemporary and ballet. She has a deep passion for movement, and in the future hopes to use this as a tool to help others and bring love and connection to the community around her. This is Nya’s second year with NYDC and getting the chance to work with Alleyne Dance has been an absolute dream!



Hannah Tittle
Hannah is an 18-year-old contemporary dancer from Rye who began dancing from a young age at a local studio, attending ballet and modern classes. She is now studying an RSL diploma in dance at her sixth form and trains as a member of Jasmin Vardimon Youth Company. Hannah enjoys the collaboration and diversity NYDC has to offer, blending and exploring different movement styles alongside her own. She is eager to take the skills she is developing with Alleyne Dance to continue her training next year at Northern School of Contemporary Dance and beyond.

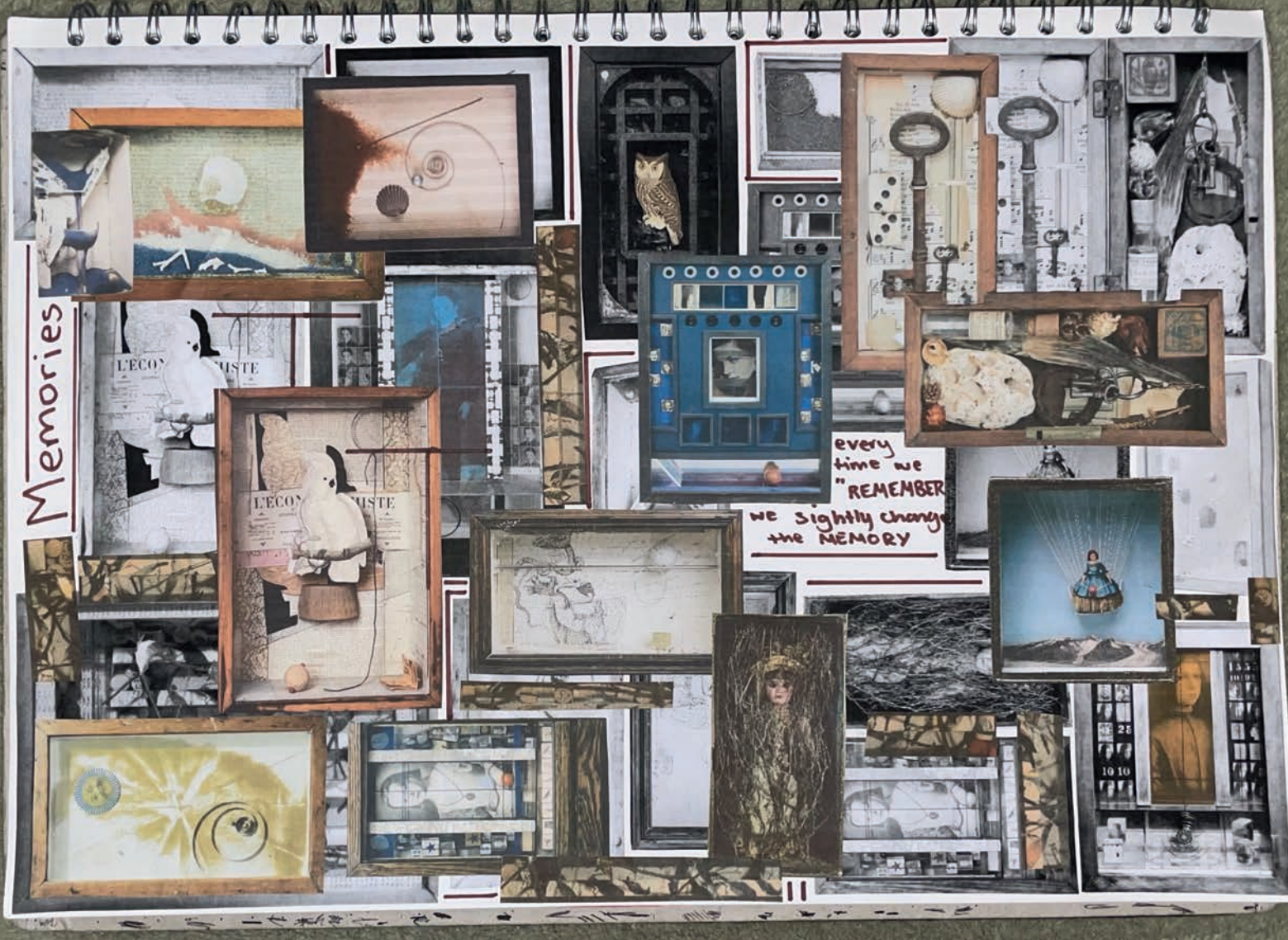


Zak Michael Kwaku Smith
Zak is a 17-year-old dancer from Brighton. He has been training in ballet since the age of three and is now training at the PreVoc course at Rambert. Zak is in his second year at NYDC and hopes to gain even more skills. He is auditioning for dance schools such as The Place, Central School of Ballet, Northern School of Contemporary Dance and Rambert School. In the future he wants to be a professional dancer in ballet, contemporary or hip hop styles.

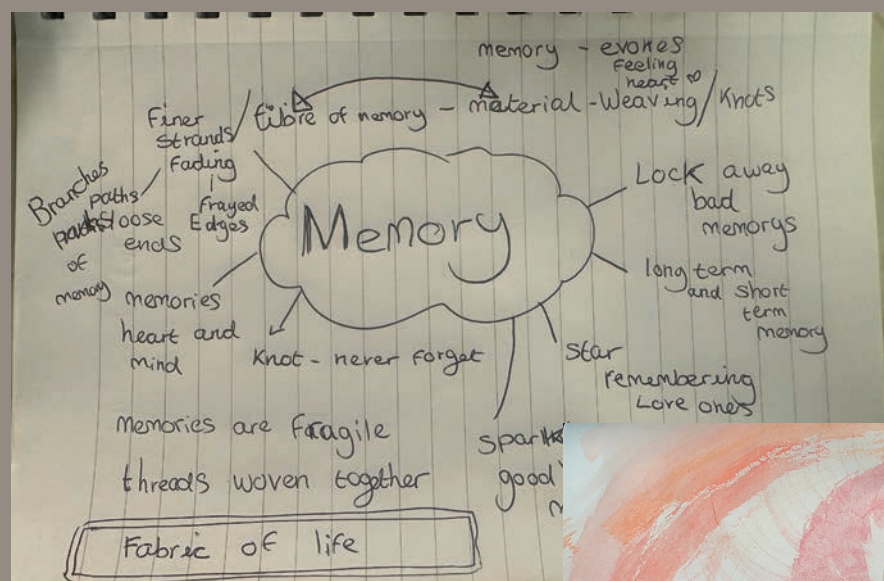
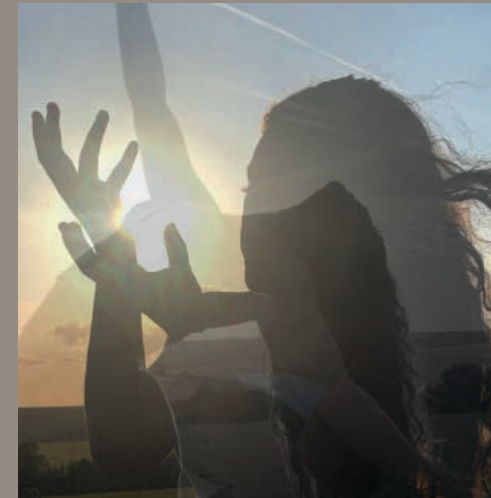


Elliot Twum
Elliot is an 18-year-old dancer from Leeds. He has been dancing since the age of nine at local dance clubs and currently trains at CAT*, Northern School of Contemporary Dance. He studies at CAPA college and is part of One Dance UK’s Young Creatives Programme. Elliot hopes to gain skills to elevate his artistry and go on to pursue a successful career in the dance industry and believes NYDC x Alleyne Dance is the exact opportunity to do that.

*CAT: National Centres for Advanced Training



Throughout the process of creating Memory Keepers, the Alleyne's wanted the dancers to develop and experiment with their own creativity and artistic passion. Each dancer brought with them their own memories and creative voice - cohort 14 are a group of not only dancers but poets, musicians, photographers, writers and artists. Here are some insights into the work they created when responding to the title of Memory Keepers.





Would you like to join NYDC?

The first step to joining the company is to attend one of our Experience Workshops which take place across the country.

We hold free workshops every year to meet hundreds of young dancers and give a taste of what life is like as part of the company. We also use these workshops to recruit our new company members. They are a great opportunity to try new dance styles, learn about dance training and career pathways, and meet other people who are passionate about dance.

Between April – July we will be running workshops across the country, with online options as well. For more information and how to apply, please visit nydc.org.uk and follow us @nydccompany.

How much does it cost?

The workshops are FREE for all participants, and our priority is that they are accessible for all dancers. The cost of company membership for 2026/27 is £750, but we also provide means tested scholarships and bursaries to cover up to 100% of this course fee to ensure no young person has to turn down their place due to financial reasons.

Who are we looking for?

Talented young people in Year 11-13 / age 16-18 and up to the age of 24 for those who are d/Deaf or disabled. We are looking for potential, passion, dedication and a love of performance.



Photo: Paul Hampartsoumian

Thank you!

NYDC appreciates the support that the company has received from varied organisations across the country.

Special thank you to DanceEast (Ipswich), Elmhurst Ballet School (Birmingham), Northern School of Contemporary Dance (Leeds), and Sadler's Wells East (London) for hosting our residencies this year.

Many of the young dancers in the company come from established training schemes, colleges, youth dance companies, dance schools and Centres for Advanced Training across England, and return to these in between the residencies. NYDC would like to thank all the dancers' teachers for their generosity

and cooperation in allowing them to fully commit to the company and for igniting such passion in these young people.

NYDC aims to engage with as many young people as possible from across the country. This is only achievable through the network of partners and host venues that have supported the company by raising awareness, hosting workshops and performances, and acting as expert advisors in their regions. We would like to thank our partners and host venues for their continued support.

For further information on the Centres for Advanced Training please visit www.nationaldancecats.co.uk

Support us

National Youth Dance Company (NYDC) is England's flagship youth dance company.

We bring together talented young dancers from across the country to work with leading artists and create world-class performances. We support young artists to realise their potential and gain an insight into the dance profession.

Over the past 13 years we have worked with thousands of young people across the country, created 14 brand new works and toured to 28 different venues across the UK. We have big plans for the next chapter of NYDC!

To find out more about how you could support the company, please get in touch with the Development Team: development@sadlerswells.com



Barclays is the Associate Partner of National Youth Dance Company. The NYDC Schools Programme is supported by the Three Monkeys Trust.



NYDC School Workshops and Summer Schools

There are lots of ways that young people can get involved in NYDC, from workshops to summer schools to company membership. Our activity happens all around the country, so watch out for us coming to a town near you.

NYDC celebrates diversity. We welcome applications from disabled and non-disabled dancers from all backgrounds, dance styles and levels of experience. All our activity is designed to ensure that each individual can take away something new from their time with us.

School Workshops

NYDC runs a Nationwide Schools Programme, offering FREE workshops within school settings. Led by artists who have been through NYDC themselves as company members, these workshops are a chance for students to learn material from NYDC productions by world renowned choreographers and find out more about life in NYDC. If you are a school teacher and would like to find out more, please get in touch.

The NYDC Schools Programme is supported by the Three Monkeys Trust.

Summer Schools

This year NYDC will run two summer schools.

NYDC & Mind The Gap

On 26th and 27th May NYDC & Mind The Gap will team up to lead a non-residential summer school for dancers aged 16-24 with learning disabilities and/or autism.

NYDC Residential Summer School

NYDC will run a residential summer school in Warwick from 23rd - 26th August.

For disabled and non disabled dancers aged 16-24, this course will offer a unique experience to find out what life is like on residency. Dancers will be training together, creating new work, and living together as a company for four days.

Places on this summer school are extremely limited. We particularly welcome applications from young disabled dancers and those wishing to work in an inclusive environment.

For further information on any of the programmes detailed above please get in touch

Website: nydc.org.uk

Email: NYDC@sadlerswells.com

Instagram: [@nydcompany](https://www.instagram.com/nydcompany)

We are so grateful to NYDC for giving our students an inspiring opportunity to learn a new dance style and choreography in such a short time. The coaches are amazing and students come out buzzing!

Year 9 teacher

I felt inspired by this workshop as I have never been so confident in a dance style that I've always struggled with. It made me feel like I can do any dance style as long as I keep trying and practicing.

School Workshop Participant



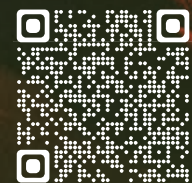
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Get dancing across the country

Each of our dancers represents their region and the wonderful programmes and training they have been able to access before joining NYDC.

Here are some of the places our dancers have been training. If you live in that area, look them up – they might have something to offer you too. Every year, this list is different - great things are happening all over the country so email us to find out about training opportunities near you.

North West

House of Wingz

www.houseofwingz.uk

@housewingz

North East

Tees dance

teesdance.org.uk

@teesdance

Gosforth Civic Theatre

www.gosforthcivictheatre.co.uk

@gocivtheatre

Yorkshire CAPA

www.capa.college

@capacollege

Ink Dance Sheffield

www.inkdance.co.uk

@inkdanceuk

RJC Dance

www.rjcdance.org.uk

@rjcdance

East Midlands

Curve Young Company

www.curveonline.co.uk/cyc-dance

@curve_leicester

Linden Youth

lindendc.com/#Youth

@linden.dc

Studio 79

www.studio79.co.uk/studio79

@studio_79

West Midlands

ACE

acedanceandmusic.com

@acedancemusic

Marshon Dance

www.marshondance.com

@MARSHONDANCE

London

BRIT

www.brit.school/dance16

@danceatbrit

Rambert School

www.rambertschool.org.uk

@rambertschool

Zonation

zonation.co.uk/join/zonation-youth-company

@zonationuk

Birdgang

www.birdgangltd.com/eggz

@birdgangltd

Central School of Ballet

www.centralschoolofballet.co.uk

@csbschool

Artistry Youth Dance

www.artistryyouthdance.com

@artistryyouthdance

Dulwich Ballet School

dulwichballet.co.uk

@dulwichballetschool

South West

Chhaya Youth Dance

www.chhayacollective.com/chhaya-youth

@chhayayouthdance

EAST Colours of Dance

www.coloursofdance.com

@coloursofdancestudios

South East

Alta Academy of Dance

altadance.co.uk

@alta_dance

BHASVIC

www.bhasvic.ac.uk

@bhasvic

Project Female

www.projectfemaleuk.co.uk

@project_femaleuk

SLH Dance Academy

slhdanceacademy.com

@slh.danceacademy

Lawlor School of Dance

www.lawlorschoolofdance.co.uk

@lawlorschoolofdance

Hampshire Youth Dance

thepointeastleigh.co.uk/get-involved/hampshire-youth-dance-company

@hydc.thepoint

Many of our dancers also attend a national Centre for Advanced Training Programme in their local area.

To find out more, please visit

www.nationaldancecats.co.uk.

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Akram Khan
Russell Maliphant
Sir Wayne McGregor
CBE
Aakash Odedra
Seeta Patel
Crystal Pite
Kate Prince
Alesandra Seutin
Botis Seva
Hofesh Shechter
Jasmin Vardimon

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Michael Hulls
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Abigailie Holt, Amena Couki, Artie Glaser Batdorff, Amirah Storey, Alexandra Burnett, Adrian Mozzi, Alexander Hewson-Tang, Alex Castro, Alex Joll, Alfie Sissons, Amelia Fenwick, Andrej Gubanov, Adelaide Green, Anis Tam, Anouska Lukacs, Ariane Nixon, Anthony Owen, Aimee Pompili, Amber-Rose Adkins, Andrew Johnson, Ashiyah Khan, Andre Sobralt, Ashley Bolitho, Ben Fewster, Billy Warwick, Bethany Yao, Ben Howell, Bryony Maguire, Brendan Connell, Benji Page, Bernadette Ward, Charlotte Bertram, Candice Weaver, Cecile Mailot, Carlos Navajas, Charles Rainey, Chris Purnell, Darren Clarke, Damon Herington, Dominic Wilson Danny Heron, Danyna Mearns, Diane Gayle, Dom Bouffard, Dom Cook, David Csogor, Eddie Devey, Eugenia Fiusco Elizabeth Grace, Emily Ball, Elsie Hagan, Em Butcher, Emily Noble, Eleanor Waters, Elliott Surbey, Elliot Smith, Elizabeth Grace, Elizabeth Thomson, Emily Riches, Eve Imrie, Evie Witherell, Fiona Dewhurst, Freya Game, Firdest Karaca, Florence Hand, Francesca Padovani, Franny Lagemann, Gillian Allright, Giorgia Bresciani, Gabriella Coomber, Garry Sermanni, Gareth Mundy, Georgi Cheers-Aslanian, Hannah Woodey, Hannah Arteaga, Harry Baxter, Heather An, Heather Cohen, Helen Duda, Hiroyo Iizuka, Harry Lawrence, Helen Roberts, Holly Whitbread, Imogen Gilbert, Isaac Nicholls, Inca Jaakson, James Brittle, Jef Dodsworth, Jennifer Cashman, Jonathan Kimmins, John Pullig, Jocelyn Chen, Jonathan Woods, Joel Cottrell, Jocelyn Fu, Jessica Richardson, James White, Jamie Waters, John Wannacott, Jordan Williams, Jiayi Chong, Kat Mercer, Kieran Doyle, Kirstin Harrison, Kirsty Jeremiah, King Cheung, Krystyna Elliot, Kyle Edwards, Kiam Pursey Kennedy, Kimiko Shiga, Lauren Woodhead, Lincoln Campbell, Lewis Macaskill, Lisa Hagart, Lowri Davies, Lizzie Maria Thomson, Lindsay Myhal, Lorna Crowther, Louis Williams, Linus Pomroy, Logan McDonald, Lucas Rajpaul, Lydia Ford, Marius Arnold-Clarke, Matthew James, Michael Kaiser, Matthew Say, Martin Bowyer, Miranda Cattermole, Matthew Iles, Matthew Lofting, Mitchell Knight, Millie Koplick, Malhar Kawre, Matt Lewis, Mark O'Gorman, Michael Osilesi, Matt Whale, Mark William Webber, Nadia Mabrouk, Nick Burge, Nicola Crawford, Neil Gillies, Nikki Watts, Olivier Gastinel, Oskar Puanecki, Paul Thomas, Philippe Khalilian, Paul Atkinson, Philippe Kastner, Rachel Welch, Roisin Little, Phil Wood, Rachel Howard, Rachel Picar, Rhianne Cheetham, Robert Garnham, Robert Oatley, Robyn Lawes, Reinis Melihovs, Robbie Tolan, Rosie McGreal, Rashid Rashman, Richard Warren, Rute Gomes, Samuel Emmins, Sara Wilson, Sławomir Raczka, Sid Sharpe, Samuel Baker, Sophie Grafton, Scarlett Bryan, Sam Slater, Sarah Campbell, Sam Raffal, Sean Kennedy, Sam Lane, Sara Wilson, Sara Mackenzie, Steven Hutchinson, Stephanie Greenwood, Trekessa Austin, Tadhg Freeneey, Thomas McCarthy, Thea Bulglin, Tara Young, Tom Lightbody, Zoe Beeny, Zo Gardner

Visitor Experience
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Mark Smedley*
Operations Officer
Rosie Nicholas
Projects Officer
Joy Williams

Building Services
Head of Estates & Facilities
David Dunning
Building Services Supervisor
Henri Graviere
Deputy Building Services & Energy Manager
Wayne Lawrence
Building Services Technicians
Ron Caverly, Ian Drummond, Richard Emmett, Ivaylo Klyunkov,

Anthony Kolawole, Ghion Mekonnen, Dimmy Mulumba
Maintenance Technician, Peacock Theatre
Daniel Knapton

Front of House
Head of House Management
Marguerite Bullard
Head of Venue Operations
Meg Hendrickse
Front of House Operations Manager (SWT)
Jen Wakeford
Front of House Operations Manager (SWE)
Jonathan Keddie
Front of House Duty Managers
Baillie Dobson, Esma Ceren Kalfa, Larry Harrison-Mateeba, Keely Saunders
Venue Duty Managers
Julene Robinson, Caitlin Haste
Merchandising Sales Executive
Louise Cooper
Performance Cashier
Sara Richards
Front of House Assistants
Ewa Lamond, Lisa Laville, Rowan Roberts, Jairo Zaldua
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Stage Door
Stage Door Keepers
Paula Atkinson, Susannah Horwood, George Jones, Magdalena Judd, Lauren Tranter, Andrew Day, Nei Mabeo, Leiran Gibson

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Neil Collins, Heather Davies, Francesca Padovani, Slawek Raczka, Julene Robinson

Housekeeping
Housekeeping Manager
Fabian Arias
Cleaning & Housekeeping Supervisors
Ken Debidin, Thayaparan Eliyathamby Sinnathamby
Cleaning & Housekeeping Team Leaders
Antonio Villanueva, Lary Legario
Cleaners
Dorcas Amudzi, Jeffrey Balighot, Kelly Dago, Siam Ghile, Regiana Kamara, Albina Kutkowska, Mercan Sahin, Sheen Mae De Austria, Lemlem Ejigu, Miracle Ndu, Victor Ogunbare, Peter Omoyajowo, Nimico Osman, Charles Owusu, Ziegfredo Tanilon, Milca Tavares Pina, Mabinty Turay, Ewa Zmuda

Security
Security Officers
Kenny James, Kemoh Sesay, Sainatha Vairavanathan, Tuncel Yurdakul

Technical Lighting Supplier
STAGE ELECTRICS

With thanks to our colleagues at the London School of Economics: Head of Conference & Events
Rachel Ward

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change.
*Represents colleagues who are on our Senior Leadership Team

Programme edited by
David Jays
Programme designed by
David Grady
www.3bearscreative.co.uk



Photo: National Youth Dance Company rehearse at Sadler’s Wells East. Photo: Rich Lakos

Dance brings people together. It’s how we celebrate, find joy, connect to our roots and ourselves. From ancient rituals to dancehalls, theatres to TikTok; dance tells stories of who we are as individuals and communities. Enjoyed for tens of thousands of years beyond words, generations and borders; it’s not surprising that Strictly Come Dancing is one of our most watched TV shows.

Performing arts are the bedrock of our world-class creative industries in the UK, nurturing future choreographers, technicians, filmmakers and games designers. Our creative industries contribute £124 billion to our economy annually and sustain 2.4 million jobs.

Dance uniquely blends creativity and physical activity - transforming our health, happiness and wellbeing. The Sport and Recreation Alliance found movement and dance bring £3.5billion in social impacts each year for the nation. Studies show dance improves mental wellbeing, reduces loneliness and the risk of Type 2 diabetes and dementia; delays the onset of Parkinson’s and improves motor and cognitive function in our brains, for people at every stage of life. All of these benefits create over £430million in health savings for the NHS every year.

As a world-leading dance charity, we provide activities for people of all ages to experience dance alongside nurturing the next generation of dancers and dance makers.

We are boldly shaping the future of dance and growing its audience. Millions experience our work - at our four London theatres, through our international touring productions which have visited over 50 countries, and on our Digital Stage. We commission, produce and share more dance than any other organisation in the world - from contemporary to flamenco, salsa to street dance, Bollywood to ballet. And we collaborate with artists from all over the world, from Argentina to China to Senegal.

We introduce dance and creativity to young people and their teachers in schools nationwide through our inclusive choreography and performance programme Making Moves, champion the brightest young dance talent through National Youth Dance Company and welcome dancers aged 60 and over as part of our resident Company of Elders.

Each year, 30,000 people aged 2–90 participate in our programmes, from every corner of the UK.

In 2025, we launched the Rose International Dance Prize – “dance’s answer to the Turner Prize”– showcasing the world’s most inventive and daring choreographers.

We also opened our fourth theatre, Sadler’s Wells East at East Bank – part of one of the most ambitious culture and education districts globally. This new venue is a resource for the whole of the UK, offering a destination for dance companies from around Britain to tour to the capital, hosting the best work from international choreographers and a free community Dance Floor - a welcoming public space to discover all styles of dance.

Sadler’s Wells East is also home to Academy Breakin’ Convention, the UK’s first free Level 3 qualification in hip hop theatre for young people aged 16-19; filling a gap in professional pathways for new artists and entrepreneurs.

As a registered charity, we rely on donations to keep making and sharing dance. From creative learning programmes and artist development to exciting new commissions and productions, all the support we get directly contributes to the work we do both on and off the stage.

We say ‘You are Welcome’ above the door of our new theatre, and we mean it. This is our invitation to you, to everyone, to dance.



**Sadler's
Wells**

saderswells.com