

RURAL TOURING DANCE INITIATIVE



2025-26 MENU

THE PLACE

highlights
rural touring scheme



National Rural
Touring Forum

soniasabri
company

take
art *th*

ef Esmée
Fairbairn
FOUNDATION



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

INTRODUCTION





Rural Touring Dance Initiative: 2025/26 Menu

The Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI) is a national project which supports dance artists and rural promoters to make great dance performance events happen in rural spaces.

RTDI was launched in 2015 when The Place, National Rural Touring Forum (NRTF), China Plate and Take Art joined forces to tour more dance to rural areas.

Over the years, RTDI has transformed UK rural dance touring. An evaluation report of the project's second phase, published in 2022, highlighted that **98% of audiences enjoyed watching the performances**, with **88% saying the experiences made them want to see more dance**, demonstrating demand for high quality touring dance.

In July 2022, the current RTDI partners (The Place, Highlights, NRTF, Sonia Sabri Company, Take Art) were awarded major grants from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Arts Council England to continue the project from 2023 – 2026. This is the final menu of the current funded project, but we're not standing still!

This year we were delighted to receive a grant from Arts Council Wales, in partnership with Creu Cymru, to expand our associate venue programme to three new venues in Wales.

At time of writing, the autumn 24 touring has just finished, and we're enjoying receiving your feedback on how much audiences have valued their experience of RTDI. From Falmouth to Scottish Borders and from Aberdovey to Stansfield, we love the opportunity to meet audiences across the country and enjoy some of the best touring dance productions on offer. A huge thank you to the artists, schemes, promoters and RTDI team who work hard to make it possible.

'I thought it was great. I think it's brilliant having shows like this with professional dancers coming into little villages like this one, and really sort of spreading the word about dance and what it can do.'

Fault Lines, Broadhempston Village Hall

THE 8TH MENU



What you are reading is the eighth national menu of dance supported by RTDI. It includes seven shows which are available to tour in Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026.

These shows were selected through a national open call for dance-makers with tour ready shows in July 2024. Artists who wanted to tour their work to rural areas applied, and the seven shows on this menu were selected by a panel which represents the rural and dance touring ecology: Amanda Drago (Promoter, Highlights), Eddie Nixon (The Place), Alison Lord (Take Art), Holly Lombardo (National Rural Touring Forum), Beccy Lloyd (Take Art), and Sonia Sabri (Sonia Sabri Company).

Making the selection for the menu is a huge privilege, and it is always exciting to read and watch so many exceptional applications from dance-makers who really want to connect with rural audiences. We are continually listening to feedback on the menu, and aim to offer a range of shows to connect to the huge diversity of rural audiences across the UK. You might wonder why a particular show has been selected, whilst in another area it's perfect for an audience development project they're running. Some schemes tell us they want more family shows, whilst others rarely programme for this audience. We hope we have found a balance which responds to the plurality of needs in the sector.

'RTDI is a brilliant scheme that encourages and supports artists of all experiences and backgrounds to develop their work for rural touring, including first-timers! Personally, the rewards of touring my work across rural communities through previous RTDI years and before, have been some of the most emotionally nourishing, that feeling that every dancer wants after a performance, of self-fulfilment. Through rural touring one has the opportunity to have a greater personal connection with the audience and the audiences are always keen to let you know how they experienced your performance.'

Sonia Sabri, RTDI Partner/Artist

This year's companies include a selection of new and returning artists to the rural touring circuit, but have all been attendees on our RTDI Artists Lab to help them 'Rural Touring' proof their shows and practice. While the cost and resourcing of the different shows might vary from company to company, you will see that the cost of most performances remains constant at £700/750. The fee is based on offering an opportunity for you to book all companies on an equal basis. These companies are contracted via RTDI (by NRTF, Take Art or Highlights, depending on where the touring is taking place). We have kept the financial commitment for the schemes and promoters the same despite rising costs for artists. The additional cost is covered by increased fundraising by RTDI.

We are really excited by the choice of companies and shows on offer - we hope you will be too...

BOOKING SHOWS



This section is most relevant to scheme managers and associate venue programmers.

We are very pleased to say that our regional approach to booking is enabling us to build stronger connections regionally through this iteration of RTDI. We would once again like to thank all those originally involved, and those who continue to consult with us on improvements to the design of RTDI, to allow touring to be coordinated regionally, and to build a better touring experience for artists.

For RTDI we have four Coordinators based at Take Art, NRTF, Highlights and Creu Cymru, and each of them is responsible for booking and supporting touring in their area of the country. The Coordinators and their contact details are:

Beccy Lloyd (Take Art, South West Region) | beccy@takeart.org

Susan Coffer (Highlights, Northern Region) | susan@highlightsnorth.co.uk

Emily O'Shea (NRTF, Central Region) | dance@nrtf.org.uk

Yvonne O'Donovan (Creu Cymru, Welsh Associate Venues) | yvonne@creucymru.com

There is an RTDI Producer, **Courtney Beadle**, Courtney.Beadle@theplace.org.uk, who oversees the project. Please contact Courtney if you're unsure which coordinator to speak to about touring in your region.

In addition to the menu you will receive an expression of interest form. **The deadline for returning the expression of interest is Friday 21 February 2025.**

Our aim is to organise touring for artists so that they get to know one part of the country in more depth, and to minimise travel. We are testing an approach in which schemes coordinate with other schemes that are geographically close to them to agree which companies to present.

Please note that we are working to a timeline designed for both schemes and the dance companies to enable them to contract dancers well in advance of bookings. We are aware that this might not fit into some schemes' customary booking timeline and are happy to negotiate these if any clear issues arise.

Once we have the expression of interest bookings, we will create a series of touring schedules for each company, aiming to offer schemes as many first choice options and dates as possible.

We aim to confirm touring dates in May 2025. We hope between the launch and then we have given schemes adequate time to discuss the programme with local promoters. Therefore the expectation is that once a show has been allocated to a scheme they will find a venue and audience for it, avoiding 'grey areas' where dates are taken by schemes and subsequently cancelled due to a lack of take up from village promoters.

RTDI will support a minimum of two shows per scheme/ associate venue in each menu. It may be possible to book additional shows once a company is in the geographical area, depending on scheme demand.

If you have any questions, please phone/email Courtney or your local coordinator to talk through your queries.

HOW IT WORKS



OUTREACH ACTIVITY

Each company will be offering 'Outreach' activity for their shows, which will vary from show to show. This menu contains tasters of what each company can offer. This outreach and community engagement can be booked on dates alongside the show or in the run up to the event as a way to support ticket sales and engage your audiences.

At the point of confirming scheme dates, we will circulate each company's full outreach offers inclusive of costs, target audiences, timings and venue requirements. We hope having these more solidified offers earlier on in the booking process will allow us to build additional activity into the offer to promoters and secure the engagement and the tours simultaneously. We are keen to support more activity to happen alongside RTDI to deepen the impact of the artists within the area.

Many of our companies are also open to bespoke offers depending on the audiences you are looking to reach. If you have any thoughts around how our shows may fit into the wider context of your scheme or venues programming in 2025/26, we would be happy to have these conversations at any stage throughout the booking process.

RESIDENCY OPPORTUNITIES

Through RTDI we also offer 4 of our artists the opportunity to undertake a residency within a rural community/ small scale venue. During these week-long residencies, the companies will receive £4000 from RTDI to cover the artist's time. We will be looking for venues to host. The residency will be an opportunity for our artists to develop their current production with rural touring in mind or to develop new work for small scale touring in the future. In our previous menus, these residencies have been used to connect with other community hubs such as schools, support groups and food banks. This is a key part of our legacy programme we are introducing with RTDI to increase the quality and impact of the artists to the areas they visit.

Within this menu we are also looking to place an additional funded two weeks of residency with Jamaal O'Driscoll, with an idea (outlined on page 33) which the panel felt had huge potential for rural touring.

If any of the above are something a venue within your scheme would be interested in hosting, please make your regional coordinator aware of this.

RTDI RESPONSIBILITIES

RTDI will be responsible through its regional partners; NRTE, Take Art and Highlights for providing financial support for shows, contracting and paying companies, sourcing accommodation, providing marketing support and resources, liaising on tour dates with companies and schemes, collating data and evaluating the success of tours.

SCHEME/ASSOCIATE VENUE RESPONSIBILITIES

For those schemes that supported the RTDI 3 Arts Council England application, your commitment is to take at least one performance from each menu, with our expectations being that most schemes will take up to four performances. You will also enter a contract with your regional RTDI partner to pay the agreed fee for each performance. We will ask you to participate in a limited amount of quantitative data collection (such as audience data for each performance) and qualitative evaluation at both audience and scheme level. Our overall target for average audience attendance is 66% and we would like to exceed this. The RTDI partners will work with you, the artists, and the local promoters to achieve successful, high-quality experiences for audiences and a growing interest in dance performance.

PROMOTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Promoters are responsible for choosing, booking, publicising (locally) and selling tickets for shows; ensuring venues are safe, accessible and comply with all insurance and licensing regulations; liaising with companies leading up to performances and managing the show on the day; hosting the companies if appropriate and paying the local scheme an agreed fee.

TICKET PRICES

Final ticket price decisions rest with the scheme and local promoter. We are keen to value the professionalism of the companies while at the same time understand there might be local circumstances that might influence your decision on ticket prices.

MARKETING

Our marketing coordinator will be the point of contact between our dance companies, schemes and venues. They will coordinate the supply of print materials (sent directly from companies to venues) and marketing packs, containing copy, images, and more, well in advance of the show date.

Companies are provided guidance and support in order to get their marketing materials rural touring ready. This includes financial assistance to create new trailers and to adapt their print marketing.

In addition to the support for companies, we offer support for venues and promoters looking to find new ways to engage local audiences. This includes one-to-one discussions about potential target audiences in their local area, assistance with using marketing materials, and general support.

Marketing Coordinator: Eamon Foreman
admin@nrtf.org.uk

RTDI is currently trialing a relationship with the NRTF's new Press Office to support some of the shows where ticket sales are very difficult or the schemes are at capacity to help with marketing. This support could range from providing event specific press releases, placing the event on local listing sites or reaching out to local media.

If this is something you would be interested in us working with you on, please make your co-ordinator aware at the point of booking the show as the ideal lead in time for PR is 8 weeks.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children and Young People's participation is a particular priority of the project. Following consultations with previous schemes and venues, we are committed to using our resources to promote activities and engagement opportunities for young people with our artists. We will support creating these opportunities through any proposals we receive through schemes aiding with financial support and planning. In the past, some of the most successful proposals have included engagement with local dance clubs or schools, or the visiting artists working with existing local community groups. If you would like to propose additional activities within this area, please contact your regional coordinator.

ASSOCIATE VENUES

As many of you will know, we are running a pilot programme within this iteration of RTDI to include nine associate venues in our booking process. These associate venues are a mix of community venues and arts centres based in towns and small urban settings. Having these venues has allowed us to build more performances into our tour schedules and create more eco-friendly touring routes across the large areas some of the schemes cover. We will continue to increase audience's exposure to dance through RTDI across the UK.

GO AND SEE GRANTS

We have grants available ranging from £150 to £500. We would like to support scheme managers, marketing teams and promoters:

- To visit other schemes who are marketing dance shows to see how they do it
- To see a show prior to it being performed locally
- To see other examples of excellent dance work on tour that may be of interest to your programming

For Forms [click here](#)



BOBAK CHAMPION & FRIENDS I'M MUSLAMIC DON'T PANIK

A hilarious and heart-felt story of one man's journey to Iran to discover his cultural heritage. Featuring a captivating mixture of live music, spoken word, break-dancing and comedy.

Join Bobak on his journey of self-discovery as he meets a whole cast of weird and wonderful characters - from women defiantly running the first (and last) ever Tehran marathon, to stumbling into an underground breakdance battle.

Whilst the media frequently portray the Middle East as a frightening and dangerous place, Bobak shows us the positivity, joy, family and community that we rarely get to see. This is a beautiful story that will have you laughing-out-loud and leave you feeling full of hope.

After the show, enjoy a chat with your neighbours and the artists as we serve traditional Persian tea and date biscuits called Kolompeh. Everyone is welcome.

Hip-Hop Dance Theatre

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- A compelling story that speaks to building empathy across geographical borders and cultures
- Breathtaking breakdancing
- Luscious Live Saxophone performance
- A unique insight into life in Iran
- Tasty Persian Tea and Biscuits
- Comedy and Clowning
- Live Iranian folk music
- Anti Racist/Islamophobic sentiment
- A genre defying show
- An opportunity to experience Iranian culture

TRAILERS

- **View trailer**  | **Full length video available on request**

WEBSITE AND SOCIALS

 bobakchampion.co.uk |  [@bobakchampion](https://www.instagram.com/bobakchampion) |  [Bobak Champion](https://www.facebook.com/BobakChampion) |  [@BobakChampion](https://twitter.com/BobakChampion)

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Families with children aged 12+ – IMDP is full of laughter, music and engrossing tales that will cater to the whole family
- Anyone interested in breakdancing, including youth dance groups, breakdance groups or Hip-Hop dance groups
- Anyone interested in comedy and clowning - including local comedy or clowning groups
- Those who are interested in experiencing new cultures and stories
- Anyone with an interest in expanding their understanding of Iran and the Middle East
- Anyone interested in stories that combat Islamophobia and racism through compassion and laughter

AGE RESTRICTIONS

- 12+

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

'A game changing work with energy to match.'

'These stories are still few and far between on our stages, and in a world divided by religion, politics and borders, the show provides the perfect stimulation to develop empathy.'

PRESS REVIEWS

★★★★ **'So warm hearted that it is impossible not to enjoy.'** The Guardian

★★★★★ **'Immerse yourself in Bobak's world, it will enliven and educate you.'** Fairy Powered Productions

TECHNICAL / TOUR INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** Act I 1hr | Act II 30 - 45 minutes
- **Minimum performance space** (width x depth): 5m x 5m
- **Is it performed on stage or a floor space?** Floor space
- **Get in / Get out:** 4.5 hours
- **Number of people on the road:** 3 - 6 people
- **Fee:** £700
- **Accessibility options:** Audio introduction available **here**. BSL interpreter available for £200 fee.
- **Dates available for touring Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026:** Autumn 2025 preferred

LOCATION OF COMPANY

Leeds

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Included as part of standard show package:

- 'Act II' is a beautiful fragrant Chayee & Shirinee – tea service – including vegan and caffeine free options served immediately after the show. This is already an established part of our offer and comes at no additional cost.

For additional cost:

- We can deliver dance workshops in your school: 
- A craft/language learning workshop for participants to learn to write their names in Farsi -
یس‌یونب یسراف دب ار تهمین ریگب دای.
- We work with chef Sam Browes who's partner is Iranian and leads food-based activities for Salaam Salaam including pomegranate juicing and baking Kolompeh – Iranian Date biscuits

CREDITS

Performance, Text, Concept: **Bobak Champion**

Dramaturges & Critical Friends: **Lizi Patch, James Fogerty**

Creative Director: **Matt Mulligan**

Producer: **Rosie Watt**

Creative Producer: **Hadi Hedayati**

Clown Consultant: **Holly Stoppit**

Lighting Design: **Alan Dawson**

Artwork & Design: **Afi Walker Design**

Photography: **Edward Khan**



CEYDA TANC DANCE KIZLAR

‘Who runs the world? Girls.’

KIZLAR is a celebration of what it means to be female. Combining Turkish folk dance with stunning athletic movement, this captivating show presents different images of femininity, from the tender to the powerful.

Subverting traditionally male Turkish folk dances with an all-female company, KIZLAR brings unified strength and a strong yet sensual energy to the stage.

This highly visual spectacle is accompanied by a powerful, rhythmic soundtrack blending Eastern sounds with modern beats.

Contemporary dance ensemble piece with influence of Turkish folk dance and other global styles

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- Highly visual spectacle with a powerful, rhythmic soundtrack blending Eastern sounds with modern beats
- A vibrant and atmospheric celebration of women, showcasing strength and power as well as tenderness and sensuality
- Whilst centred on female experience, universal themes of culture and identity, and the dynamic dance, appeals to multigenerational audiences of all genders
- Reinterpreting traditional and cultural dances for new audiences, the abstract nature of the work encourages individual interpretation and provides a powerful and uplifting experience
- Highly skilled performers form connection with the audience
- Turkish folk dance is rooted in community and accessible to people across ages and experiences of dance
- KIZLAR opens up conversations about culture, heritage, identity and gender, increasing awareness of different cultural influences and intersectional identities within local communities

TRAILERS

- View trailer  | Full length video available on request

WEBSITE AND SOCIALS

 ceydatancdance.com |  [@ceydatancdance](https://www.instagram.com/ceydatancdance) |  [CeydaTancDance](https://www.facebook.com/CeydaTancDance)

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Multigenerational audiences
- Audiences with an interest or resonance in the female experience
- Suitable for first-time or less experienced dance audiences, as well as dance and theatre goers
- Local dance and performing arts schools/colleges

AGE RESTRICTIONS

- Recommended for 11+, but at parental discretion, as the content is suitable for all ages

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

'Powerful, strong, sensual and soft. Beautiful dancers. Awesome, awesome soundtrack and slick costumes that complemented every move. Just perfect.' Audience member, Wildness Festival 2023

'It made the whole afternoon. I loved the music, the dance was a work of art. Do it again!' Audience member

PRESS REVIEWS

'KIZLAR is a defiant display of feminism with powerful movements, interspersed with tenderness as the dancers embrace.' Brighton and Hove News

TECHNICAL / TOUR INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 55 mins plus interval and wraparound e.g. Q&A
- **Minimum performance space** (width x depth): 5m x 5m
- **Is it performed on stage or a floor space?** Adaptable to either
- **Get in / Get out:** Ideally requires a get-in of 3 - 4 hours, however 1 hour/no get-in has been achieved
- **Number of people on the road:** 6 people
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** Clear, flat surface required. Possibility to bring dance floor if needed or for dancers to wear shoes.
- **Fee:** £750
- **Accessibility options:**
 - Suitable for 'Relaxed Performance' format
 - Non-verbal, suitable for non-English speakers
 - Plans to create audio description recording for partially sighted or blind audience members
- **Dates available for touring Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026:** Flexible (excluding 9 - 11 October 2025)

LOCATION OF COMPANY

Brighton

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Q&A (formal or informal) and post-show dance party can be included in the show cost.

Add-ons include:

- Intergenerational workshops for women and girls
- Community/extended cast option to integrate local people into sections of the performance
For female and non-binary identifying people with some dance experiences. Ages 14 to older adults.
- Curtain raisers and youth dance commissions
- Open level classes and workshops for people from international communities, including female migrants and refugees

Pricing:

- Full day workshop with 2 facilitators £500
- Commissions/curtain raisers/community casts - (price dependent on details and number of facilitators)

CREDITS

Choreographer: **Ceyda Tanc**

Producer: **Hayley Ovens**

Dancer: **Gemma Shrubbs**

Dancer: **Gabriella Sanders**

Dancer: **Chloe Mead**

Dancer: **Colette Kite**

Composer: **Asta Hiroki**

Costume Designer: **Holly Murray**

Design & Costume Making: **Karin Tanc**

Lighting Designer: **Georgia Godfrey**

Dramaturg: **Lou Cope**



EKLEIDO SPICE | RORSCHACH

Join Ekleido for a mesmerising dance experience featuring original music by world-renowned electronic musician Floating Points.

Immerse yourself in a spellbinding display of impressive acrobatics, bodily contortions, dazzling costumes and spectacular lights.

Ekleido's club-inspired magic will make this a night to remember!

'Wouldn't seem out of place at Cirque du Soleil.' Everything Theatre

Splice is a dance duet and Rorschach a dance trio, both combining contemporary dance and club dance styles including Voguing, threading, and bone breaking. No text, no props - pure dance.

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- Original soundtrack by world-renowned electronic musician Floating Points
- The work combines an innovative blend of dance styles including Voguing, bone-breaking and threading
- Featuring critically acclaimed costumes from renowned designers George H Wale and Saul Nash
- The work has been performed in a wide variety of spaces showing its wide appeal to diverse audiences including music festivals, street dance spaces, nightclubs, contemporary dance spaces, and ballet spaces

TRAILERS

- **View SPLICE trailer**  | **View RORSCHACH trailer**  | **Full length videos available on request**

WEBSITE AND SOCIALS

 ekleido.co.uk |  [@ekleido](https://www.instagram.com/ekleido) |  [@ekleido](https://www.youtube.com/ekleido) |  [@ekleido](https://www.tiktok.com/ekleido) |  [Ekleido](https://www.facebook.com/Ekleido) |  [@ekleidodance](https://twitter.com/ekleidodance)

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Dancers and dance enthusiasts, including youth dance clubs and amateur groups
- Electronic music enthusiasts - Floating Points is a highly-regarded and globally-recognised name
- Young People: The energetic blend of club street dance styles, alongside the electronic music, resonates with young people
- Families and kids who can enjoy the lively and spectacular display of bodily contortions, light, and music akin to a Cirque de Soleil show
- LGBTQIA+ People: With the use of Voguing influences in our work, people from the Ballroom (Voguing) Scene and/or LGBTQIA+ people have attended our shows

AGE RESTRICTIONS

- 5+

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

'This was honestly one of my favorite performances I've ever seen - it was so good.' Audience member

'It was like watching a magic show, I was fully mesmerised.' Audience member

PRESS REVIEWS

★★★★ The Guardian

'An exploration of the elasticity of the human body that is mesmerising to watch.' The Reviews Hub

'Mind-blowing... an Ekleido performance is a must for anyone who wants to see the impossible made possible.'
Moves Magazine

TECHNICAL / TOUR INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 1 hour (including interval)
- **Minimum performance space** (width x depth): 6m x 6m but can adapt to smaller spaces if informed in advance
- **Is it performed on stage or a floor space?** Floor space or stage (depending on size)
- **Get in / Get out:** 4 hours / 1 hour
- **Number of people on the road:** 4 people
- **Fee:** £750
- **Accessibility options:** Audio Description (Funding dependant). Earplugs available.
- **Dates available for touring Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026:** 20 October - 30 November 2025 | Available all of Spring 2026

LOCATION OF COMPANY

Surrey and London

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Rorschach Arts & Crafts activity - pre show:

- Inspired by our 2nd work in our double bill, 'Rorschach', we invite audiences to participate in an arts and crafts activity as a pre show activity. There will be a table set up in the venue where one of Ekleido's company dancers will guide participants through creating symmetrical 'Rorschach Inkblot' inspired painting.

Post-show party / after performance:

- Given Ekleido's artistic director's (Faye and Hannah) experience of hosting and promoting nightlife events and Vogue Balls - we know how to facilitate a good post-show party. Featuring a DJ set from DJ / production manager Charlie Knight, party lighting, and dance-floor facilitating from Faye and Hannah. This activity will be family friendly and the DJ will play music that doesn't include explicit language.

Costs:

- All wraparound activity (Arts & Crafts + Disco) - £250
- Arts & Crafts Activity alone - £50

CREDITS

Choreography and Direction: **Hannah Ekholm & Faye Stoesser**

Original Scores Composed by: **Floating Points**

Splice Performed by: **Hannah Ekholm & Faye Stoesser**

Rorschach Material devised and performed by: **Hannah Ekholm, Jasper Narvaez, Faye Stoesser**

Choreography of Lights: **Joshie Harriette**

Dramaturg & Writer: **Jordan Chandler**

Costume Design Splice: **George H Wale**

Splice Costumes made by: **George H Wale & Octavia Austin**

Costume Design Rorschach: **Saul Nash**

Choreographic Rorschach Facilitators: **Kieran Lai, Dom Simpson, Jamal Sterrett, Kanah Flex, David Ledger**

Rehearsal Director: **Oliver Chapman**

Research Partner Rorschach: **Molly Macdonald**



LOST DOG JULIET & ROMEO

With Lost Dog's blend of dance, theatre and comedy, this Juliet & Romeo reveals the real story behind Shakespeare's famous lovers.

It turns out they didn't die in a tragic misunderstanding, they grew up and lived happily ever after. Well, they lived at least.

Now they're 40ish, at least one of them is in the grips of a mid-life crisis, they feel constantly mocked by their teenage selves and haunted by the pressures of being the poster couple for romantic love. They have decided to confront their current struggles by putting on a performance – about themselves. Their therapist told them it was a terrible idea.

Directed by Olivier Award nominated Ben Duke, Juliet & Romeo takes on our cultural obsession with youth and our inevitable issues with longevity.

Dance theatre with spoken word and movement

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- Reimagining of Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet
- Ben Duke is an award winning choreographer
- ★★★★★ reviews in the national and international press
- The show is an established success and has been performed in 7 countries and translated into 5 different languages
- Unique blend of dance, theatre and comedy

TRAILERS

- View trailer  | Full length video available on request

WEBSITE AND SOCIALS

 lostdogdance.co.uk |  [@lostdogdance](https://www.instagram.com/lostdogdance) |  Lost Dog Dance |  [@lostdogdance](https://twitter.com/lostdogdance)

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Theatre audiences who know the story of Romeo & Juliet
- Audiences who are interested but perhaps a little bit wary of contemporary dance

AGE RESTRICTIONS

- 12+

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

'I went to see Juliet & Romeo in Canterbury last Sunday - it was stunning. Clever, funny, poignant and beautiful. Thank you for 75 mins of amazing theatre. Well done to all involved. You do great stuff. Thank you.'

'My wife and I went to see Juliet and Romeo at the Lowry in Manchester on Tuesday. It was absolutely superb. Touched on so many different issues in a very light and considered way.'

PRESS REVIEWS

★★★★★ 'Pure pleasure. Smart, subversive and sexy.' *The Guardian*

★★★★ 'Insightful, funny and rich. Smoulders with equal parts lust and loathing.' *Time Out*

★★★★★ 'It's not often you're doubled over with laughter and wiping away tears of sadness during the same show. Given the components that come together in Juliet & Romeo, however, it's no surprise.' *The Scotsman*

TECHNICAL / TOUR INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 75 minutes
- **Minimum performance space** (width x depth): Ideally 8m x 8m (minimum of 6m x 6m)
- **Is it performed on stage or a floor space?** Either but there is a lot of activity that happens on the floor so sightlines become an issue if there is a large audience on the flat
- **Get in / Get out:** 4-5 hours dependant on the existing space
- **Number of people on the road:** 4
- **Fee:** £750
- **Accessibility options:** We have worked on integrating a BSL interpreter into the show and so a BSL interpreted show would be available at an additional cost. We have accessible marketing materials including a visual storyboard.
- **Dates available for touring Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026:**
27 - 29 September 2025 | 6 - 11 October 2025 | 16 March - 1 April 2026

LOCATION OF COMPANY

East Sussex

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

- Movement workshops with cast members where the schedule permits (for an additional cost)
- Post Show Q&A's with the cast (no additional cost)
- Video'd introduction to the cast and the show shared with audiences when booking opens (no additional cost)

CREDITS

Conceived and directed by **Ben Duke**

Devised by **Ben Duke** and **Solène Weinachter**

Associate director: **Raquel Meseguer**

Lighting Design: **Jackie Shemesh**

Set & Costume Design: **James Perkins**

Production Manager: **Dave Sherman**

Lost Dog Team:

Executive Producer: **Daisy Drury**

Producer: **Emma Evans**

Funding Credits:

Juliet and Romeo is co-commissioned by **Battersea Arts Centre** and **The Place**. The work is funded by **Arts Council England**.



ALTERED SKIN FATHERHOOD

A highly physical and laugh out loud take on fatherhood across generations, cultures and languages.

Being a father in the 21st century is complicated, especially when you're the father of a son of mixed heritage. Shane Shambhu shares his own experiences of being and having a dad in his Keralan, Turkish and Austrian family, interwoven with stories of other lives making their way in a changing world.

Fatherhood blends physical theatre, sharply written text, and South Indian dance to create a hilarious, moving and inspiring experience.

All performances include integrated captions.

Solo, physical theatre rooted in South Indian classical artform bharatanatyam together with sharp, funny text portraying three different characters

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- Funny, engaging and accessible story that is brimming with warmth and joy
 - A unique blend of physical theatre and South Indian classical dance
 - An inspiring tale of family bonds that transcend cultural and geographical boundaries
 - All performances include creative, integrated captions that describe the soundscape as well as the script using animated text. The piece also incorporates some BSL and other spoken languages including Turkish, Malayalam, German and Tamil.
-

TRAILERS

- **View trailer**  | **View clips from the show**  | **Full length video available on request**
-

WEBSITE AND SOCIALS

 alteredskin.org |  [@alteredskincic](https://www.instagram.com/alteredskincic) |  [Altered Skin CIC](https://www.facebook.com/AlteredSkinCIC)

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Anyone who is or has a dad!
 - Families (12+) and multigenerational audiences who can relate to themes of parenthood and family
 - Anyone interested in themes of multiculturalism and the migrant experience
 - Anyone who is deaf or hard of hearing - one of the characters is deaf and the show includes integrated captions and also incorporates some BSL
-

AGE RESTRICTIONS

- 12+
-

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

'Really beautifully crafted and brilliantly performed. Very touched and hugely inspired by the integrated captions and sign language.'

'Thank you for treating my eyes, my ears and my heart to your world.'

PRESS REVIEWS

'Puts the challenges of modern parenting and complexities of the migrant experience in the spotlight it deserves with intelligence, humanity and compassion.' Pulse Connects

'Phenomenally evocative... there aren't enough words to describe how important these stories are to tell.' Jackstage Blog

TECHNICAL / TOUR INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 75 mins, no interval
- **Minimum performance space** (width x depth): 5m x 5m
- **Is it performed on stage or a floor space?** Either but stage better due to projections
- **Get in / Get out:** 6 hours / 1 hour
- **Number of people on the road:** 2
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** We are bringing our own screen for projections
- **Fee:** £700
- **Accessibility options:** Integrated captions and some BSL
- **Dates available for touring Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026:**
22 September - 8 November 2025 | 13 March - 2 May 2026 (Preferably NOT school holidays)

LOCATION OF COMPANY

Birmingham

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

- Interactive Post-Show Talk & Quiz with South-Indian and Turkish nibbles
- A post-show performative, humorous and interactive talk drawing on themes from the show such as language, artform and culture.
- The artist will offer a chance to participate in speaking Malayalam and write the names of selected participants in the script of Malayalam calligraphy and offer as gifts to audiences
- An interactive quiz on the origins of words, vegetables and foods exploring and challenging presumptions of their origins and demonstrating the multi-cultural make-up of English language and food
- Ending with a sit-down interactive workshop of Indian dance's gestural language of storytelling

CREDITS

Conceived and created by **Shane Shambhu**

Dramaturgy: **Amit Sharma** and **Anna Himali Howard**

Creative consultancy: **Rinkoo Barpaga**

Sound design: **Gerry Smith**

Lighting design: **James Mackenzie**

Projection design: **Mark Morreau**

Researcher & script consultant: **Arzhang Pehzman**

Additional voices: **Alex Kapila** and **Sophie Lynch**

Costume advisor: **Kay Wilton**

Object manipulation: **Michael Crouch**

Producer: **SJ Watkinson**

Photograph: **Graeme Braidwood**



SHOTPUT TOTENTANZ (FIVE ATTEMPTS AT A DANCE OF DEATH)

Totentanz is a dance-theatre show that puts the fun back in funeral.

Two dancers attempt to create the perfect dance of death. A variety show of partner dances with flecks of tango, mambo, ballroom and much much more - this is Strictly Come Dancing for the afterlife.

Totentanz is an intimate spectacle of dazzling costumes, engrossing dance and a rocking soundtrack from acclaimed musician Cat Myers (Texas, Mogwai, KT Tunstall). You'll laugh and you'll cry as you peer with us into the mysteries of death - and of life.

Come and join us for one final dance...

Contemporary performance with dance, theatre, and original music

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- Original, rocking soundtrack by acclaimed musician Cat Myers (drummer with Texas, Mogwai, KT Tunstall)
 - Fun dances of many different genres
 - Captivating storytelling
 - Intimacy of connection between performers and audience (immersive dance-hall setting)
 - Features an array of dazzling costumes
 - A moving show that will have audiences laughing, crying and everything in between!
-

TRAILERS

- **View trailer**  | **Full length video available on request**
-

WEBSITE AND SOCIALS

 shotput.org |  [@ShotputTheatre](https://www.instagram.com/ShotputTheatre) |  [Shotput Theatre](https://www.facebook.com/ShotputTheatre) |  [@ShotputTheatre](https://www.twitter.com/ShotputTheatre)

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Intergenerational pairs and families (we had lots of success with, for example, grandmothers and granddaughters, fathers and sons, groups of sisters)
 - Audiences with an interest in popular dance styles, ballroom dancing, Strictly Come Dancing
 - Audiences with an interest in theatre and storytelling
 - Audiences and community groups who may benefit from Totentanz's light-hearted and moving look at life and death
-

AGE RESTRICTIONS

- 12+
-

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

'Never thought death could look so cool.'

'Ridiculously beautiful. Poignant. Freaking hilarious!!!'

'Was brought to tears then laughter within a minute. Powerful performance, captivating sounds. Thank you. Please come again.'

PRESS REVIEWS

'What's so delicious about this new Glasgow-based company... is that dance is only half the banquet they offer.'
Kelly Apter, The List

'Totentanz pulses with movement... and captures the brilliance of Shotput's creative output with gusto, vibrance, and a devilishly enjoyable serving of deathly humour.' Dominic Corr, Corr Blimey

TECHNICAL / TOUR INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 90 minutes plus interval and wraparound
- **Minimum performance space** (width x depth): 8m x 11m (this includes the audience, sat at cabaret tables on 3 sides of the stage, the stage itself is a 'cat walk' of 4m x 8m). Ideally, there is also space for a bar within the room, to help with the 'dance hall' feel. People can get drinks before, at interval, and after and mingle at the tables. Another possibility is that there's a bar in a separate room.
- **Is there a maximum audience capacity?** 30 (if there is only enough space in the venue for one row around 3 sides of the stage). 60 (if there is enough space for 2 rows around all three sides - this requires a space of 10mx13m, and ideally higher 'stools' for the 2nd row, rather than chairs at the same height as the first floor).
- **Is it performed on stage or a floor space?** Floor space
- **Get in / Get out:** 4 hours / 1 hour
- **Number of people on the road:** 4
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** As much as possible, we seek to transform the space into a kind of 'dance hall', with a dance floor in the centre, curtains at the back, cabaret tables around the dance floor (all of this we tour with) and chairs and a bar within the same space (provided by venues). So what's ideal is a big, empty room with a bar!
- **Fee:** £750
- **Accessibility options:**
 - BSL: ideally, an interpreter is sat at a table with D/deaf audience members
 - Relaxed performance: we can provide this upon request for venues that have a separate quiet space available
- **Dates available for touring Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026:** December 2025 | 13 April - 5 July 2026

LOCATION OF COMPANY

Glasgow, Scotland

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

- An 'afterparty' in the dance hall, with informal conversations at the cabaret tables among audience members and with the performers, as well as music for audience members to dance on the dance floor (built into the performance; no additional cost)
- Ballet class with Shotput co-artistic director, Lucy Ireland (£150)
- Photographic project with the community, in which local people work with Shotput's visual artist Brian Hartley to create photographs of death that are exhibited at the performance (enquire for cost)

CREDITS

Co-creators and performers: **Lucy Ireland** and **Jim Manganello**

Scenic and Costume Designer: **Anna Yates**

Lighting Designer: **Emma Jones**

Composer: **Cat Myers**

Sound Designer: **Garry Boyle**

Costume Maker: **Petros Kourtellaris**

Voice Artist: **Claire Willoughby**

Totentanz was commissioned by **Dance Base Scotland**, **Dundee Rep**, **Scottish Dance Theatre** and **Tramway** as part of #LoveDanceScotland. Supported by the Scottish Government's **Performing Arts Venue Relief Fund** through **Creative Scotland**.



OLIVE BRANCH VANHULLE DANCE THEATRE

Olive Branch is a family-friendly acrobatic extravaganza! Join us for a funny and feel-good tale of friendship and the wonder of the natural world, told through a captivating mixture of physical theatre and martial arts.

Two strangers meet in a forest and must learn to overcome their differences to help protect mother nature. How will they learn to work together? Will they make it in time to save mother nature?

Immerse yourselves in Vanhulle's forest of wonders, featuring spellbinding acrobatics, a spectacular battle-scene, and a world brimming with imagination.

A dance duet for children and families

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- Funny, uplifting, moving and thought-provoking
 - Spectacular lifts, dynamic acrobatics
 - World class martial arts and acrobatics that will keep the whole family engaged
 - A parable on the importance of friendship and working together
 - Accompanied by a moving soundtrack
-

TRAILERS

- **View trailer**  | Full length video available on request
-

WEBSITE AND SOCIALS

 vanhulledancetheatre.co.uk |  [@vanhulledt](https://www.instagram.com/vanhulledt) | oliver.robert.russell |  Vanhulle Dance Theatre

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Children aged 5+
 - Families
 - Aspiring performers
 - Lovers of martial arts and acrobatics
 - Groups related to shows central themes - nature, neurodiversity
-

AGE RESTRICTIONS

- 5+
-

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

'Olive Branch is nothing short of mesmerising, the dancers effortlessly wove together contemporary dance movements with the precision and discipline of martial arts. It was a visual symphony of grace and power, leaving us all in awe.' Adult audience member

'Love it! Super Impressive, so refreshing to see a bit of comedy in dance.' Adult audience member

'The combination of storytelling, martial arts and all the stunts reminded me of Avatar; The Last Airbender, which I love! And the stick solo at the beginning was so cool and HYPNOTIC!' Boy aged 12

'The storytelling was excellent. I was unsure if I would enjoy something like this, but I am pleasantly surprised. You can see both dancers have worked extremely hard. I really enjoyed the performance.' Adult audience member

TECHNICAL / TOUR INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 30 minutes followed by 10min Q&A, 30min post show workshop
- **Minimum performance space** (width x depth): 7m x 7m, 2.5m height clearance ideal, but adaptable
- **Is it performed on stage or a floor space?** Preferably floor space
- **Get in / Get out:** 1.5 hours / 15 minutes
- **Number of people on the road:** 2
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** Floor needs to be a flat, smooth and level surface (for the safety of log balance), can be performed outdoors (weather permitting)
- **Fee:** £700
- **Accessibility options:** N/A
- **Dates available for touring Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026:** Flexible

LOCATION OF COMPANY

Ely, Cambridgeshire

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Q&A offered as standard after the show

- Workshops for all ages available as a follow on from the show for young people
- Dance/creatives workshops tailored to what they're interested in learning from a professional touring company
- Pre- show, nature related arts and crafts

KS1 and KS2 Education pack:

- Connects the shows themes to the schools curriculum
- Pre show activities and lesson plans
- Follow up lesson plans
- Reading lists

CREDITS

Choreography: **Laura Vanhulle** and **Oliver Robert Russell**

Music composition: **Domenico Angarano**

Partner Consultant: **Chris Knight** and **Nathan Johnston**

Dramaturg: **Sue Buckmaster**

Producer: **Adam Towndrow**

Arts Council England, supported by **Out There Arts, Swindon Dance** and **Dance East**



SOMETHING OUTTA NOTHING JAMAAL O'DRISCOLL / O'DRISCOLL COLLECTIVE

Something Outta Nothing (SON) is a research and development project that has been created by Jamaal O'Driscoll (Director of O'Driscoll Collective).

This site-specific theatre work has been created to meet audience members and participants where they are, by using dance (Breakin'), audio technology and story-telling.

The project would be looking to develop a 60-minute piece that can tour and adapt to a range of sites, from village halls to housing estates using Breakin' and digital technology to transform perceptions of community spaces. We are currently working towards creating worlds through performance, inviting audiences to see public spaces in new ways whilst ensuring as minimal environmental impact as possible.

Group Hip-Hop and Breakin' show

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- **Audio Technology** (E.g. silent disco headphones, vibration packs and belts)
 - **High quality and dynamic choreography and dance** from the ethos and culture of Hip-Hop
 - **Community Engagement** embedded in the practice and connection to the work
 - **Digital Technology** (use of gorilla filming and locality)
-

WEBSITE AND SOCIALS

 odriscollcollective.com |  [@odriscoll_collective](https://www.instagram.com/odriscoll_collective)

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

'The Performance was really good and the guys were really fun and engaged with all the people. My kids enjoyed it!'

RESIDENCY INFORMATION

The residency will act as a crucial testing ground for evaluating the project's strength and its capacity to meet the diverse needs of the community and its audiences. Moreover, this period will empower the entire team to refine and enhance the project, ensuring we are well-prepared for a successful tour in the future.

LOCATION OF COMPANY

Main company based in Birmingham. Dance artists coming from multiple locations across England.

OPTIONAL OUTREACH

- **Additional Options**

Hip-Hop Experience Workshops (2 hours)

In line with the show, this activity includes a full experience of Hip-Hop where young people, families and SEND participants can get involved in Dance & Street Illustration. Covering the 101 steps from multiple Hip-Hop styles and a brief introduction to illustration, creating a tag inspired by the history of graffiti.

Intermediate and Professional Company Workshops (2 Hours)

A masterclass for those who are more experience with movement, who would be interested in learning the ethos of the show. Including repertoire and tools to further explore participants personal movement. Providing a deeper insight to what they will see in Something Outta Nothing.

CREDITS

Director: **Jamaal O'Driscoll**

Sound Designer: **Munotida Chinyanga**

RURAL TOURING DANCE INITIATIVE

Having graduated from the Northern School Of Contemporary Dance, I had a 20 year career in dance firstly performing, then on to producing dance across the north east and finally at a policy level as Relationship Manager Dance North for Arts Council England. In 2017, my husband and I moved to Gilsland in Northumberland and in 2018 set up Green Croft Arts, a project-funded rural arts organisation delivering a regular class programme of dance, yoga and sound baths and one off performances, events and exhibitions.

In 2024 we took on the volunteer role of Highlights promoter for Gilsland Village Hall. They work with some of the most remote village halls in the UK across Northumberland, Cumbria and Durham. Our first show was Charlotte Mclean's solo show "AND" with a community workshop alongside and in Spring 2025 we have Lila Dance in residence. Being a Highlights promoter has been a fantastic and invaluable opportunity. It enables us to bring more risky contemporary performances with a reduced financial risk, enabling our rural communities to access amazing artists.

As part of my role as RTDI Ambassador, I was asked to be part of the Selection Panel shortlisting the companies for the 2025 menu. The process was rigorous and each of the panel members brought a different perspective to the selection process. At the back of my mind I was thinking about suitability of the work for my audiences and rural touring and importantly was the work high quality. I am really looking forward to seeing the chosen companies' works evolve through the package of support being offered by RTDI.

Amanda Drago

Director, Green Croft Arts

The Rural Touring Dance Initiative is supported by **Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grants** and **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**. The project is run by partners **Highlights**, **NRTF**, **Sonia Sabri Company**, **Take Art** and **The Place** along with rural touring schemes, in England, Wales and Scotland.

Find out more at: ruraltouringdance.com



**National Rural
Touring Forum**



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