

## Lila Dance Participation CV

### Participation Overview

*Engaging local communities and groups in our artistic practice has always been an important aspect of what we do. It is our belief that it is important to offer opportunities for individuals to flex both their physical and artistic capacity regardless of experience, age or ability. It is this which has driven us to design innovative participatory approaches to both what we deliver and how we deliver it. Within the workshops our practitioners create a friendly and energised environment in which our participants are invited to share in our creative processes and ideas. Within this environment individual creativity is celebrated and group camaraderie is encouraged.*



### Long Term Projects – Embedding in the Community

#### **New Moves 2005-06**

Dance for all! This weekly community class was aimed at young people aged 11-16 years old in Chichester and surrounding areas. The ethos of the classes was to promote positive social engagement through dance. The project ran two for ten-week terms per year, offering class, creative and performance opportunities. New Moves was built in partnership between Chichester Festival Theatre, Lila Dance and The University of Chichester.

#### **NRG 2005-06**

A project delivered by Hampshire Dance and Trinity Laban, in partnership with a collection of secondary schools, exploring how dance can be employed as a means for improving health and well-being in young people. Lila were engaged as teachers on the delivery team, working with researchers, dance scientists and in the studio with the



participants. The results reflected that creative dance positively impacted health and well-being in 11-14-year olds.

### **Chichester Collective 2008/09**



Open to aspiring undergraduate choreographers and performers at the University of Chichester, who wanted to build confidence in taking creative risks in their performance and choreographic responses. This initiative ran for 2 years as a partnership project between Lila Dance and UOC, acting as a catalyst to encourage students to engage in exploration, play and

discovering in safe and supportive environment, and all for this to feed back into their training.

### **The Mayakaras (2006-present)**

The Mayakaras is Lila's youth dance company. Based in Kent, in an area of socio-economic diversity, The Mayakaras is aimed at gifted and talented young people who are invited to take part in annual intensive projects. Each project is an opportunity to build confidence, group camaraderie and learn to work in professional dance environment.



Through The Mayakaras projects we have engaged further participants in intergenerational commissions, working with people aged 6 to 75 years old, and through opening the project up to young musicians who worked alongside composer Dougie Evans in the creation of original music.

### **County Youth Dance Companies**

Co-Artistic Director Carrie Whitaker was Artistic Director of Hampshire Youth Dance Company Artistic Director between 2006 & 2011. Co-Artistic Director Abi Mortimer was Artistic Director of West Sussex Youth Dance Company in 2010.



## **Centre for Advanced Training**

Lead-practitioner on Centre for Advanced Training satellite schemes in Brighton (2016 - 18) and Eastleigh (2015 - present). Through these schemes, focus is placed on introducing contemporary dance, encouraging creativity, and building confidence to take risks.

## **Education**

- Abi Mortimer Choreographer for AQA GCSE Set Study Impulse 2005-2015
- Delivery of curriculum enriching workshops for GCSE, BTEC and A-Level Across the U.K since 2005.

## **Touring Projects**

### **Curtain Raiser 2010**

Lîla's first tour In Our Blood, presented youth dance commissions through curtain raisers. Each youth commission was devised from exploring themes and approaches from Lîla's touring work -creative ideas, choreographic tasks and movement sequences, as a means of finding a shared experience of the performance.

### **Lîla Curated Youth Platform 2010**

At the culmination of the In Our Blood tour, Lîla hosted a youth platform for all the curtain raiser groups to come together, engage in workshops and classes and a sharing performance of their work to each other.

### **IN To Us Project 2012**

During our second tour Incredible Presence of a Remarkable Absence, we developed a new model of engagement where youth groups performed inside a section of the work. Having undergone the curtain-raiser model in our previous tour, we felt that we wanted to offer an opportunity for participants to build stronger connections with the Lîla and its work. This was an incredibly successful project and acted as the catalyst for future touring & participation.

## Community Cast The Deluge 2014-16



In 2014, we embarked on our third tour The Deluge. Participation was a core creative concern from the conception of this work, considering how participants could enter the work in a meaningful, exciting and artistic way. As a result, we formed the community cast, offering 4 sections of performance for our participants. With each venue we worked with a collective of partners organisations to bring together different community groups.

## Community Cast Party The Hotel Experience 2018-21

In 2018, we continued the community cast in our production The Hotel Experience. This time we wanted to celebrate with our participants and create a place for everyone to simply have fun on stage with us... a party that so far we have invited intergenerational casts, youth groups, undergraduates, postgraduates, professionals, primary school children and rural communities.

Across our Extended Casts we have worked with:

- Intergenerational cast (aged 6-75) Instep Dance Company Kent.
- Intergenerational cast (aged 13-75) Greenwich Dance, London.
- Intergenerational cast (14-70) Salisbury.
- Adult community group, Bath.
- Adults with dementia through Greenwich Dance's community group, Dancing to the music of Time.
- Gifted and Talented youth companies, Kent, Hampshire.
- Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) Trinity Laban, London.
- Northern School of Contemporary Dance undergraduate students, Leeds.
- Chichester University undergraduate dance students, West Sussex.
- Winchester University undergraduate dance students, Hampshire.
- Professional dance graduates.



Rural 'hard to reach' communities with little access to dance & theatre work as part of The National Rural Touring Forum

- Primary school children (Devon, Cornwall)
- Secondary school children (Herefordshire, Yorkshire, Devon, Cornwall, Cheshire)
- Intergenerational community groups (Devon, Cornwall, Cheshire)
- Fallen Angels Dance Company - Recovering Alcoholics and drug users (Cheshire).



## **Involving the community in Research & Development, and Creative Processes (2004-Present)**

### **Research and Development**

Keeping participation at the heart of our professional productions has been important to our company ethos. Therefore, we have invited a variety of community groups (youth companies, undergraduates, local artists) to share in our research - taking part in the process of discovery and informing the develop of each new production (The Deluge 2014, The Hotel Experience 2018, My Bit 2019).

### **Open Class**

We open our daily classes to the local dance community whenever we are in the studio. It's important to us to be visible, 'friendly and welcoming', and open class is a perfect opportunity to invite people to our company activities.

## Commissions

### Youth

- The Place, London CAT scheme
- Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Leeds CAT scheme
- The Point Youth Dance Company, Hampshire.
- Satellite CAT projects Hampshire and Brighton.
- Dance United, London. Working with young offenders, or young people who are not in education, employment or training.
- Wessex Dance Academy, Winchester. Working with young people aged 15-24, who are not in education, employment or training.



### Elders

- Dance 6-0 Salisbury Arts Centre, Wiltshire
- Retrospectif Dance Company, The Point Eastleigh.
- Adult Dance company, South East Dance, Hextable.
- Delivery at Lifetime elder Dance group event @ The Point.
- The Vivekamayas Instep Dance Company, Kent: 4 commissions including a film and creation of work that was presented at Sadler's Wells.



### Undergraduate & Postgraduate



- 3Fall Dance (2015, 2017, 2019, 2020) University of Chichester touring company
- Intoto (2019) London Studio Centre
- Winchester University (2018)
- Arts University Bournemouth (2017-19)
- University of Bath (2018)
- MAP Dance (2016)

## Commissions and Workshops with Vulnerable People

- Dance United, London. Working with young offenders, or young people who are not in education, employment or training
- Wessex Dance Academy, Winchester. Working with young people aged 15-24, who are not in education, employment or training.
- SG2 Apprentice company at StopGap Dance Company who work with disabled and non-disabled dancers.
- Fallen Angels Dance Company - Recovering Alcoholics and drug users (Cheshire: Chester).
- Dancing to the Music of time - Greenwich Dance adult class including adults with Dementia.



## Working with the LGBTQ community

Choreographer for And What? Queer Arts 'Proud Interventions' for Gay Pride Parade Brighton. Working with a community cast to explore and celebrate difference (2015).

## One off school/college/community group workshops and masterclasses

Delivery across UK.

## Working with Actors



We have worked with the Theatre department at The University of Chichester since 2005, delivering movement skills classes to acting students. We have also worked with The Point's Youth theatre company and their dance companies, to explore and develop movement sections for their annual Christmas productions.

### Professional Class

- Greenwich, London
- The Place, London
- The Point, Eastleigh
- Brighton Dance Network
- University of Chichester



### Work Experience and Work Placements:

- Emmy-Lou Wilson 2017/18
- Mia Lyndon 2018/19
- Olivia Jackson 2019
- Amber Clemente Copp 2019
- Admin assistant: Maddie Scoates, (2011/12); Heidi Lewsi (2014)
- Teaching assistant: Becky Butler (2011/12)
- Performance Intern: Amy Morvell (2017-19)

### Research Projects and Publications

- 2011





Lîla Dance creative process with MayaKaras was a subject of research for Dr Julian Sefton-Green (special professor of Education, University of Nottingham), as part of his commission by MIT Press for their MacArthur Review series of short books.

- 2011

Lîla's innovative and creative work with the Mayakaras was selected as a case study for Dance Partners for Creativity during an intensive two-year qualitative research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The project was exploring how young people can use creativity to develop flexibility, imagination and resilience in life, and how this can be nurtured within education through dance.

- 2015

Published Author of book chapter exploring Lila's collaborative processes in DIY TOO (Edited by Robert Daniels and published by Unbound, 2015)

- 2016

Creation and release of Lîla Dance's e-book, *Making Dance The Lila Method*. This resource was funded Gfta funded and offer a series of entries into the choreographic process for students and teachers.