

**NEW
MOVEMENT
COLLECTIVE**



LESNOGLES
THE
DEPARTURE

**NEW
MOVEMENT
COLLECTIVE**

 **WOOLWICH
WORKS**

**LES NOCES
THE DEPARTURE**

**13 + 14 JAN 2024
AT THE FIREWORKS FACTORY
WOOLWICH.WORKS**

LES NOCES THE DEPARTURE

Concept, Choreography and Direction
New Movement Collective

Music Director and Conductor
Yshani Perinpanayagam

NEW MOVEMENT COLLECTIVE

Producer **Malgorzata Dzierzon**

Production Manager **Corey Bennett**

Marketing **Lucy White**

Press and PR **Robert James**

Graphic Design **Joe Walkling**

Administration **Emi Del Bene**

Administration (Music) **Rhuti Carr**

Stage Manager **Kyle Campbell**

OPERA HOLLAND PARK CHORUS

Chorus Master **Dominic Ellis-Peckham**

Répétiteurs **Berrak Dyer** and **David Smith**

Associate Producer **Monique Foulger**

Piano provision and care by **Richard Lawson Pianos**

The programme is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, the London Community Foundation, Cockayne - Grants for the Arts programme, Coln Trust, Richard Thomas Foundation, Dance Scholarship Oxford (DANSOX), with additional support from Acosta Dance Foundation. Thank you to all New Movement Collective Board of Trustees and individuals supporters for making the project possible.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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COCKAYNE



From the Royal Borough of
Greenwich, for everyone.

ABOUT NMC

NMC is a collective of dance-artists redefining the boundaries of choreography and performance through ambitious, cross-disciplinary practice.

Working together we conceive, develop and produce work that challenges theatrical orthodoxies and creatively considers the relationship between performer and spectator. Placing the performer and audience in the same arena, we invite a distinct encounter with dance.

By creating experiential performances in unusual spaces, our work creates pathways for audiences to discover dance; traversing the boundary between performance, architecture, visual and digital art.

NMC provides a collaborative platform through which our artists can develop, shape the artistic vision and create content for our productions. Through each new production and our growing network of collaborators across numerous disciplines, NMC re-evaluates the position of dance in performance and what the experience of movement can be, changing the parameters of our art form.

This is what we invite you to be a part of.

newmovement.org.uk
[@newmovementcollective](https://www.instagram.com/newmovementcollective)

Contact

Malgorzata Dzierzon [producer]
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Photography by Jack Thomson. Dancer: Gemma Missen.

LES NOCES

THE DEPARTURE

A century after Stravinsky and Nijinska crafted the powerful masterpiece *Les Noces* — NMC presents a reimagined version of this iconic ballet — culminating in a grand celebration.

We see the show as one big ritual that we invite everyone to be a part of.

Weddings are a time when people have to come together, and as a result, communities are joined that might not have been otherwise. So in true wedding form, *Les Noces* delves into the complexity and plurality of commitment; to each other, to self and to generations to come.

Without words, how can we show commitment through ritual?

Les Noces is informed by the notion of community, a joining together, a surrender to the process and also of celebration.

Performed in Stravinsky's audacious choice for pianos and percussions, the cast includes singers from the Opera Holland Park Chorus, musicians from the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music with new choreography staged by some of Britain's best contemporary dancers.



Photography by Jack Thomson. Dancer: Eryck Brahmânia.

PROGRAMME

Approximate duration: 60 minutes

APPELS

BY ANDREA BALENCY– BÉARN

CAGE LETTERS

BY YSHANI PERINPANAYAGAM

LES NOCES

BY IGOR STRAVINSKY

RHYTHMIC RESURGENCE

REBIRTH OF STRAVINSKY'S

LES NOCES THROUGH

BEATBOX FUSION

BY MC ZANI



Photography by Jack Thomson. Dancer: Eryck Brahmnia and Małgorzata Dzierżon.

APPELS

BY ANDREA BALENCY– BÉARN

Written in response to Stravinsky's *Les Noces*, *Appels* is an exploration of ritual in relation to sound, more specifically the sound of the bell—an instrument that is widely connected to rituals around the world—which also happens to close Stravinsky's piece.

Composed by **Andrea Balency-Béarn**

Ensemble

Pianos **Junyan Chen** (1), **Ekaterina Grabova** (2), **Milda Daunoraite** (3)
and **Julian Chan** (4)

Timpani **Murray Sedgwick**

Percussion **Toril Azzalini** (1), **Julie Scheuren** (2), **Isaac Harari** (3),
Aiden Marsden (4), **Johan Smith** (5) and **Will Rowling** (6)

CAGE LETTERS

BY YSHANI PERINPANAYAGAM

Yshani Perinpanayagam's new music composition sets three of John Cage's love letters from the composer to choreographer Merce Cunningham that give us an insight into the early days of the life-long relationship of the famous duo.

Composed by **Yshani Perinpanayagam**

Performed by

Ross Ramgobin (baritone)

Yshani Perinpanayagam (piano)

LES NOCES

BY IGOR STRAVINSKY

One hundred years after Stravinsky and Nijinska created the powerful masterpiece *Les Noces*, New Movement Collective presents a re-imagining of this iconic ballet exploring the role of group commitment and the community in a ritual and union.

Choreography, Concept and Direction **New Movement Collective**

Composer **Igor Stravinsky**

Music Director and Conductor **Yshani Perinpanayagam**

Set and Costume Designer **April Dalton**

Lighting Designer **Lucy Hansom**

Sound Designer **Josh Bobby**

Chorus Master **Dominic Ellis-Peckham**

Dancers and co-choreographers

Eryck Brahmania, Robert Bridger, Malgorzata Dzierzon, Daniel Agudo Gallardo, Robin Gladwin, Estela Merlos, Gemma Nixon, Patricia Okenwa and Fukiko Takase

Soloists

Soprano **April Koyejo-Audiger**

Mezzosoprano **Bethan Langford**

Tenor **Phillip Costovski**

Baritone **Ross Ramgobin**

Soloist **Alistair Sutherland** performs *Une Basse Profonde du Chœur*

Ensemble

Pianos **Junyan Chen (1), Ekaterina Grabova (2), Milda Daunoraite (3)** and **Julian Chan (4)**

Timpani **Murray Sedgwick**

Percussion **Toril Azzalini (1), Julie Scheuren (2), Isaac Harari (3), Aiden Marsden (4), Johan Smith (5)** and **Will Rowling (6)**

Opera Holland Park Chorus

Naomi Kilby, Eva Gheorghiu, Eleanor Broomfield, Juliet Montgomery, Eleri Gwilym, Megan Bowen, Tabitha Reynolds, Lindsay Bramley, Hebe Hamilton, Hannah Bennett, Eleanor Watts, Joanna Arnold, Hugh Beckwith, Christopher Killerby, Cameron Sibly, Robert Jenkins, Jamie Formoy, Stuart McDermott, Alistair Sutherland, Matthew Duncan, Ben Newhouse-Smith, Samuel Snowden, George Robarts and Robert Garland

RHYTHMIC RESURGENCE

REBIRTH OF STRAVINSKY'S LES NOCES THROUGH BEATBOX FUSION BY MC ZANI

MC Zani delves into intricacies of Stravinsky's ground breaking rhythmic structures, translating its essence into a contemporary beatboxing piece. Rhythmic beats infused with elements of ritualistic dance, resonate with the primal energy, becoming the heartbeat of a unified community.

Composed by **MC Zani**

Choreography for Company Chameleon Youth

Gemma Nixon and **Juliana Javier** in collaboration with the dancers

Choreography for ENBYouthCo

Estela Merlos in collaboration with the dancers

Beatbox **Jack Hobbs**

Performed by

Company Chameleon Youth (Saturday)

ENBYouthCo (Sunday)



BIOGRAPHIES

COMPOSERS

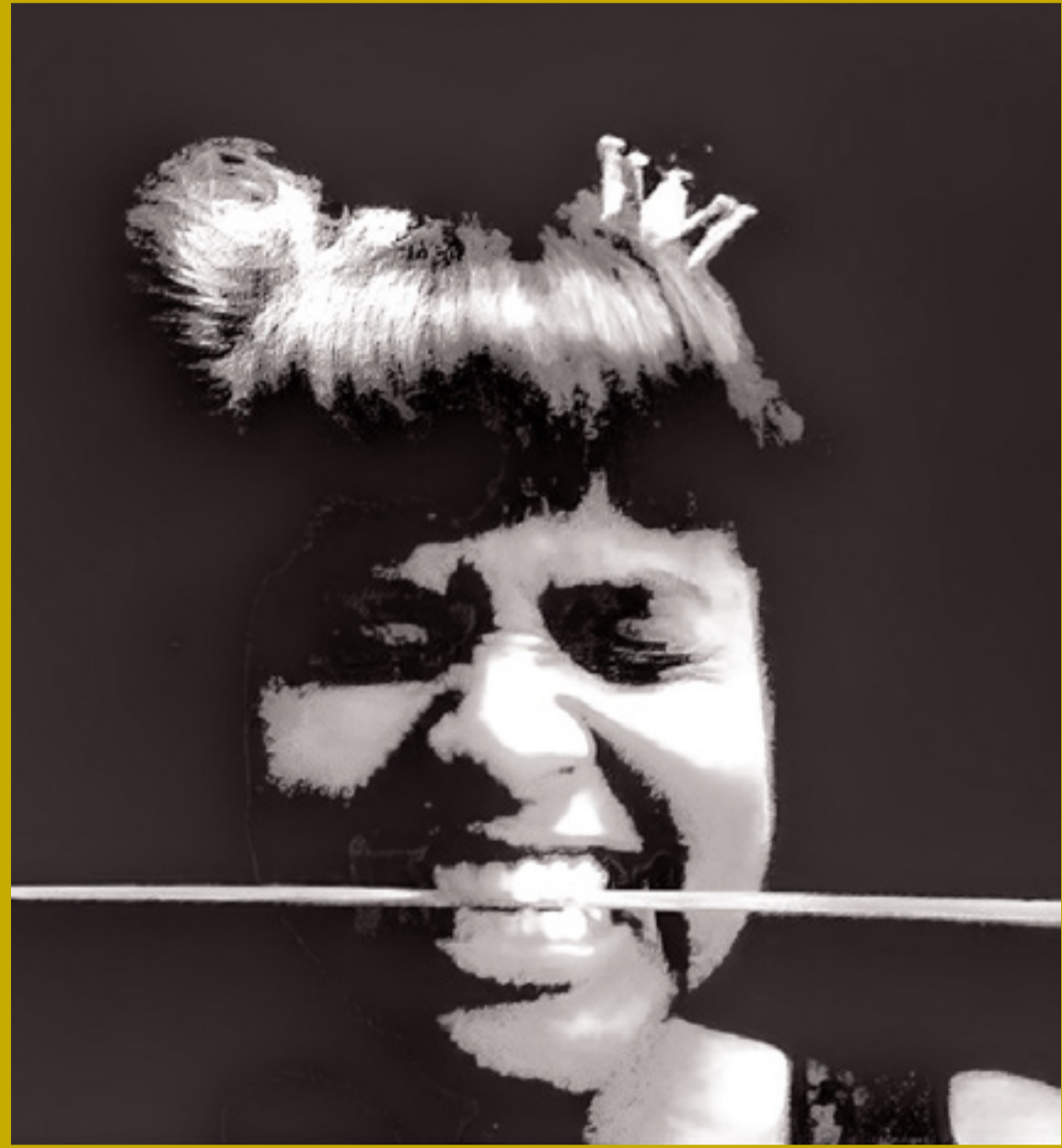
SOLOISTS

ENSEMBLE

DANCERS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS

CREATIVE TEAM

COMPOSERS





Igor Stravinsky

COMPOSER *LES NOCES*

Igor Stravinsky was born on June 17, 1882, Russia.

He rose to fame in the early 1900s for his compositions for the Ballets Russes, including the controversial *The Rite of Spring*. Stravinsky brought his family to Switzerland and then France, continuing his output with such works as *Renard* and *Persephone*. After moving to the United States in 1939, he completed his famed *Symphony in C* and became an American citizen.

Stravinsky died in New York City on April 6, 1971, with more than 100 works to his name.



Yshani Perinpanayagam

COMPOSER AND PIANIST, *CAGE LETTERS*
MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

As a pianist and music director, Yshani has performed at venues ranging from Wigmore Hall to the London Palladium, at events from Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival to the Barbican Mime Festival, and with artists from City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra to Nina Conti.

She has premiered works including by Charlotte Bray, Joe Cutler, Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Gavin Higgins, Hannah Kendall and Benjamin Oliver. As a composer herself, commissions include works for the London Sinfonietta, Onyx Brass the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and music for a play about Fanny Mendelssohn.

Yshani was music director for triple-Oliver winner *Emilia*, Olivier-nominated *Goat* for Rambert Dance Company, for *Ruination* at the Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House, and for *Circa* at the Barbican. She is currently music director for *The F**gots and Their Friends Between Revolutions* by Philip Venables and Ted Huffman, and conductor of Opéra National de Paris' *Street Scene* for their emerging artists.



Photography © Peter Eason Daniels

Andrea Balency-Béarn

COMPOSER APPELS

Andrea Balency-Béarn is a contemporary music composer based in London, UK, where she is currently pursuing a PhD in Composition at the Royal Academy of Music.

Born in Paris and raised in Mexico City, she has written music for varied ensembles and her work has been performed internationally. Her studies in composition began in Buenos Aires at the Conservatorio Manuel de Falla in 2007, after which she toured as an alternative and electronic music performer for several years. During that time, she collaborated with a variety of artists across genres and disciplines and took part in collaborative residencies. She began working as a film composer in 2020 and is currently studying a PhD in Composition at the Royal Academy of Music under the supervision of Dr. Rubens Askenar.



Photography © Nyla Sammons

MC Zani

COMPOSER *RHYTHMIC RESURGENCE*

Renowned as the UK Beatbox Champion of 2008 and a world finalist in 2012, this East London-based artist is a multifaceted talent in the realms of music. Beyond his beatboxing prowess, he's a seasoned producer, MC, and TV presenter. With over two decades of experience, he has graced illustrious stages worldwide, from Madison Square Garden to Glastonbury.

His impressive journey includes sharing platforms with global icons such as Ludacris, 50 Cent, Taylor Swift, Sean Kingston, and many more. Notable performances extend across diverse genres, demonstrating his versatility. Television credits include appearances on prominent shows like *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, *The Paul O'Grady Show*, and Nickelodeon's *Get Your Skills On*.

Venturing beyond borders, he has left an indelible mark on stages in the USA, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Oceania. Collaborating with the likes of Jay Sean, Foreign Beggars and the Beatbox Collective, he transcends musical boundaries. His commitment to nurturing young talent is evident through his role as Lead Tutor with the BAC Beatbox Academy, a groundbreaking initiative by Battersea Arts Centre, and his association with 5th Element Agency.

This artist's journey is a testament to his passion for beatboxing, his commitment to artistry, and his impact on the global music scene.

SOLOISTS





April Koyejo-Audiger

SOPRANO

Royal College of Music alumni April is a former Link Artist (2019–20) and Jette Parker Anniversary Company Artist (2021–22) for the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; her performances there include Barena in the Olivier Award-winning production of *Jenufa*, which won her the 2022 Black British Theatre Award for Best Opera Production or Performance.

She recently performed *The Sandman (Hansel and Gretel)* for Opera Holland Park, *The Mother/Sun (The Sapling)* at Wilderness Festival 2023 for ROH. She has also recently performed as a soloist in the UK premiere of the George Walker Mass at the Barbican with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Other recent roles include Pamina (*The Magic Flute*) for Welsh National Opera, the Lady-in-Waiting (*Macbeth*), Anna in Daniele Abbado's production of *Nabucco*, Parasha (*Mavra*), as well as Zemfira (*Aleko*) in the Jette Parker Young Artists Summer Celebration, conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano for the Royal Opera House.

Other projects include *Musetta (La Boheme)* and *Irene (Tamerlano)* for English Touring Opera; *Lost & Found*, a collaboration with the Royal Opera and the Belgian chamber orchestra Casco Phil as part of the Europalia Arts Festival; and the evening 'vigil' as part of *The Walk* for the giant puppet Little Amal.



Bethan Langford

MEZZOSOPRANO

British mezzo-soprano Bethan Langford is a graduate of the Guildhall School Opera course and the National Opera Studio, and is a former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist.

She is a Yeoman of the Musicians' Company and a proud past recipient of the Elizabeth Eagle-Bott Award from the RNIB.

Highlights so far include Leila Iolanthe and Hebe in *HMS Pinafore* for English National Opera, alto soloist in *Smyth Mass* in D under Sakari Oramo at the BBC Proms, the title role in the world premiere of Errollyn Wallen's *The Paradis Files* at the Southbank Centre and a national tour for Graeae Theatre Company, her debut at the Royal Opera House in Maxwell's *The Lost Thing*, Second Lady in Tom Allen's *Magic Flute* for Scottish Opera, Angel II in George Benjamin's *Written on Skin* with the Melos Sinfonia at The Mariinsky Theatre, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* for Bury Court Opera, Third Maid in *Elektra* under Esa-Pekka Salonen for the Verbier Festival and Noble Orphan in Richard Jones' *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Glyndebourne Festival. She has appeared in recitals at the Wigmore Hall, Heidelberger Frühling Festival, Buxton International Festival, International Lied Festival Zeist and Oxford International Song Festival.

Future engagements include *The Nature of Why* with the Paraorchestra of Great Britain and Mozart Requiem with the Hallé.



Phillip Costovski

TENOR

Australian tenor, Phillip Costovski, recently completed his training at the National Opera Studio and is the inaugural recipient of the Lady Galleghan London Award for Australian Singers. He received his Master of Arts from the Royal Academy of Music under Professor Raymond Connell, generously supported by the Joyce Campbell Lloyd Scholarship. Through May and June he will be performing Spoletta in Opera Holland Park's production of *Tosca* before going to Queensland to perform Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* to open the Brisbane Festival in September.

Phillip's other operatic roles include *Bénédict Béatrice et Bénédict*, Count Belfiore *La finta giardiniera*, Triquet *Eugene Onegin*, Basilio *Le nozze di Figaro*, Henry *Dry River Run* and in 2023 he was the understudy for the title character of *Itch* in Jonathan Dove's premiere of *Itch* at Holland Park.

In 2021 he was a Samling Young Artist, working with pianist Malcolm Martineau, soprano Joan Rodgers and actor James Garnon of The Globe Theatre. Phillip also performs regularly as a concert soloist in works including Handel's *Messiah*, *Requiem in D* by Mozart, *Mass in C* by Beethoven, *Magnificat in D* by Bach, *Mass in C Minor* by Mozart and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*.



Photography © Billy Goodforth

Ross Ramgobin

BARITONE

An alumnus of London's Royal Academy of Music and National Opera Studio, Ross Ramgobin has sung for companies including The Royal Opera, London, English National Opera, Opera Holland Park, Welsh National Opera and Angers Nantes Opera, as well as at the Aldeburgh, Brisbane Baroque, Göttingen, Verbier and White Nights of St Petersburg Festivals.

Recent career highlights have included *The Protector Written On Skin* for Festival Présences de Radio France; *Gamekeeper Rusalka* and *Schaunard La bohème* for The Royal Opera, London; *Figaro Le nozze di Figaro* for Glyndebourne Festival Opera and Israeli Opera; *Marcello La bohème* for Opera Holland Park; Stanford's *Requiem* with CBSO, a performance now available on Hyperion CD; and Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins* with LSO.

Current engagements include Mamoud *The Death of Klinghoffer* conducted by John Adams at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw; *Death Savitri* with Britten Sinfonia; 2. Richter *Das Wunder der Heliane* for Nederlandse Reisopera; Donny *New Year* with BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra; Elgar *The Kingdom* at the Three Choirs Festival; Nunez Garcia *Missa de Sta Cecilia* with BBC Symphony Orchestra; Tippett *A Child of Our Time* at King's College, Cambridge; *The Seven Deadly Sins* with London Philharmonic Orchestra; and a *Valentine's Day Gala* with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.



Photography © Nyla Sammons

Jack Hobbs aka Hobbit

BEATBOXER

Hobbit, a seasoned beatboxer since 2003, has taken his rhythmic talents from intimate gigs to global stadium tours. As the official 2013 & 2014 UK Loopstation Champion and 3x UK Team Champion, he's made his mark in the battle scene and is a key member of the World Champion beatbox crew, The Beatbox Collective. Hobbit's diverse journey includes performances at Glastonbury Festival and in New Zealand, collaborations with brands like Virgin Media and Microsoft Windows, and working alongside UK Pop Legend Gabrielle.

Beyond beatboxing, Hobbit's musical prowess extends to theatre productions, co-writing and performing soundtracks for shows like *Ghost Boy* (2010) and *Melody Loses Her Mojo*. He's also part of the acclaimed *The Broke 'n' Beat Collective* international tour. In 2019, he co-composed and performed live for the successful kids show *Big Up!*. Hobbit showcases his artistic versatility through collaborations with Indian kathak performer Guari Sharma Tripathi, curating beatbox and comedy shows, and voicing 'Juke' on Cartoon Network's *The Amazing World of Gumball*.

As a driving force in the beatboxing community, Hobbit co-organizes the UK Beatbox Championships, a globally recognized event with sold-out audiences and international acts. Additionally, he co-owns and manages 5th Element Agency, a beatbox-led booking agency. A true creative force, Hobbit continues to be one of the world's premier beatboxers.

ENSEMBLE

PIANIO

PERCUSSION





Junyan Chen

PIANO ONE

Chinese pianist Junyan is a dynamic and accomplished musician, showcasing her virtuoso technique and vibrant playing in solo performances at prestigious venues like Wigmore Hall, KKL Lucerne, and Shanghai Symphony Orchestra Hall. She collaborates with various orchestras, including the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra and Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra, and has worked with conductors like Edward Gardner. Junyan's enthusiasm extends to contemporary music, as seen in her collaboration with Hans Abrahamsen and the performance of his *Piano Concerto* with conductor Franck Ollu. She was part of Eleanor Alberga's music festival *Arcadia* in 2022, contributing to the album release of *Dancing with the Shadows* and *On a Bat's Back I Do Fly* in 2023. Her debut solo album, *It's Time*, released by Linn Records in December 2022, features works by Fazil Say, Unsuk Chin, Sofia Gubaidulina, and Eleanor Alberga, reflecting their cultural identities and diverse influences.

Junyan's academic journey includes earning Honours BMus and MA degrees with the Principal's Award at the Royal Academy of Music. Currently pursuing an Advanced Diploma under Professor Joanna MacGregor CBE, she has received scholarships from ABRSM and the Bicentenary scholarship. Awards such as the Silver Medal and People's Choice Award at the City of Vigo International Piano Competition (2018), and recognition at the Osaka International Music Competition (2016) and Sydney International Piano Competition (July 2023) highlight Junyan's outstanding achievements.



Photography © Anastasia Kaminskaya

Ekaterina Grabova

PIANO TWO

Katya Grabova, a gifted young pianist based in London, is currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music under Professor Mei-Ting Sun. She received the Michael Gilson award for her outstanding achievements at the Academy. Katya's musical journey started at age 6 in Moscow, graduating from the Gnessin School of Music under Professor Tatiana Zelikman and pianist Boris Berezovsky. She has performed at prestigious venues like the Purcell Room, St. James Piccadilly Church, Southwark Cathedral, and Westminster Music Library. Katya has actively participated in renowned music festivals worldwide, showcasing her talent at the Summer Piano Festival at the Royal Academy of Music, Rheingau Music Festival in Germany, and Gijon International Piano Festival in Spain. She is a winner of international competitions including *Mlody Virtuos* in Poland, *Rubinstein International Music Competition* in Germany, and *Nutcracker TV Competition* in Russia.

In 2022, she participated in the London Sinfonietta Summer Academy alongside principal players. This academic year, Katya received the Robert Turnbull Piano Foundation and Hill Foundation Awards. Her powerful and passionate performance at the Beethoven Piano Prize at the Academy was highly commended. Her recital featuring Brahms and Beethoven at Winchester was praised by Nick Salwey and featured in Hampshire Chronicle. In the 2024-2025 academic year, Katya continues her education at the Royal Academy of Music, pursuing a Master of Music degree in recognition of her professional progress and achievements.



Milda Daunoraite

PIANO THREE

Lithuanian born pianist Milda Daunoraite, now studying at the Royal Academy of Music with Tessa Nicholson under a full fees scholarship, already has an exciting international career. She has appeared at top venues, including Wigmore Hall, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Laeiszhalle in Elbphilharmonie, United Nations in Geneva and at the 13th EMMA World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Warsaw. Milda is supported by several foundations, including MS SOS Talents, The Keyboard Charitable Trust; she is also a recipient of the ABRSM Scholarship award. Milda is a prize-winner of numerous international piano competitions, including the 1st Prize in the international Volodymyr Krainev Piano Competition in Kharkov, 1st prize in the 4th international piano competition in Stockholm; in 2016, she won the jury prize in the PIANALE International Academy & Competition.

Milda performed Ravel's *G major piano concerto* in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, March 2020 as a result of winning the Purcell School Concerto Competition. Milda performed the *4th V. Bacevičius concerto for Piano and Orchestra* with Lithuanian Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, which was broadcast by Euroradio, in November 2018.

Milda is a part of a concert series *Piano and Art* at Künstlerfinca Can Brut, Mallorca, where she is regularly invited to perform solo recitals. Several of Milda's performances were broadcast by Mezzo & TV5 Monde in over 40 countries.



Photography © 48 Production

Julian Chan

PIANO FOUR

Rapidly developing a reputation as one of the most innovative pianists of his generation, Julian Chan has given performances at a number of prestigious venues across the UK, including Wigmore Hall, Southbank Centre, and the Sheldonian Theatre. Performing music by a particularly diverse range of composers, he has given alluring recitals featuring works by figures from Sweelinck to Messiaen, from Alkan to Rzewski, unifying these various styles in a captivating manner.

Recently, Julian was awarded First Prize and Sonata Prize at the Nanyang International Music Competition, Singapore, Second Prize at the Jāzeps Vītols International Piano Competition, Latvia, and First Prize at the Coulsdon and Purley Festival with his performance of Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 3*.

A passionate composer and performer of new music, Julian has collaborated with eminent composers such as Howard Skempton, Anna Thorvaldsdottir, Hans Abrahamsen, Deborah Pritchard, Michael Berkeley, and Peter Seabourne. Julian is currently recipient of the Ronald and Rita McAulay Award at the Royal Academy of Music, where he studies with Ian Fountain and Michael Dussek.



Murray Sedgwick

TIMPANI

Scottish percussionist Murray Sedgwick debuted his orchestral playing with the Junior Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and since then has previously been a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. Murray also received a first-place award for the Colin Curry Young Percussionist Competition in early 2020. Now, Murray is an undergraduate student studying at the Royal College of Music and is a Leverhulme Arts Scholar supported by the Musicians' Company Lambert Scholarship. During his time at the RCM, he has been given the opportunity to perform with many of The Royal College of Music's ensembles such as the Jazz Orchestra, the Wind Orchestra, the Symphony and Philharmonic orchestras a number of times. On top of that, Murray is now a member of the RCM's percussion quartet, Perc'm.



Photography © Olivia da Costa

Toril Azzalini

PERCUSSION ONE

Toril Azzalini-Machecler is a percussionist and composer now in his third year of undergraduate at the Royal College of Music, and recipient of the RCM's Parnassus scholarship. In 2018 and 2020 he reached the Percussion Finals in BBC Young Musician and was the winner of the Sussex Young Musician competition 2020 the Medici International Competition in his category. He was recently selected to take part in the London Sinfonietta Academy and was one of the 12 young artists on the 2021 artists' roster of the World Percussion Group. He was also part of the 2019 LPO Junior Artist scheme and the youngest participant in the 2017 LSO Academy. Toril has been involved in various projects including playing marimba in the pit at Glyndebourne, sharing the stage with Dame Evelyn Glennie, performing with the Britten Pears Young Artists Programme and regularly playing with Chineke! Orchestra, including appearances at the BBC Proms and the Lucerne Festival. Toril also composes, having been highly commended multiple times in the BBC Proms composition competition and winning the RCM Junior Department's Joan Weller competition. He has performed solos at many venues including the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the RAH's Elgar Room.



Photography © Olivia da Costa

Julie Scheuren

PERCUSSION TWO

Female percussionist Julie Scheuren, from Luxembourg, was part of several orchestras in both Luxembourg and Germany during her youth. She started playing in her local wind orchestra at the age of eleven where she fell in love with percussion. A concert tour through America in 2019 with the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Luxembourg, with whom she was a member from 2016, both helped her grow as an orchestral player as well as making her realise that she wanted to pursue an orchestral career. She is currently studying for her Bachelor of Music at the Royal College of Music with David Hockings and Chris Ridley.



Isaac Harari

PERCUSSION THREE

Isaac Harari is in his fourth year of study as an RCM Scholar at the Royal College of Music. He was awarded a Yamaha Music Europe Foundation scholarship in 2023, as well as having been a Southern California Marimba International Artists' Competition semi-finalist in 2021, a BBC Young Musician 2020 category finalist, a two-time regional finalist in the Yamaha Futurebeat competition, and being a member of the World Percussion Group's artist roster since 2021. He has been supported by the AYM Chris Isaac Award, the Universal Music UK Sound Foundation, and the Leonardo Aggio Financial Trust. He has performed as a soloist in the Royal Albert Hall's Elgar Room, and orchestrally at the Royal Albert Hall with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Festival Hall with the Duet Philharmonic. Isaac takes a keen interest in the expansion of solo and chamber percussion repertoire and contemporary Jazz fusion, and has recently had a work premiered by the RCM Jazz Orchestra.



Photography © Richard Johnson

Aiden Marsden

PERCUSSION FOUR

Percussionist Aiden Marsden recently completed postgraduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with support from Help Musicians UK and the Countess of Munster Trust, having graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music in 2018. Whilst at the Guildhall, Aiden was chosen to play timpani with the London Symphony Orchestra alongside selected Guildhall musicians in Bruckner's Fourth Symphony, adding to previous professional experience gained with the Hallé Orchestra.

Aidan is a keen chamber musician, and has performed works by Tansy Davies and Harrison Birtwistle at Wigmore Hall with the composers present, in addition to performances on BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio Ulster and BBC Proms Plus. Aidan also won the Ensemble Category of 2018's China National Youth Percussion Competition, and participated in the 2019 London Sinfonietta Academy.

As a soloist, Aidan is particularly keen to expand the repertoire for the glockenspiel. June 2019 saw the curation of a recital of new works for glockenspiel and voice alongside mezzo-soprano Rosie Middleton as part of that year's City of London Culture Mile Festival, which led to the creation of the *Twinkling In The Firmament* concert series in January 2020.



Johan Smith

PERCUSSION FIVE

Johan began regular drum kit and percussion lessons while in primary school with tutor Jason Reay, and throughout his secondary education benefitted from the wide variety of ensemble playing opportunities provided by both Richmond Music Trust and Thames Youth Music. He was also a member of the Royal Academy of Music's Junior Department (2015-2018), and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain (2017-2018). Johan was later admitted to the Royal College of Music, generously supported by a Douglas and Hilda Simmonds Scholarship, studying primarily with Professors David Hockings (Principal Percussionist of the BBC Symphony Orchestra/London Sinfonietta) and Christopher Ridley (Associate Principal Timpanist of the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House) among other respected industry professionals. He has featured as section principal in many of the RCM's large ensemble projects, while also receiving a placement on the Orchestra of English National Opera's "Evolve" development scheme. He has also completed a fellowship with the Philharmonia Orchestra, supported by the Martins Musical Scholarship Fund (MMSF).

Since graduating in 2022, Johan has performed as an extra player with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra of English National Opera and the Philharmonia Orchestra, as well as many amateur/semi-professional orchestras in London and the Home Counties. He recently became an Associate Instrumental Teacher with Richmond Music Trust and tutored on the English Schools Orchestra summer course in 2023.



Photography © Malcolm Roberts

Will Rowling

PERCUSSION SIX

William Rowling is a final year undergraduate percussion student at the Royal College of Music, where he is a Douglas and Hilda Simmonds Scholar, under the tutelage of Alex Neal, David Hockings, Chris Ridley, and Daniella Ganeva.

He has performed with a wide range of ensembles at the Royal College of Music, with some highlights including being Principal Percussion for Shostakovich *Symphony no. 10* under the baton of Sakari Oramo, playing Timpani in the *Baroque Ensemble* with Ashley Solomon, and performing a World Premiere of *Indigo* – a duet for Vibraphone and Alto Saxophone.

Brass banding has been a constant passion throughout his musical journey so far, significantly being a member of the National Youth Brass Band from 2018 to 2021, performing with the Friary Brass Band at venues such as the Royal Albert Hall and The Sage (Gateshead), as well as being fortunate enough to be invited to play as a guest soloist with the Godalming Band for their Jubilee concert in 2021.

William began playing orchestral percussion under Jackie Kendle's tuition, before progressing to the Royal College of Music Junior Department to study with Cameron Sinclair in 2016, where he received the Wolfson Music Award.

DANCERS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS





Eryck Brahmnia

DANCER AND CO-CHOREOGRAPHER

Eryck is a dance artist, and teacher based in London. Since graduating from The Royal Ballet School Eryck has worked with Rambert Dance Company, Michael Clark Dance Company, Hong Kong Ballet, New Movement Collective, Humanooove, Protein Dance, Company Chameleon, Alexander Whitley Dance Company, and Wired Aerial. He has performed works by Christopher Bruce, Itzik Galili, Richard Alston, Merce Cunningham, Siobhan Davies, Luca Silvestrini, Garry Stewart, Mark Baldwin, Andre Gingras, Darshan Singh Buller, Paul Taylor, and many others. As well as performing Eryck has also devised movement for many West End musicals and films including *Matilda* (Netflix), *Dear England*, *Groundhog Day*, *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*, *West Side Story* (UK Tour), *Legally Blonde*, *Frozen*.

As a dance educator, Eryck teaches at The Royal Ballet School and English National Ballet and leads creative dance practice for Rambert's dance outreach programmes.

Eryck also teaches yoga at studios across London and numerous dance companies.



Photography © Sebastien Ynesta

Robert Bridger

DANCER AND CO-CHOREOGRAPHER

Rob's choreographic work is entangled with the visual arts. He has shown work at the Linbury Theatre (Royal Opera House), a site-specific solo work at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, as well as at the Arsenale, Berlin as part of the *Ian White – Cinema as a Live Art / Becoming Object* exhibition. In 2019, he was invited to co-create together with Tingan Ying to make a new commission, *Two*, which premiered at the National Theatre of Taiwan.

As a performer, Rob has collaborated with choreographers and companies including Emanuel Gat Dance, Alexandra Waierstall, Alexander Whitley Dance Company, National Dance Company Wales, Peter Schaufuss Ballet and Protein Dance. He has also worked with visual artists Olafur Eliasson, Pablo Bronstein and Paul Maheke.

As a curator in 2021, he initiated the project, *Line Dance for Parkinson's*, exploring the potential of contemporary dance and technology, to create immersive and digital experiences in collaboration with people living with Parkinson's disease, supported by Arts Council England. He also founded the online digital multi-disciplinary arts residency, *Desktop choreography*, in 2018 and has led numerous studio based artist residencies and skills sharing workshops.

Rob is on the Board of Trustees for Swindon Dance and was a Swindon Dance Associate Artist, 2020-2022.



Photography © Pablo Martinez Mendez

Małgorzata Dzierżon

DANCER, CO-CHOREOGRAPHER AND PRODUCER

Małgorzata Dzierżon is a choreographer, dance teacher and producer. She has performed with, among others, Rambert, Gothenburg Ballet and Royal Danish Ballet and made guest appearances with Wayne McGregor and the Ballet Boyz. She has danced full length classical productions as well as neo-classical and contemporary works by Balanchine, Neumeier, Béjart, Forsythe, Cunningham, Tankard, Duato, Bruce and Wheeldon, receiving nominations for the Spotlight and Outstanding Female Dancer Award in the UK National Critics' Circle Awards.

She has taught at the Royal Academy of Dance and, as a guest lecturer, at the Royal Ballet School and Central School of Ballet in London. She was an artist-in-residence at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2020 and worked as an artistic co-director of Newcastle - based Fertile Ground between 2018-2022.

As a choreographer she was commissioned by dance companies, schools and galleries including Rambert, Sopot Dance Theatre, Hong Kong APA, Ballet Central, Serpentine Gallery and English National Ballet (Dance Journeys) among others. She joined Wroclaw Opera in Poland as a Ballet Director in August 2022.



Photography © Alex Zaiets

Daniel Agudo Gallardo

DANCER AND CO-CHOREOGRAPHER

Daniel Agudo Gallardo was born in Madrid, starting his dance training in his hometown and at the age of 18 passed the exams to study in the Carmen Amaya Conservatory of Dance. After 3 years he graduated and moved to Italy for an apprentice contract in Siena. His first work experience was in Balletto del Sud, in Lecce, for the 2015-16 season, where he got the opportunity to dance Don José (*Carmen*) and the repertoire of Freddy Franzutti. In November 2016 he joined Opera Wrocławska. Early in 2018 he got promoted to demi soloist and has danced Escamilo (*Carmen*), Scrooge (*A Christmas Carol*), Hillarion (*Giselle*), *Sacre du printemps* solo, and many others. Daniel has also taken part in the Young Choreographers Evening at the Opera Wrocławska creating four pieces for the professional dancers as well as taking part in their choreographies.



Robin Gladwin

DANCER AND CO-CHOREOGRAPHER

Born in Solihull, United Kingdom, Robin trained at The Hammond School of Dance in Chester and Central School of Ballet in London. Upon graduating in 2001 he joined Rambert Dance Company where he performed for 12 years. During his time there he worked and collaborated with many world-renowned choreographers. Highlights for Robin have included working with and performing pieces by Wayne McGregor, Jiří Kylián, Merce Cunningham, Siobhan Davies, Michael Clarke and Christopher Bruce.

In 2013 Robin joined New Adventures and toured the UK and internationally with Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* performing as a Cygnet. Robin now freelances on various dance theatre projects and musicals and has regularly performed at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Glyndebourne Opera featuring in the multi-award-winning *Saul*.

Robin is a founding member, choreographer and dancer with New Movement Collective, twice nominated for Best Independent Company in the Critics' Circle.



Photography © Rocio Chacon

Estela Merlos

DANCER, CO-CHOREOGRAPHER (LES NOCES) AND
CHOREOGRAPHER (ENB YOUTHCO)

Born in Barcelona, Estela is an independent dance artist and certified practitioner of the Feldenkrais Method. She trained at Escola de Dansa Madó and Central School of Ballet in London. Upon graduation she danced with Cannes Jeune Ballet Rosella Hightower and IT Dansa before joining Rambert, performing works by acclaimed choreographers such as Kylián, Duato, C. Bruce, Carlson, Galili, Ekman, Bonachela, among notable others.

She has worked in projects across dance, film, theatre and opera collaborating as a performer and/or assistant director, with Shobana Jeyasingh, Akram Khan, Boris Charmatz - Terrain, Marcos Morau (La Veronal), Russell Maliphant, Didy Veldman, National Theatre, New Movement Collective, Alice Oswald, Miguel Altunaga, Avatâra Ayuso, Thomasin Gülgeç.

In April 2019 she was invited by the Merce Cunningham Trust to perform in the worldwide presentation *Night of 100 Solos: A Centennial Event* in celebration of Cunningham's 100th birthday at the Barbican Theatre.

Estela has received commissions to present her own choreographic work across a range of theatres and public spaces in the UK and Spain. She teaches internationally and is a faculty member at English National Ballet School, Royal Ballet School, Acosta Dance Foundation and City Academy.



Photography © Naomi Preston

Gemma Nixon

DANCER, CO-CHOREOGRAPHER (LES NOCES) AND
CHOREOGRAPHER (CHAMELEON YOUTH COMPANY)

Over a 20-year career, Gemma has danced with some of Britain's foremost companies including The Royal Ballet, Rambert, Company Chameleon, Russell Maliphant Dance Company, HeadSpace Dance and Scottish Dance Theatre. She has worked with choreographers including Christopher Bruce, Johan Inger, Rui Horta, Javier De Frutos, Siobhan Davies and Didy Veldman amongst many others.

Her work extends to coaching, mentorship, choreography, rehearsal direction and teaching across all ages and abilities in both education and professional settings. Gemma was awarded her coaching accreditation through Relational Dynamics 1st and Culture at Work Ltd.

Gemma is a founding member of NMC, co-creating works including *Please Be Seated*, *Nest* and *Casting Traces*, and is an associate artist with Company Chameleon, where she has worked over several years as dancer, choreographer, rehearsal director, teacher, mentor and coach. As part of Manchester International Festival 2021, Gemma was the Assistant Choreographer on *The Global Playground*, a Theatre Rites and MIF co production, directed by Sue Buckmaster and choreographed by Gregory Maqoma.



Photography © Camilla Greenwell

Patricia Okenwa

DANCER AND CO-CHOREOGRAPHER

Choreographer and dance artist, trained at John Neumeier School of Hamburg Ballet and at Rambert School. Patricia was a dancer for 12 years and was commissioned to choreograph for the company in 2016. *Hydrargyrum* toured the UK and had its London premiere at Sadler's Wells Theatre. A founding member of New Movement Collective (NMC) focused on interdisciplinary, site specific work. She was part of the second cohort of Sadler's Summer University 2015-18.

Patricia Okenwa choreographed the opera short film *Ariadne* by Elena Langer and Glyn Maxwell for English Touring Opera 2021. She developed *Stabat Mater* for B-Motion Festival, Italy 2017 and TheaterFestival Boulevard, The Netherlands 2018. Previous projects include *Glitch* for Renaud Wiser Company 2018; *Becoming* for Northern School of Contemporary Dance, *touch each feel other* for Edge Dance Company 2017; *Scenes from Daphnis and Chloe* for MusicArt London 2017; and *Ride* for BBC Young Dancer winner Connor Scott's grand final performance in 2015. Exploring the possibilities of performance and digital art, Patricia Okenwa collaborated on VR experiences *Camouflage* 2018 and *Dust* 2017 with digital artists Maria Júdová and Andrej Boleslavsky.

As a movement director she contributed to *Marty and the Party* by Leo Skilbeck at Derby Theatre 2020, *Torn* by Nathaniel Pierre-White at the Royal Court Theatre 2016 and Liam Payne's cutting edge livestream AR performance on the Round for the EE Baftas 2021.



Fukiko Takase

DANCER AND CO-CHOREOGRAPHER

Fukiko was born in New York, raised in Japan and trained by Katsuko Orita. She received the Cultural Affairs Fellowship from the Japanese government to study at Codarts Rotterdam Dance Academy and London Contemporary Dance School. She has worked with Henri Oguike Dance Company and Company Wayne McGregor, and is now an independent solo artist. Fukiko's work includes, *1001* in collaboration with Dustin O'Haloran which premiered in Minneapolis USA, *Don Juan Techno Club* in collaboration with Daniel Brandt and Frieder Nagel, which premiered in Nuremberg Germany.

She was featured in Thom Yorke's Atoms for Peace music video *Ingenue*, and choreographed music videos by Daniel Brandt and Hikaru Utada. In 2018 she choreographed and toured Japan with Hikaru Utada for her 20th anniversary concert, performing for an estimated 140,000 people. She performed Yoko Ono's *Cut Piece* In 2019. She danced in Akram Khan's *Jungle Book Reimagined* and became Honourable Professor for Shikoku University in 2022.



Photography © Ellie Mortell

Juliana Javier

CHOREOGRAPHER (CHAMELEON YOUTH COMPANY)

Originally from San Francisco, Juliana danced for Dantzaz contemporary dance company in the north of Spain under the direction of Adriana Pous where she worked with choreographers such as Itzik Galili, Victoria P. Miranda, Lukas Timulak, Jorge Jauregui and Jone San Martin.

In 2018 she moved to Manchester to dance for Company Chameleon under the direction of Anthony Missen and Kevin Edward Turner. Since having her first child in 2022, Juliana has transitioned into freelancing which has given her the chance to work with I.M.Pact Collective, Deep Flow (Factory International) and New Movement Collective as an associate artist. It has been an absolute joy for her to be a part of the creative process for *Les Noces — The Departure* and to choreograph for the Chameleon youth company. Working with such an inspiring and seasoned group of artists has been an absolute privilege.

CREATIVE TEAM





Photography © Robert Boulton

Dominic Ellis-Peckham

CHORUS MASTER

Dominic Ellis-Peckham, a conductor and chorus master specialising in opera and choral repertoire, is praised for his dedication to the Renaissance and Baroque era while championing new works. As a Fellow of The Royal Society for Arts, he collaborates with orchestras like BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, preparing choruses in various venues. Dominic holds key positions such as Chief Conductor of Chamber Choir of London and Chorus Master for Opera Holland Park, earning international acclaim for his direction of orchestral and choral performances.

His extensive experience includes roles with English National Opera, The Royal Opera, and collaborations with renowned artists like Sir Simon Rattle and Sir Richard Hickox. Dominic has recorded for major labels and achieved No.1 rankings in U.S Classical Billboard Charts and U.K Specialist Charts. Notably, he embraces cross-genre collaborations, working with artists like Madonna and Will.I.Am.

Internationally recognised for his educational work, Dominic appears on TV and radio as a presenter and choral expert. Author of *Inspire your Choir*, he engages in global performances and collaborations. This season, Dominic conducts Handel's *Messiah*, collaborates with Beth Nielsen-Chapman, and serves as Chorus Master for Opera Holland Park's 2024 season.



Photography © Finn Daragh

April Dalton

SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER

April Dalton is a UK based set and costume designer for theatre, opera and dance.

She graduated from The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Theatre Design, winning the Costume Design award. After graduating, April's work was shortlisted for the Linbury Prize for Stage Design.

Design highlights include *The Odyssey: The Lotus Eaters* (Restoke/ National Theatre), *Baroque Encounters*, *Solace*, *Remembrance* and *Four Seasons* (New English Ballet Theatre, The Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House), *Silla* (Northern Opera Group), *The Return of Ulysses*, *La liberazione di Ruggiero* and *Spell Book* (Longborough Festival Opera), *Migrations*, *Le Vin Herbe* and *FREEDOM* Season (Welsh National Opera), *Imminent* (Birmingham Royal Ballet), *Cherubin* and *Triple Bill* including the world premiere of *WITCH* (Royal Academy of Music), *Der Zaubertrank* (Theater und Konzert St. Gallen), *Dido and Aeneas* and *La Belle Helene* (Blackheath Halls Opera).

Upcoming work includes *The Rake's Progress* (English Touring Opera, Spring Tour), and designs for Waterperry Opera Festival and Grange Park Opera.



Photography © Iris Chan

Lucy Hansom

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Lucy trained at Central St Martins in Theatre Design, specialising in Lighting Design and Scenography for Dance. She developed her skills further as a trainee at Laban, and then designed extensively while working for five years as a technician at The Place.

Lucy designs lighting for dance and theatre, in the UK and internationally. Recent credits include *Tits and Teeth* (Thick and Tight Dance Company; Shoreditch Town Hall & Touring), *Playtime!* (Dancing Brick/Northampton Theatres, Theatre Royal) and *Futura Glitch* (Livia Rita; Lilian Baylis Theatre). In 2014 Lucy lit *Athletes* by Riccardo Buscarini (collaborating with Michael Mannion), which won the Place Prize for Dance.



Josh Bobby

SOUND DESIGNER

Based in London, Josh Bobby is a sound engineer specialising in live events, working in a wide variety of fields, from Opera to corporate events, and a cappella groups to function bands. Recently working as associate sound designer on *The F**gots and Their Friends Between Revolutions* tour to Austria and France, and as sound designer for *Sons of Pitches* UK Tour, he keeps up to date with the latest technologies to further enhance the shows that he works on.

Having grown up in a musical family, he played instruments from a young age and developed his ear for music, playing in youth orchestras as a percussionist and performing as a drummer, further going on to study Live Sound Production at university. During his time at university, he researched immersive audio technologies, which laid the foundations for his specialisation in creating immersive environments to give the audience a special experience.



WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

Kate Scanlan and Gemma Griffiths at East London Dance; Susan Jones at Dance Scholarship Oxford; Jane Pritchard at Victoria and Albert Museum; Ryan Watson at English Touring Opera; Ashley Bolitho at Rambert; Marco Cifre at The Place; Kate Elliott at Laban; Jedd Hamilton at White Light and Henry Kennedy Music Associate.

Jessica Walker, Derri Lewis and Joanna MacGregor from the Royal Academy of Music and to Cameron Sinclair from the Royal College of Music for their support for the students and the project.

Sam Boradbent from Company Chameleon and Carolyn Bolton, Alison Hartley, Laura Harvey, Lydia Draycot from English National Ballet for their help with coordination and performance of the Company Chameleon Youth and ENBYouthCo.

Monique Foulger from Opera Holland Park Chorus for facilitating the collaboration with the choir.

Molly Wright from East London Dance for support with engagement workshops with Leap of Faith.

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Our partner organisations Opera Holland Park, Royal Academy of Music, Company Chameleon, English National Ballet, East London Dance and Woolwich Works.

The programme is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, the London Community Foundation, Cockayne—Grants for the Arts programme, Coln Trust, Richard Thomas Foundation, Dance Scholarship Oxford (DANSOX), with additional support from Acosta Dance Foundation. Thank you to all New Movement Collective Board of Trustees and individuals supporters for making the project possible.

To all artists who enriched this programme during the time of research and to all individuals and organisations who provided support and encouragement over the years.

Our research and development has been supported by the ACE Culture Recovery Fund and Rambert with additional support from the Battersea Arts Centre and Stone Nest.

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