



QuestLab Artists 2019

Wilkie Branson (South West)

Wilkie Branson is an interdisciplinary dance artist and film-maker. Self-taught in both dance and film, which form the main focus of his work, the roots of his practice lie in b-boying. Wilkie's dance style has developed into a fusion, with expression, accessibility and integrity at its heart. He received the Arts Foundation Choreographic Fellowship in 2012 and the UK Film & TV Charity John Brabourne Award in 2019. He was the recipient of several awards for his dance animation *Little Dreams*, while his latest work, *TOM*, combines initiative approaches to integrating photogrammetry, projection mapping and 3D rendering into a narrative led dance installation. Wilkie is a New Wave Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells and a Playtime Artist at PDSW.

Jo Cork (London)

Jo Cork is an independent dance and film artist, drawing on exploration of the human condition and experience to create her work. Having completed training at Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) in 2009, she has enjoyed working as a performer, choreographer and in dance education and community settings. Jo is interested in the territory between choreographic practice and film composition and in finding effective ways to use digital formats of work to bring contemporary dance to broader audiences and more diverse venues. Her dance film, *Sensate*, toured festivals, screening at 15 events across Europe, America and Asia, and won an international award for best film in category at *Videomovimiento* Festival in Colombia. Her follow up series of shorts, *The Intersection Series*, has been shown in dance venues and art gallery settings in the UK and Germany, and *Calibrate*, a screendance installation, was supported by Arts Council England and various dance organisations and universities in the UK; it has been exhibited in dance venues, film

festival and community settings. Jo is part of the first cohort of the MA in Screendance at London Contemporary Dance School; the only MA in Screendance to exist worldwide. She is currently working with film artist Rosemary Lee to create screendance works for *Camden Alive* - a series of arts and cultural events celebrating the people of Camden, and this Summer, will be working with stage, television and film choreographer Anthony Van Laast and director Roman Green to develop an independent dance film.

Tim Casson (South East)

Tim is a Choreographer, Educator and Performer, creating for theatre, public, unusual and online spaces. His company *Casson & Friends*, make accessible, interactive and joyful dance projects with productions including, *Choreocracy*, *Night at the Theatre*, and the World Record Breaking, *The Dance WE Made*. Tim's work has been presented in France, Portugal, Austria, Sweden, America, Canada, The UAE and Zimbabwe.

Tim works extensively in education as a teacher, mentor and consultant for a wide range of dance organisations including NYDC and Sadler's Wells where he is Programme Leader for their Young Associates scheme. Tim performed and taught extensively for Jasmin Vardimon Company, founding their *JV2 Training Programme*, and has also worked with Ben Wright, Katie Green and Nigel Charnock. Tim recently worked with Disney, Star Wars and Public Health England, to create their *Train Like a Jedi* programme.

A DanceEast Associate Artist (2018-20), Tim previously held associate positions at Pavilion Dance South West, Metal Peterborough and dancedigital. He is also a SERIOUSWORK Certified Facilitator of Lego® Serious Play® Method and Materials.

Tom Dale (Midlands)

Tom Dale graduated from Laban winning the Centre's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography, danced with leading choreographers and companies including Mathew Bourne's Adventures in Motion Pictures performing in "Swanlake" before focusing on creating his own work and forming Tom Dale Company. Tom has been running his own dance company for over 10 years and it is here that he is able to bring together artists to collaborate on bold, exciting projects often with a particular synergy with the digital arts and electronic music.

Tom has created all of the companies work to date including critically acclaimed pieces *Rise*, *I Infinite*, *Refugees of the Lost Heart* and *Digitopia* which won the award for Outstanding Production at the UK's Theatre and Technology Awards 2017.

Tom has also taken on many commissions including creating the award winning and National Lottery Award finalist piece *Dark Clouds are Smouldering into Red* - a professional and participatory work inspired by WW1 with Sinfonia Viva. Other commissions include *Subterrania* part of *(In the Dust)* for 2Faced Dance Company, *Dance Please* produced by TPO/Crying Out Loud/Theatre Is and *I am a believer* a critically acclaimed performance in Trafalgar Square for visual Artist Reza Aramesh. Tom also leads educational projects throughout the UK and internationally both for TDC and other companies. He has lead projects and created dance works for all four

of the UK's major conservatoires for dance and for National Centres for Advanced Training.

Adrienne Hart (South West)

Adrienne Hart initially trained at Swindon Dance, winning a scholarship at the age of 17 to train at London Contemporary Dance School. She now works internationally as a choreographer and as Artistic Director of Neon Dance. Adrienne has worked in Russia, Belgium, Norway, Germany, Kosovo, Japan, USA, and extensively in the UK. Her work has been commissioned and supported by Arts Council England, British Council, Creative England, Sadler's Wells, The Place, Modern Art Oxford, Glastonbury Festival, Royal Opera House, DanceXchange, Pavilion Dance South West and Art Front Gallery. 2018 commissions include working with Sadler's Wells resident over 60's performance group Company of Elders and her latest work 'PuzzleCreature' invited to premiere as part of Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial (Japan). In 2019 Adrienne will return to Japan as a participating artist of Setouchi Art Triennale and begin a new production titled 'Prehension Blooms' in collaboration with technologist Takashi Ikegami.

Divya Kasturi (South East)

Divya Kasturi is a multifaceted dance practitioner with three decades of performing experience. Trained in the two styles of Bharatanatyam and Kathak, Divya is also a Carnatic vocalist born brought up in Chennai, India. She has lent vocals for various albums and films in India and she has worked with Sir Paul McCartney and Nitin Sawhney in the UK. A qualified electronics engineer, Divya completed her M.A in South Asian Dance Studies at the Roehampton University, London, with setting the record to have created the first virtual masters dissertation in the field of South Asian Dance practice-as-research. Previously, her long stint in the Indian television industry spans a portfolio of tasks including English news reading, program anchoring, conceptualizing, directing and presenting a dance learning series for kids. As part of Look East feature, she has also performed for the BBC. Divya acted and toured with Complicite's multi-award winning theatre production, A Disappearing Number. Divya integrates her interdisciplinary skills into developing live performances with a recent interest in combining 3D Hologram technology and South Asian Dance. She also choreographed the musical 'A Little Princess' for National Youth Musical Theatre in 2018.

Jess Murray (Midlands)

Jess is recognized as a leading artist in the UK's rhythm tap community as a performer, teacher and tap jam host. Her inspiration comes from 'Hoofing', which places musicality, improvisation and self-expression at the heart of the tap dancers craft.

She is currently a Ph.D. researcher funded by Midlands4Cities carrying out practice research to create a critical analysis framework for rhythm tap practice and a methodology for dramaturgical collaboration in improvised rhythm tap performance.

As a guest soloist improviser, Jess has appeared twice at the Purcell Rooms as part of London Jazz Festival and Ronnie Scotts in Soho and Band on the Wall in Manchester.

Jess works collaboratively with musicians from a wide variety of genres to create original performance work. She is a lead artist in SoundMoves which appeared at Manchester venues Band on the Wall and Contact Theatre, Attenborough Arts in Leicester and Vortex Jazz Club in London. Currently Jess is conducting R&D for an outdoor piece Sound Catchers with support from City Arts Nottingham and Arts Council England. Jess has coordinated community tap dance initiative Tap Rhythm Project since 2006, delivering rhythm tap sessions with community groups and producing tap jams and guest artist workshops in Manchester and Nottingham.

Lisa May Thomas (South West)

Award-winning dance artist and film-maker, Lisa May Thomas has worked extensively at the intersection of performance and technology. Her choreography and films have been exhibited and broadcast worldwide at international galleries and on national television. She received her professional dance training at Laban and has since been evolving her practice in contemporary dance techniques, improvisation and somatic practices working with Janis Claxton, Nita Little, and Kirstie Simson amongst others. She co-organises and teaches for *Gather Up* - a dance-led initiative to support training and development for dancers in Bristol, and is a guest lecturer at Bath Spa University. Lisa has also worked extensively with different community groups ranging from working in schools, inclusive dance companies and communities of elders. Lisa's current practice-as-research PhD at the University of Bristol applies her dance-somatic approach to researching digital technology as a tool to facilitate embodied experiences and explore sensory perception. She is currently a mentor for the *New Creatives* scheme working with BBC and Arts Council and a resident at the Pervasive Media Studio in Bristol.