

# **OUTDOOR DANCE COLLECTION 21: UK DANCE SHOWCASE**

## **ARTISTS SESSION #1 THURSDAY 3RD JUNE**

**BIRMINGHAM  
INTERNATIONAL  
DANCE FESTIVAL**

**DANCE**  
FROM **ENGLAND**

  
PLATFORM  
4:UK

**dx**  
DanceXchange

**XTRAX**

**DANCE4**

# COMPANY CHAMELEON



Photo Credit: Joel Chester Fildes



# COMPANY CHAMELEON

## VOID

Co-Directors: Anthony Missen and Kevin Edward Turner  
Tour booking and enquiries: Sarah Trist

sarah@stdma.com | info@companychameleon.com  
companychameleon.com

"Is it possible to fall in love with a dance company at first sight? I think I might just have"

Company Chameleon make original, inspiring dance theatre in Manchester, and perform across the UK and the world. The Company started when Anthony Missen and Kevin Edward Turner met at Trafford Youth Dance Theatre in the mid-1990s. Two ordinary lads from Manchester, they shared an ambition to dance professionally. After developing their talent at Trafford, they trained at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, and after graduating travelled and worked with some of the world's most innovative dance companies and choreographers.

They came home in 2007 with the aim of setting up their own dance company – and Company Chameleon was born. Today, Company Chameleon tours internationally, staging over 50 performances every year. An extensive learning and participation programme, featuring workshops, masterclasses, intensives and residencies, is delivered in tandem with the performance programme. As a result, Chameleon has introduced thousands of people from all around the world to a different side of dance and movement.

A male and female duet, Void explores the space created by the pandemic, and what has moved into that space – both good and bad.

Responding to the experiences, thoughts and feelings of the artists and a group of young people in Manchester, Void explores the rich tapestry of emotions and reactions to covid and lockdown. With varying energy and pace, and a rainbow of different dance styles and influences, Void takes you on a journey, which creates a chance to reflect, digest and process your own thoughts and feelings during this time.

With intricate and colourful choreography, and Chameleon's unique and athletic dance style, Void draws you in through movement, and invites you to pause, and think again about an extraordinary space in time.

The work is available now for touring in the UK and abroad for approx. 1000 GBP

Length of show: 15 minutes

Performance area: 10m x 10m square: flat, even surface (absolute minimum is 8m x 8m)

Get-in / get out: 30 minutes

Scale: Small scale

Language: Non-text based

Audience type:

Suitable for all

Number. of people on road: 3

Capacity: 500-2000

Workshops available: Yes

Photo Credit: Joel Chester Fildes



# AKADEMI





# AKADEMI PRAVAAS

Artistic Director and Joint CEO: Subathra Subramaniam  
Tour booking and enquiries: Keisha Bhamra

keisha@akademi.co.uk | info@akademi.co.uk  
www.akademi.co.uk

## ANCIENT DANCE FORMS, CONTEMPORARY CONTEXTS

Akademi produces a vibrant mix of dance productions; from classical solo and dynamic group work, to large scale interdisciplinary projects. They embrace the plurality of classical, contemporary and commercial South Asian dance styles, ensuring their work is always entertaining and innovative. With 40 years' experience of devising and presenting work in theatres and non-theatre settings, Akademi's unique flexibility enables it to adapt to venues of all shapes and sizes – from village halls to grand theatres, ancient amphitheatres to secret gardens. Their outdoor productions actively push the boundaries of where dance can appear, taking South Asian dance into unconventional spaces and re-defining the parameters of the art form itself. Akademi's projects are collaborative, bringing together artists, musicians, poets, and choreographers from across the globe to create visually stunning work that engages with today's social, political and cultural agendas. Akademi integrates South Asian dance content and storytelling with relevant contemporary choreographic practices to bring together audiences of all ages across the UK and beyond.

Akademi's history of site-responsive performances includes: Coming of Age- Southbank Centre, Escapade and Bells – Trafalgar Square, Waterscapes – Somerset House, Initium (Where Dreams Begin) – London College of Fashion, Sufi:Zen: Furness Abbey, Greenwich Park, GDIF. Akademi shows can be tailored specifically to each site and the requirements of the venue. Akademi also provides productions for corporate events. Previous clients include, Hermes, Think London, GLA, Freud Communications, Credit Suisse, the Luxury Travel show and the British Museum.

Pravaas, is an experience of ancient dance forms and music exploring very real contemporary issues around climate migration. Watch landscapes shift and highly skilled dancers and singers move to express some of the pain, suffering and journeys people all over the world have to make as a result of their homes being destroyed as a result of climate change.

The work will be available for touring nationally and internationally from Spring 2023

Year Created:	2021	Length of show:	40/50 minutes
Performance area:	7 meters diameter:	Flat surface ideally concrete or stone	
Approx. get-in / get out:	Half a day		
Number. of people on road:	10	Scale:	Small scale
Capacity:	Under 500	Language:	Non-text based
Audience type:	Suitable for all	Workshops available:	Yes

Image by Brian Hartley



# HUMANHOOD





# HUMANHOOD

## SPHERA

Co- Artistic Directors: Rudi Cole and Julia Robert  
Tour booking and enquiries: Lani Huens  
lani@humanhood.net | www.humanhood.net

### Modern Physics and Eastern Mysticism fusing in the Human Body

HUMANHOOD company was founded in 2016 by Birmingham and Catalan born artists Rudi Cole and Julia Robert, and since the creation of their first duet the company has generated a rapidly growing following both in the UK and International scene. Their research is based on the fusion of modern physics and Eastern mysticism into the physicality of the body and the artistic expression as a whole. Together, they have developed a unique symbiotic fluid movement language that lies at the core of their work, creating intricate choreographic patterns that merge into multilayered energetic shapes with flow and dynamism.

HUMANHOOD creates works both for outdoor unconventional spaces and medium/large scale theatres, and have presented work in South America, Asia and Europe, including Sadler's Wells, Festival Grec, SIDance PAMS Link, Greenwich&Docklands International festival, Loja International festival, Fira Tàrrrega, among others.

SPHERA is a visually impactful outdoor duet for non-conventional spaces that explores the relationship between the visible, bright side of the Moon and humankind; the luminous moonlight that we see from planet Earth and illuminates our nights. SPHERA is a dance of liquid bodies that change and morph under the influence of the Earth's spherical satellite: the Moon.

SPHERA is danced on a circle of white astro turf 7m in diameter with a 360 surround sound design by Iain Armstrong; the audience is invited to sit all around the performance space. This production has evolved from [and complements] the darker ritualistic ORBIS (2017), performed with black capes on black astro turf.

SPHERA was created during the 2020 lockdown period and premiered at Greenwich&Docklands International Festival. It has been performed at Quinzena Metropolitana Barcelona, The Lowry Manchester, Sismògraf Olot and was part of Dancing Nation's program (together with ORBIS) produced by BBC and Sadler's Wells. SPHERA is funded by Arts Council England, co-commissioned by Sismògraf Olot and supported by RocaUmbert.

The work is available now for touring in the UK and abroad for approx. 2200-2500 GBP

Year Created:	2020	Length of show:	25 minutes
Performance area:	7 meters diameter: Flat surface ideally concrete or stone		
Approx. get-in / get out:	2h / 15min	Number. of people on road:	3
Scale:	Medium scale	Capacity:	Under 500
Language:	Non-text based	Audience type:	Suitable for all
Workshops available:	Yes		

Photo Credit: Camilla Greenwell at GDIF Dancing City



# JEANEFER JEAN-CHARLES



Photo Credit: GDIF\_Wright



# JEANEFER JEAN-CHARLES

## BLACK VICTORIANS

Artistic Director and Choreographer Jeanefer Jean-Charles

Tour booking & enquiries: Alison Holder, Associate Producer for FESTIVAL.ORG

alison@festival.org | jeanefer@jeanefer.com | www.jeanefer.com

## Challenging historical & contemporary perceptions

Artistic Director and Choreographer Jeanefer Jean-Charles is a globally respected creative artist. Since starting her journey as Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Bullies Ballerinas Jazz Dance Company (1990- 2000), her work has taken her to over 21 countries. Her unique creative process aims to bring to life the talents, strengths and shared stories of local communities and artists in inspiring and unforgettable ways. Career highlights include: London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremonies, The Rugby League World Cup Opening Ceremony in 2013, The FA Cup Final 2016 Opening Ceremony at Wembley, The first ever world record breaking Big Dance 2006 with live BBC broadcast, The Return of Colmcille, Derry-Londonderry City of Culture 2013, and The Coronation Festival at Buckingham Palace 2013, Roald Dahl's City of the Unexpected 2016, and Spirit of Woolwich for FESTIVAL.ORG for Greenwich+Docklands International Festival 2019.

Black Victorians is inspired by nineteenth century studio photographs of black men, women and children – Black Chronicles II curated by Renée Mussai at the Autograph Gallery in London.

Exploring a complex, but often forgotten black presence in pre-Windrush Britain, this performance calls attention to previously hidden figures and challenges historical and contemporary perceptions.

Picture dancers dressed in restrictive Victorian costumes, shedding them in rebellion as they dance in African, contemporary and hip-hop styles re-imagining a moment in history. Their movement will invoke their origins in powerful ways, bringing voice and body to the portraits that inspired us.

Either presented in evocative Victorian architecture, within a museum or other outdoor sites, this is an opportunity to experience history as told through choreography.

Commissioned by FESTIVAL.ORG, Hat Fair, and Without Walls

“Black Victorians is inspired by 19th-century studio portraits of black families, Jean-Charles draws parallels between the photographs’ stiff, formal poses and the stultifying societal constraints surrounding these individuals... a hugely promising work-in-progress dance piece.”

★★★★ Dave Fagnoli, The Stage

The work is available now for touring in the UK and abroad

Cost for touring: £3000 (2 performances on 1 day), £4500 (2 performances on 2 consecutive days)

Length of show: 35 minutes

Optimal site: Historic buildings, museums, parks (hard standing), squares

Number. of people on road: 6

Scale: Small scale

Audience type: Suitable for all/families

Language: English & Sesotho

Get-in/out: Minimum 1hr (wt tech/staff support)

Capacity: 400-500

Workshops available: Yes



# STOPGAP DANCE COMPANY





# STOPGAP DANCE COMPANY FROCK

Artistic Direction and Choreography: Lucy Bennett  
Tour booking and enquiries: Sho Shibata

sho@stopgapdance.com | admin@stopgapdance.com  
www.stopgapdance.com

## A punkish celebration of individuality and difference

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Stopgap is a British contemporary dance company. The company creates vibrant works that make visible the potent alchemy of diversity and the power it has to dismantle prejudice against D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse people. Their vision is to create a world where diversity is not just accepted but wanted.

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Six striking dancers collide in an uplifting dance riot set to an exclusive art rock soundtrack by Hannah Miller of Moulettes. In this quirky dance piece, watch playful observations of the yesteryears explode into a punkish celebration of individuality and difference. Frock is Stopgap Dance Company's new outdoor show touring from May 2019.

The starting point for Frock came from Artistic Director Lucy Bennett's memories of the 80s in England as a young child. Whereas her grandparents' generation obligingly took on roles and duties as assigned to men, women, age and positions in society, her parents' generation were much more daring and questioning. And now in 21st century, individuals seem to have even more of an agency in choosing who you want to be. Lucy wanted to explore how the choice over self-identity developed over the course of our generations and celebrate where we are in 21st Century through a series of invigorating partner works between a diverse cast of individuals.

Supported by Without Walls, Arts Council England, and Salisbury Festival, Hat Fair Festival, Stockton International Riverside Festival, with Norfolk & Norwich Festival being our premiere partner.

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This work is available for touring in the UK and abroad from 2021 for approx. 2000 GBP per day.

Date Created: 2019

Performance area: 10m by 10m, flat concrete

Workshops available: Yes

Capacity: 500-2000

Language: Non-text based

Approx. get-in / get out: 1.5 hours in performance space prior to first performance for run through

Length: 25 minutes

Number of people on road: 8

Scale: Medium scale

Access requirements: Wheelchair access

Audience type: All audiences, all ages

Photo Credit: Chris Parkes



# DANSE K P A R K





# DANSE K PAR K

## READY-TO-WEAR-SOLOS

Artistic Director: Karine Ledoyen

info@dansekpark.com | [www.dansekpark.com/en/](http://www.dansekpark.com/en/)

"The digital becomes a way to touch,  
and to be touched."

Karine Ledoyen

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Founded in Quebec City in 2005, under the artistic direction of choreographer Karine Ledoyen, Danse K par K is a company dedicated to the research and creation of contemporary dance. The company innovates and offers sensitive, poetic and adaptable projects and concepts to various possibilities of international programming.

Danse K par K articulates its projects by highlighting the artistic vision of choreographer Karine Ledoyen, while offering a privileged place to dancers who participate in the creation process. The works of Danse K par K are crossed by a particular attention to establish a fair balance between the recognition of common references of the general public, and in counterpoint of the unexpected wanting, to create in the spectator an active and reflective engagement with the questions that the work leads into the public space.

In her artistic approach, Karine Ledoyen is interested in revealing the "human fragility" that inhabits the body and explores the different scenic strategies to stage it. In particular, Karine uses the integration of digital scenic devices, which are an integral part of the creation, and which contribute more than a simple basic aesthetic effect.

Interdisciplinarity is also of great importance in the work of Danse K par K. The richness that results from the friction of different points of view brings a variety of artistic approaches. Danse K par K offers the public a sensitive and innovative diversity of opportunities and encounters that call for a redefinition of the dance experience.

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"Holding the work in your hand is an integral part of the viewer's experience. The digital becomes a way to touch, and to be touched. The spectator interacts with powerful symbolic gestures, both in receiving the work, and the play on the scale between the spectator and the artist."

Karine Ledoyen

Ready-to-Wear Solos is a revival of 8 of the 20 performances presented during the Osez! Solo event. Each video is from 3 to 5 minutes long and is projected from a shop or restaurant window, a way of thanking the merchants. To receive the solos, you have to hold out your hands, as a gesture of support, and the artist lands directly and delicately in the palms of your hands.

To accompany the experience, you can listen to a podcast produced by La Rotonde as you walk down the street. Available since November 2019 on the Danse K par K website, the 8 episodes – one per solo – will offer the public the soundtrack of the work followed by an exclusive discussion with the artistic team.



# SYLVAIN ÉMARD

## DANSE





# SYLVAIN ÉMARD DANSE

## Le Grand Continental

Tour booking and enquiries: Maya Daoud  
mdaoud@sylvainemard.com | [www.sylvainemard.com/en](http://www.sylvainemard.com/en)

"Two hundred people dance their hearts out.  
What's not to like?"

Paula Citron, The Globe and Mail

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A prolific and internationally respected artist, Montreal-based Sylvain Émard created his own dance company Sylvain Émard Danse in 1990, quickly establishing a reputation for a very original style. Highly theatrical at first, his work soon evolved into a more formal approach to dance. Ever since *Ozone*, *Ozone* (1987), his first solo, up to *Preludes* (2020), a site specific diptych for 20 dancers, he has been exploring the territory of human nature through the force and strength of the body. His repertoire now includes over thirty original pieces that have had a resounding impact all over the world.

Sylvain Émard's unique style has led to invitations to work as guest choreographer in theatre, opera and cinema. These collaborations include his joining forces with Robert Lepage in 2005 to work on the opera *1984* by Lorin Maazel, presented in London and Milan.

Sylvain Émard has received numerous prestigious awards, such as the Jean A. Chalmers Choreographic Award (1996). He is also co-founder of the Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique.

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Mix popular tradition and contemporary art.

Combine highly festive line dancing with the fluidity and expressiveness of contemporary dance.

When Sylvain Émard accepted the challenge of this unlikely marriage, he had no idea of the enthusiastic audience response he would unleash or of how extremely popular it would become.

Since the first presentation of *Le Grand Continental* in 2009 during Montreal's Festival TransAmériques, this galvanizing mélange of line dancing and contemporary dance has featured casts of 75 up to 375 local amateur dancers of all ages, background and ethnicities around the world. From North and South America to Oceania, Asia and Europe, some 3,000 dancers participated in one or more of its 21 distinct editions, which won over 120,000 spectators.

All driven by the pure pleasure of movement, these dance lovers will no doubt have your city swinging to their energetic vibes. The marriage of art and the village fête has indeed been consummated and the result is highly invigorating!

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Year created:	2009	Length of show:	30 minutes
Approx. get-in / get out:	Varies	Number. of people on road:	1
Scale:	Large scale	Capacity:	500-2000
Language:	Non-text based	Audience type:	Suitable for all
Workshops available:	Yes		
Performance area:	Large outdoor area no obstacles, no grass audience surrounds the dance area		