

Dance Forum

Thursday 15 September 2016 12-3pm
Citizens Theatre, Glasgow

Attendees:

Melanie Forbes-Brooms (The Work Room), Anita Clark (The Work Room), Aiyana D’Arcangelo (Scottish Dance Theatre), Nicola Denham (Macrobert Arts Centre), Ailsa-Mary Gold (Dance House), Susan Hay (Marc Brew) Paul Michael Henry (Unfix Festival), Andrew Hurst (One Dance UK), Lulu Johnston (Creative Scotland), Sara Johnstone (The Work Room), Emma Stewart-Jones (Creative Scotland), Anna Kenrick (YDance), Carolyn Lappin (YDance), Karl Jay-Lewin (Bodysurf Scotland), Laura Cameron Lewis (Creative Scotland), Belinda McElhinney (Barrowland Ballet), Jo McLean (NEAT), Eve Mutso Oja (The Work Room), Emma Jayne Park, Tommy Small (Shaper Caper)

Jon Morgan (FST), Amanda Liddle (FST), Ruth Johnston (FST)

1. Introductions

Tommy Small welcomed everyone to the Dance Forum and thanked them for attending. This Forum is a platform for more detailed discussion of wide-sector issues around aspects of producing theatre and dance.

FST specialist forums are led by those that wish to be part of it. It is there to allow for networking and skills sharing, including best practice, knowledge and peer support.

2. FST Update – Jon Morgan

- **Early Dialogue Day (15 March 2017) - Applications now open – deadline: noon on 6 October 2017:** FST invites submissions from artists/companies who would like to participate in the Early Dialogue Day 2017, to have the opportunity to discuss plans for new work or early-stage work with programmers and presenters (delegates) from across Scotland. For further information and to download the application pack please see our [website](#) or contact [Amanda](#).
- **Mentee Applications are now open – application deadline: 24 October 2016:** Step Up offers professionals working within the performing arts a personal mentor and 6-8 mentoring sessions. It is an opportunity for analysis, reflection and action to enable you to achieve success in your work. This scheme is for individuals from all areas of the performing arts – artistic development, management, audience development, production, technical, education, etc. To find out more about the programme and to download the application form, visit the [FST website](#).
- **FST Bursaries for Producers and Assistant Directors – app deadline: 19 September**

- **Assistant Director Bursaries** nurture the professional development of individual artists by supporting a directorial attachment to an established theatre company from the UK and internationally. The objective of this bursary scheme is to develop the director as a creative artist and to encourage the adoption of best practice. The application has to be made jointly by the host and the recipient – you can find out more about the bursaries [here](#).
- **Producer Placement Bursaries** focus on the professional development of producers and will support them to undertake a placement with established producers from the UK and internationally. Applicants may come from a range of producing backgrounds. This programme is flexible in its structure, allowing individuals to apply for specific projects directly related to their development needs. To apply, you need to make an application jointly with the potential host and send your up-to-date CV – more info can be found [here](#).
- **FST Technical Winter School – 7-9 February 2017:** Next year’s Winter School will once again be held at the Pitlochry Festival Theatre on 7-9 February. We are now in the process of programming, so if you have any thoughts on the training sessions you would like to see during the Winter School, contact [Emma Beatt](#).
- **FST’s Training Courses:** FST work with a number of trainers and training providers to offer a wide range of specialist courses for people working in the performing arts sector. Upcoming opportunities include:
 - [IOSH Managing Safely](#) – 11-14 October, Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh
 - [Technical and Production Leadership Forum](#) – **11 November, 12-2.30pm, Greenock:** The Technical and Production Leadership Forum is an open access forum which brings together practitioners in the production and technical field from both education and industry to discuss, develop and lead best practice in training, qualifications and skills and to act as an action learning set for the forum members. If you wish to attend/find out more please contact [Emma Beatt](#)
- **Culture Counts EU Statement:** The results of the EU referendum will have significant impacts for the cultural sector and it is important that our voice is heard in the Brexit negotiations. Culture Counts has compiled an opening statement to outline the issues and to make some initial recommendations. This statement is being circulated to politicians and civil servants in both the UK and Scottish Governments as a starting point to ensure the cultural sector is represented and continues to be consulted as the debate develops. You can view and download the Culture Counts statement [here](#) and please feel free to share it widely.
- **FST’s new H&S Advisor:** FST would like to warmly welcome Andrew Evans as FST’s new Health & Safety Advisor. Andrew is a chartered health and safety professional with more than 20 years health and safety experience gained in a wide variety of work sectors and roles, including consultancy. Andrew is going to work 3 days a week and will be contacting members soon to offer his support and advice. In the meantime, should you require his assistance or wish to discuss the health and safety service and how FST can support you, please don’t hesitate to contact him at the office on: 0141 248 4842 or email andrew.evans@scottishtheatre.org

3. Discussion: Roles of sector orgs in supporting dance

Jon Morgan – FST

The Federation of Scottish theatre is Scotland's membership and development body for professional dance, opera and theatre. FST exists to:

- support Scotland's dance, opera and theatre sector to be a world leader in artistic and management practice
- to place dance, opera and theatre as a key component of Scotland's civic and cultural life

Dance has been a part of FST's work since 2007. In 2014/15 FST members included 40 directly producing or indirectly producing dance, 15 of these were dance companies and 4 were individual dance professionals.

The four main areas of FST's work are:

- Networking and Information
- Advocacy
- Training and Professional Development
- Capacity Building Projects and Services

Aspects of this work that directly relate to dance, include dance research around the Curriculum for Excellence (please see [Dance in Scotland 2011](#) and [Dance Sector Review \(Creative Scotland 2012\)](#) both available from FST's website.)

JM proposed the following questions for the forum:

- How can FST better support dance artists/professionals artistically?
- How should FST work with other organisations such as One Dance UK, The Work Room, Dance Base, Dancehouse etc. to support you?
- Is there a need for direct training for dance artists?
- Should there be a specific bursary for dancers and choreographers?

Andrew Hurst One Dance UK

Andrew Hurst is the Chief Executive of [One Dance UK](#), the new industry body bringing together four key dance organisations. You can download AH's presentation on our website [here](#).

- The Association of Dance of the African Diaspora (ADAD)
- Dance UK
- Youth Dance England
- National Dance Teachers Association (NDTA)

One Dance UK provides:

- A united voice for dance to policy makers and politicians
- A centralised knowledge hub
- Policy direction
- Industry intelligence
- A three year programme of strategic initiatives with industry-wide benefit
- Support on best practice and the nurturing of talent

One Dance UK is the specialist body nurturing and developing talent and supporting the delivery of excellence in:

- Education
- Youth dance
- Dance of the African diaspora
- Health and well-being in and through dance
- Leadership and career development

One Dance UK Programmes include:

- Advocacy
- Children and Young People
- Career Development (including, choreographer observerships, dancers mentoring)
- Healthier Dancer Programme
- Dance of the African diaspora

One Dance UK [membership](#) starts from £20 a year and benefits include:

- Resources
- Careers Advice
- Promotion through Social Media channels
- Discounted Public Liability Insurance
- Advocacy and support

Upcoming events:

- [Healthier Dancer Conference](#): Mind the Gap: Train Smart, Improve Performance in Hip Hop and Circus, Friday 25 November 2016, London
- Health Care Practitioners/Choreographers Conference TBC

Anita Clark – The Work Room

Anita Clark is The Work Room's new Director. She was previously the Head of Dance at Creative Scotland/Scottish Arts Council.

[The Work Room](#) is a comprehensive portal to the independent dance sector in Scotland based out of a purpose built studio in Glasgow's Tramway, providing development space, a studio, meeting place, social networks, online resources and a creative hub. The main focus of The Work Room is a residency programme to support upcoming artists with decisions and selections being made by The Work Room's members.

Upcoming work from The Work Room:

- From 19 - 30th September, Swedish company il Dance will be in residency at The Work Room as part of the their [iCoDaCo](#) (International Contemporary Dance Collective) project.
- Extended Practice: Choreography and Sustainability workshop: A one-day gathering for choreographers, dance and movement artists to collectively question, discuss and share. More info [here](#)

For more information about The Work Room please contact Sara Johnstone, Memberships and Studio Manager at hello@theworkroom.org.uk

4. Creative Scotland Update – Laura Cameron Lewis

The [Creative Scotland Arts Strategy](#) has been published. The aim of the strategy is to provide a realistic view of the challenges for artists in the sector.

Key points include:

- A commitment to the review of funding programmes by September 2017; are they fit for purpose? Discussion and views from artists are sought so please get in touch with CS
- Public role of artists and the importance of artists to shape society
- The role of festivals, expos etc. within the arts

CS will be launching an **Arts Survey on 30 September 2016**. It is open to anyone who works in the arts, and the aim is to get a sense of the diversity and range within the sector.

Governance: there is conversation within the sector about different models of governance and which work. Examples of good governance models/opinion are sought, please contact CS.

CS dance delegations: Creative Scotland was the first Scottish dance delegation at [Tanzmesse](#) which hosts the largest professional gathering dedicated to contemporary dance. At the event CS talked about collaboration, CS support and the key dance festivals in Scotland. CS were also present at the [Mirabilia](#) circus and dance festival.

Get Scotland Dancing Legacy update: Scottish Government have released £50,000 to support disabled dance artists.

Creative Scotland is currently looking at their relationship with artists: LCL encouraged artists to visit CS, send them up date information on their work and invitations to events.

Advice on funding applications:

- Do see CS prior to making funding applications
- Leave enough time for feedback before resubmission in case you are not successful the first time

Update for Regularly Funded Orgs: There will be an announcement at the end of October on where the fund will be. CS is looking at a rough outline schedule of closing date in March with decisions being made in autumn.

There are challenges due to the potential drop in funding meaning there may be fewer regularly funded organisations.

EU Referendum update: In light of the EU Referendum, Creative Europe is still looking to work with the UK. CS recognise the challenges of applying for funding in different countries, please do get in touch with Kate Deans (kate.deans@creativescotland.com) for advice.

5. What are the priority needs of the sector and how can the various umbrella/support bodies address this?

Attendees split into three groups for 5 minute discussions and then provided feedback to the forum.

Group 1

- Access - paid training for independent artists
- Organisations need to be resourced sufficiently to support individuals
- FST Dance Bursaries or simply a fund to be applied to? This needs to be well marketed in advance
- How to nurture the next generation of disabled dance artists?
- How can larger bodies be more transparent about research so it trickles down to independent artists?
- Look forward to what the sector needs to be in ten years
- Look at what forms of communication are needed (marketplace vs one to one conversations)

Group 2

- Space: there is a need for quality space for making, rehearsing, research and performance
- Money
- Partners: Co-producers/collaborators
- Producers: expertise and access to producers
- Visibility: access to opportunities, recognising the limits of application driven systems
- Contacts: networks
- Exposure: to different processes and for people's work

- Practice of the art of choreography
- Audience: more of them! Widening the context that dance is presented in
- Dance Training and Learning: structures and opportunities

How can the various bodies address these?

- Facilitate more dialogue between artists and promoters: a 'half baked' platform for very early work/ideas, encourage 2 night runs, thinking together differently, companies in residence, associate artists etc.
- Shadowing: Choreographers' festival engaging directors, venues, others
- Exposure: to different processes and people's work

Group 3

- Programming of dance: What dancers make vs what audiences want/art vs entertainment. It is not always dance specialists who programme dance
- Taking control: non-curated show case
- Face to face contact with programmers, venues promoters
- Networking: a culture café style event/forum
- Get dance into communities, integrate local communities
- Collaboration
- What are the Programmers responsibility to the sector?
- Programming consortiums for dance?

Next Dance Forum Date and Venue TBC