



DANCE FROM SCOTLAND

An Introduction

 **SCOTLAND**

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Scotland on the international stage

Scotland is home to a vibrant contemporary dance sector which includes outstanding performing companies and individual artists recognised for their award-winning, pioneering and ambitious work. The sector represents a diversity of practice that reflects the broad backgrounds, influences and interests of the artists and people they are connecting with. Characterised by its generous spirit, care and support for each other, it welcomes new talent and nurtures those at all stages of their careers.

Many of our artists and companies are internationally recognised and a selection of those with strong international connections can be found over the following pages.

theworkroom.org.uk | creativescotland.com

Explore a selection of Scotland's artists and companies

Barrowland Ballet

Barrowland Ballet is one of Scotland's foremost contemporary dance companies, built around the artistic work of choreographer Natasha Gilmore. The company produces thrilling, accessible dance-theatre performances, installations, films and participatory projects. The work's themes are delivered with wit and humour, and the insightful observations of human behaviour are rooted in personal stories. Barrowland Ballet is recognised for its rich intergenerational, racially diverse practice, and for genre-defining work with and for neuro-divergent young audiences. The company has gained a high level of critical and artistic success performing in festivals and venues across the world.

barrowlandballet.co.uk

Claire Cunningham

Claire is a performer and creator of multi-disciplinary performances, based in Glasgow. One of the UK's most acclaimed and internationally renowned disabled artists, her work is rooted in the study and use/misuse of her crutches. She is the Einstein Professor of "Choreography, Dance and Disability Arts" at the Inter-University Centre for Dance in Berlin and in 2024 she will premiere a new solo work, *Songs of the Wayfarer*.

clairecunningham.co.uk



Image: Curious Seed Birds.
Photographer Maria Falconer.

Colette Sadler

Colette Sadler is a Scottish dancer, choreographer and multi-disciplinary artist.

Since 2007, Sadler's choreographic work has been shown in numerous International dance contexts and in the visual arts, including Tanz Im August Berlin, Les Latitudes Contemporaines France, OGR Turin Italy and Tokyo Festival Japan. Her upcoming creation *The Violet Hour* is funded by Creative Scotland and Nationale Performance netz Germany. It's co-produced by Tramway (Glasgow), Tanzhaus nrw (Düsseldorf), Charleroi Danse (Brussels); and in partnership with Battersea Art Centre (London), Festival De Marseille (Marseille), TWR (Glasgow) Goethe Institut London and The British Council Spotlight UK/France 2024. In 2025 she will collaborate on a new work *Extra Life* (WT) with composer Alexander Schubert. *Extra Life* is commissioned by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra for their Biennale 2025 and coproduced by Dance On Ensemble Berlin.

colettesadler.com

Curious Seed

Award-winning performance company Curious Seed was formed by choreographer Christine Devaney to produce distinctive dance theatre work spanning across disciplines, and to create meaningful collaborative experiences for audiences, participants, and artists alike. Curious Seed's performance work and projects have been shared across the globe from Milan to Macao, New Zealand to Norway; appearing at prestigious international festivals and venues from Sadler's Wells to Sydney Opera House.

curious-seed.com

Farah Saleh

Farah Saleh is a Scotland-based, Palestinian dancer and choreographer active in Palestine, Europe and the US. She works between dance, theatre, interactive live performance, video and installation art. Much of her work sets out to archive hidden stories and gestures of migration and refugeehood, particularly from the Palestinian narrative. She works in collaboration and uses bodies, testimonies, memories and imagination to explore collective responsibility and find bridges between the past, present and future.

farahsaleh.com

Janice Parker

Janice Parker is an Edinburgh-based choreographer and artist who brings people together to create large and small scale works in partnership and collaboration. Her work is responsive to context, place, body and person, often mixing the community and professional worlds, and is situated both within and outwith the mainstream, in the dance world and also beyond. Janice creates live work, film, installation and written word. She also teaches, mentors, hosts and performs. Working locally and internationally, with individuals and organisations, she has won awards for her vast body of work created over the past 40 years. For Janice movement and dance are an act of quiet, or noisy, activism, creating alternative forms of making change.

janiceparker.co.uk

Katrina McPherson

Katrina is an award-winning director and screendance artist whose creative, scholarly and educational work is at the forefront of the international field. Katrina has made many single, multi-screen and on-line works, in collaboration with artists from a variety of different countries, and these are presented at venues and festivals world-wide. Katrina is the author of the book *Making Video Dance*, the second edition of which was published by Routledge in 2018.

katrinamcpherson.com | makingvideodance.com

Louise Ahl

Louise Ahl is a Glasgow-based artist originally from Sweden, making experimental and choreographic performance work. She creates both solo and collaborative multi-art-form pieces. Louise makes art around the metaphysical and mystical, using movement, voice, light, sonics and language. Her work has been shown across the UK, Ireland, Germany, France, USA and Australia.

louiseahl.com

Lucy Suggate

Lucy is a Scotland-based dance artist, recognised for her articulate and engaging solo performances as well as choreographic installations and public scores. Focusing on choreography as an extended practice, Lucy seeks to emancipate dance from the traditional expectations of a moving body. She has presented her work extensively throughout Europe.

lucysuggate.com



Image: 21Common *Common Is As Common Does: A Memoir*.
Photo Niall Walker

Marc Brew Company

Marc Brew Company is a disabled led, trailblazing contemporary dance company that collaborates with diverse artists to create dynamic and emotive dance productions for touring nationally and internationally. Their critically acclaimed solo shows *Remember When, For Now, I am...* and *an Accident/ a Life* - directed by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui; outdoor productions *(i)Land* and *Nocturne*; and *Fusional Fragments*, a music/ dance collaboration with Dame Evelyn Glennie (Commissioned as part of the Cultural Olympiad for the 2012 London Olympic Games) have been presented across the globe. Alongside this they produce high quality dance films - *Renewable* and *Logue* - and act as a catalyst for change through their performances and inclusive engagement.

marcbrew.com

Robbie Synge

Robbie studied science but now makes performance, film and other work rooted in choreographic thinking around the body and its meeting points with people, objects, and the natural and built environment. Based in the Cairngorm Mountains, Robbie works nationally and internationally, and has been an Aerowaves Artist and Associate Artist with Dance Base, Edinburgh.

robbiesynge.com

Scottish Dance Theatre

Led by Artistic Director Joan Cleville, Scottish Dance Theatre is Scotland's flagship contemporary dance company. Working at the forefront of the artform, the company is invested in expanding the notion of the repertory dance company and becoming a resource for the development of civic and artistic communities. Its artistic vision is driven by artistic exploration, learning and a desire to connect with others.

Scottish Dance Theatre collaborates with internationally acclaimed choreographers (including Roser López Espinosa, Sofia Nappi, Meytal Blanaru and Emanuel Gat amongst many others). The company also supports the development of emerging and home-grown talent and promotes a plurality of voices. Over the last four decades, it has developed a distinctive identity that brings together artistic integrity and social commitment, reaching a wide range of audiences and participants: from remote village halls in the Scottish Highlands to opera houses in South America. From art festivals in Europe to local schools, prisons and shopping centres.

scottishdancetheatre.com

21Common

21Common is an award-winning interdisciplinary Performance Collective based in Glasgow. It makes work locally and tours internationally, and is led by artists Lucy Gaizely and Gary Gardiner, Scotland's leading learning-disabled artist Ian Johnston, and Executive Producer Louise Irwin. 21 Common aims to make work that is political, vulnerable, visceral and at times controversial. It strives for social justice and, partnering with a wide variety of collaborators, looks to embed social action at the core of its work.

21common.org

A guide to Scotland's key contemporary dance organisations and resources

The contemporary dance sector in Scotland is supported by a network of organisations that provide resources and conditions for artists to create and deliver their best work. This network is well connected by staff who are passionate about the industry and the well-being of those who work in and with it. They recognise the value of international collaboration and seek to create opportunities for artistic dialogue and exchange through working with international peers and key networks.

Arts Infopoint

Arts Infopoint UK is a pilot initiative developing and sharing resources to guide interested parties through some of the administrative stages of coming to the UK as an artist, cultural professional or organisation. Whether it is questions relating to short term paid work in the UK, or checking social security obligations, Arts Infopoint UK runs events, collates resources, and answers enquiries to assist those planning a creative visit to the UK. Arts InfoPoint UK is delivered by Wales Arts International, in partnership with Creative Scotland and the other arts councils and agencies of the four UK nations (Arts Council England and Arts Council Northern Ireland).

www.artsinfopointuk.com

British Council

As the UK's international organisation for cultural relations, the British Council has a network of over 100 offices across the world. The arts team in Scotland is committed to showcasing the rich, diverse wealth of Scottish arts and cultural talent to the world, fostering partnerships and collaboration with international audiences and enabling artistic exchange.

scotland.britishcouncil.org



Image: Project X, *Paradox Period*.
Photo: courtesy of Project X

Citymoves Dance Agency

Citymoves is a dance development organisation based in Aberdeen. As well as maintaining strong links with national cultural organisations, it increases participation, develops audiences and nurtures talent. Its professional residencies, classes and workshops support dancers and choreographers to produce and promote new work nationally and internationally.

citymoves.org.uk

Creative Scotland

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and the creative industries across all Scotland. One of its core priorities is to develop innovative and sustainable ways of strengthening international collaboration and promoting artistic and cultural exchange. Dance artists from across the world have chosen to make Scotland their home, and many of our companies and artists are working extensively across Europe and the world.

creativescotland.com

Dance Base

Dance Base has been at the centre of the dance community in Scotland since 1993, opening their purpose-built venue in Edinburgh's Grassmarket in 2001. Over that time, they have nurtured professional dance artists, provided inclusive opportunities for public and community participation in dance and built an international reputation as the home of dance in Scotland.

As well as a programme of supported and in-kind residencies for artists throughout the year, the Dance Base Festival, delivered within the Edinburgh Festival Fringe each August, is Scotland's largest and most international dance event.

dancebase.co.uk

Dance North Scotland

Dance North creates space for risk-taking contemporary dance, engaging with people from across the globe to just down the road. They do this by supporting artists and their practice, inspiring audiences and participants, presenting work, empowering through creativity, treating people fairly and working in partnership.

dancenorth.scot

Federation of Scottish Theatre

FST is the membership and sector support body for professional dance, opera and theatre in Scotland. We advocate, connect across, and lead necessary change within the performing arts, enabling a thriving sector that is integral to a vibrant, diverse, and equitable Scotland.

scottishtheatre.org

Indepen-dance

Indepen-dance is an award winning inclusive dance development company. With 28 years' experience in inclusive dance, they are an important and unique part of the cultural ecology of a diverse Scotland, ensuring that disabled people are included in all aspects of dance: making, seeing, training in and enjoying.

The company provides an annual core programme of dance classes for all ages and abilities, and quarterly training programmes in inclusive dance. The community performance groups share work at a variety of dance platforms and the Professional Inclusive Small Ensemble tours worldwide with productions *Four Go Wild in Wellies* and *Entwined* for children and adults.

indenpen-dance.org.uk



Image: *STRUT*
Photo: Simon Murphy

Project X

Project X is a black and PoC-led community interest company which champions and platforms dance of the African and Caribbean diaspora in Scotland. Since 2017, Project X has developed and flourished as a high quality, artistic, engagement programme which seeks to redress the racial inequality in Scotland's current performing arts sector. Their programme is centred on their work with and for artists who identify as black, people of colour (BPOC) and who have heritage from Africa and/or the Caribbean, offering residency programmes, choreographic and performance platforms, access to training and professional development opportunities as well as a community hub offering support, advice, advocacy, and amplifying artists work within the creative sector.

projectxplatform.co.uk

The Work Room

The Work Room is an artist-led organisation, committed to supporting a sustainable environment for independent dance artists in Scotland. Their mission is to empower artists to lead in their practice, enabling them to make high quality, thoughtful and pioneering dance for diverse contexts at home and internationally. From their studio and home in Glasgow, The Work Room connects over 250 artists working in dance, movement and choreography. They are an incubator for ideas to be researched, developed, tested and produced, that go on to performances across the country and throughout the world.

theworkroom.org.uk

YDance

As the national dance organisation for children and young people, YDance's vision is to offer every child in Scotland the opportunity to realise their potential through dance. The organisation works through key partnerships in education, culture, health and sport, to provide high quality dance experiences with four areas of work: ENGAGE - nurturing and sustaining engagement across Scotland; PERFORM - cultivating creativity, supporting growth and ensuring progression; LEARN - developing teaching practice and enhancing infrastructure; CONNECT - advocacy work to raise the profile and awareness of dance.

ydance.org

Key festivals and programmers

Scotland is home to a diverse range of festivals and organisations that present regular dance programmes throughout the year, offering audiences the opportunity to discover international productions alongside Scotland's own artistic talent.

Dance Base Fringe Festival

Run within the Edinburgh Festival Fringe every August, the Dance Base team programmes an inspiring and diverse programme of dance from Scotland and around the world, in 2024 bringing 26 companies from 16 countries. The Dance Base Industry Hub provides a space for events for international presenters and promoters, and there are daily professional classes and a programme of workshops to support visiting artists.

dancebase.co.uk

Edinburgh International Festival

Established in 1947 with the aim of creating an artistic response to building cultural relations across Europe and the world, the annual Edinburgh International Festival presents three weeks of the finest performing arts spanning dance, theatre, music and opera.

eif.co.uk

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is the world's greatest platform for creative freedom. Its open access ethos makes it a hub for cutting-edge work, undiscovered companies and emerging and established talent. The Fringe presents an opportunity for performers and presenters all over the world to platform their work in front of an international audience. It's a space to collaborate, connect and make those discoveries which lead to a flourishing global arts industry.

edfringe.com

Made in Scotland

Made in Scotland is a curated programme of exciting and innovative theatre, dance and music presented annually across the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, showcasing the diverse talent of Scotland's artists. It has supported a host of Scottish companies to present work at the Fringe and tour across the globe. It also supports international programmers to attend the showcase and offers financial support to aid international tours.

madeinscotlandshowcase.com

The Edinburgh International Children's Festival

This annual festival showcases high quality, distinctive Scottish and international performances to an audience of around 19,000 children, their teachers and their families, as well as programmers and artists from all over the world. Produced by Imagine, the national organisation which develops, presents and celebrates work for young audiences, the festival has also established itself as one of the best places for programmers to see work of the highest standard and for artists to network, see and discuss work.

imagine.org.uk

Dance International Glasgow

DiG is a celebration of dance, aiming to nurture collaboration between artists, promoters, venues and audiences. Produced by Tramway, this biennial festival aims to feature work from around the world alongside new commissions from Scottish artists.

tramway.org

DanceLive

Produced by Citymoves in Aberdeen, the annual four-day festival embraces a broad programme of professional dance and performance events by leading Scottish and UK artists. The festival includes professional performances in traditional theatre venues, site specific work, films, exhibitions, professional workshops and networking events. It is a festival that inspires, celebrates and champions innovative work.

citymoves.org.uk

Gathered Together

Led by Scotland's inclusive dance organisation Indepen-dance, Gathered Together is a biennial international inclusive dance festival that brings together people from across the world to forge new artistic partnerships. The programme encompasses a series of performances, workshops and conference sessions.

indepn-dance.org.uk

Innovations Contemporary Dance Platform

Innovations is a contemporary dance platform which is structured into seasonal editions throughout the year in Edinburgh. Produced by Dance Horizons, it provides a supportive environment for the presentation of new ideas. It works with artists from a wide range of backgrounds and influences, at all stages of their careers and showcases works from Scottish and International dance makers.

innovationsdanceplatform.co.uk

Manipulate Festival

Manipulate Festival is produced and delivered by Manipulate Arts and is an annual celebration of excellence in the fields of animated film, puppetry and visual theatre, bringing the very best of international and Scottish work to audiences across Edinburgh and beyond, in February each year. Creating a platform for creative exchange, debate and discussion alongside staging boundary-pushing new work for adult audiences, the festival has gained recognition nationally and internationally for its innovative curation and unique blend of artforms.

manipulatearts.co.uk

Rise

RISE is Dance North's festival of contemporary dance and performance. A responsive programme that adapts from year to year – sometimes existing as a standalone weekend of performance and sometimes offering performances over the course of several months. RISE often features an emphasis on outdoor work and increasingly exists in conversation with community and ecology in Moray.

dancenorth.scot

Take Me Somewhere

Take Me Somewhere is a boundary-pushing international biennial performance festival (next taking place October 25) and year-round sector support organisation. In service to audiences and artists, they act as a portal for dialogue and exchange between Scotland and the wider world. They respond to artist and community needs, encourage ambition and hold spaces for new-thinking. Their biennial international festival has innovative performance at its core and is inspired by the talent, energy & voracity of Scotland's arts community. It is a space for crucial, diverse voices from here and abroad. Studio Somewhere is their year-round sector support response to artist need, providing space and helping performance makers to test out ideas, connect with local & international peers, and develop their projects and skills.

takemesomewhere.co.uk

//BUZZCUT//

Supporting radical performance practises from all over the world, //BUZZCUT// is a festival of Live Art and experimental performance that takes place annually in Glasgow. Throughout the year BUZZCUT produces a regular performance programme called Double Thrills alongside artist development opportunities for emerging artists & those who wish to develop performances in Club-spaces. All their activity aims to build spaces where artists and audiences can experiment with live performance in an accessible, community-focused environment.

glasgowbuzzcut.co.uk

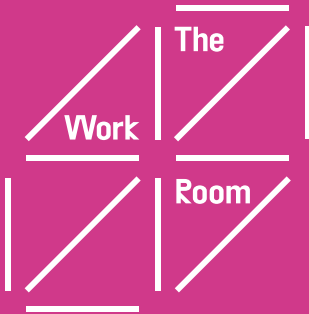
Tramway

Tramway is a renowned international arts venue with an interdisciplinary spirit providing ambitious, innovative and culturally relevant contemporary visual art and performance. Through a dynamic year-round programme of dance, live art, engagement activity, festivals and free exhibitions, it aims to stimulate meaningful dialogue between artists and audiences, responding to the urgent cultural, social and political issues of our time. It fosters the development of emergent artists in Scotland whilst also presenting ambitious International work by artists from diverse backgrounds.

tramway.org



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



Waverley Gate
2-4 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh EH1 3EG
Scotland UK

www.creativescotland.com



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