



# DANCE FROM SCOTLAND

**Meet the  
delegates**

 **SCOTLAND**

# Welcome Fàilte Wilkommen

Our delegation of independent dance artists and producers are keen to build on existing international connections and connect with new partners and programmers for current and forthcoming work. Selected through an open application process led by The Work Room working in partnership with Creative Scotland, our delegation features:



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



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## Delegates

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**Aby Watson**

**Aniela Piasecka**

**Anna Hainsworth**

*BraverHund Productions*

**Bridie Gane**

**Dorine Mugisha**

**Joan Clevillé**

*Scottish Dance Theatre*

**Karl Jay-Lewin**

*Dance North*

**Katherina Radeva  
and Alister Lownie**

*Two Destination Language*

**Kathryn Spence**

**Mark Bleakley**

**Matt Fenton**

*Two Destination Language*

**Mele Broomes**

**Salma Francoise Faraji**

**Dr Sarah Hopfinger**

**Skye Reynolds**

**The Work Room**

Cover Image: Aby Watson, Photographer Tiu Makkonen



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## Aby Watson

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Dr Aby Watson is a neuroqueer artist, choreographer, performer, and academic based in Glasgow. Her work is polymorphic: it takes many forms across contexts of contemporary performance and knowledge exchange, with a hyperfocus on radical neurodiversity. With special interests in neuroqueering, stimming, sensuality, and consciousness, Aby's playful and stimulating choreographic sensibility embodies neuroqueer potentialities through rhythm, repetition, sensoriality, and togetherness. She trained in Contemporary Performance at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where she recently received her doctorate. Her research, 'Disordering Dance', practically investigates choreography that radically resists neuronormative dance culture and aesthetics.

For Tanzmesse's Insights programme, Aby presents 'Back and Forth and Forth and Back' (BFFB) – a radically relaxed, sensory, and durational choreography exploring neurodivergent consciousness. An experimental performance of repetitive, rhythmic, and self-stimulating embodiment, BFFB transcends all to the alternate dimension of The Zone. Audiences are encouraged to respond naturally and follow their own playful flow of attention, BFFB makes democratic space to gather, move, stim, and have permission to collectively be themselves.

[abywatson.co.uk](http://abywatson.co.uk)

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## Aniela Piasecka

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Aniela Piasecka's collaborative and solo performance works have been presented with Bergen Kunsthall; CAPC Museum of Modern Art, Bordeaux; The Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; CCA, Glasgow; Dansehallerne Close Encounters, Copenhagen; Cubitt Gallery, London; Fruitmarket, Edinburgh.

They are part of performance project STASIS (nominated for the Paul Hamlyn Award in 2023) and they frequently work in other collaborative constellations. They are a contributing performer in Myriam Lefkowitz's Walk, Hands, Eyes (a city), jointly acquired by the National Galleries of Scotland and the collections of Edinburgh University. They are also a holder of this work's practice and is responsible for its activation in the UK.

They are currently working on a solo dance work titled 'Remedies' with support from Creative Scotland, Bergen Kunsthall, Dance Limerick, The Work Room, The Lowry, Lisa Ullman Traveling Scholarship Fund, Henry Moore Foundation, Dance Base, Dance Ireland.

They are attending Tanzmesse 2024 as part of Aby Watson's Creative Team for her Insights presentation.

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## **Anna Hainsworth**

*BraverHund Productions*

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Anna Hainsworth is a producer working across dance, theatre and opera. Anna was appointed Birmingham Royal Ballet's producer in March 2024, and prior to this was Senior Producer for Scottish Dance Theatre and Dundee Rep Theatre, and Tour and Projects Producer for National Dance Company Wales. Anna has worked in a breadth of roles within the arts sector, beginning her career in fundraising before moving into creative learning and producing, with companies including Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Opera North and Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

In 2021, she began a freelance practice, working on projects with independent artists and established companies, including Scottish Opera, Surrogate Productions, All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre, Jasmine Ellis (Germany), Equilibrio Dinamico (Italy) and Rosana Ribeiro (Austria). Anna holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Arts, Festivals and Cultural Management from Queen Margaret University and is Chair of New Opera in Scotland Events (NOISE).

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## Bridie Gane

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Bridie Gane is a choreographer based in Edinburgh. She is passionate about making dance work of a high artistic quality that is accessible and engaging to a wide ranging audience. Her work utilises strong musicality, physicality and humour, spanning live performance for the stage and outdoor locations, dance film and dance works with and for young people. A graduate of the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Bridie has been based in Scotland for eight years. Here she is a lecturer at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and has been Associate Artist with Dance Base and Catherine Wheels.

*'The Last Forecast'* is a dance theatre work for audiences aged 6+. A highly visual and physical show, it tells the story of two very different beings thrown together on an island, forced to work together to find a way to escape the rising sea levels. The show is set to an eclectic playlist and narrated by the radio's shipping forecast.

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## Dorine Mugisha

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Dorine Mugisha is an international artist, movement coach and retreat leader. Of Tanzanian heritage, born and raised in France, living in Scotland, she is inspired by an array of cultures and speaks 4 languages; this influences her work. Dorine advocates for plus-size representation, confidence through movement, and is interested in themes exploring identity and belonging. She grew up training in various street dance styles before gravitating to Whacking/Punking. She excels in this style, winning international competitions such as Redbull Dance Scotland, Disconnection London, Waack the World Thessaloniki. She founded Body Movement and 'Whacking Scotland' where she teaches and shares her practice.

Dorine's autobiographical solo '*Asili*', delves into her multicultural upbringing, adapting to difference spaces, people and institutions. She has showcased iterations at venues such as Edinburgh Fringe, London Breakin Convention, All Europe Waacking Festival Paris, Freestylelab Brussels. Due to the nature of the piece, Dorine aims to fully develop and present this work in East Africa, Scotland, France, and beyond.

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## Joan Clevillé

### *Scottish Dance Theatre*

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Led by Artistic Director Joan Clevillé, Scottish Dance Theatre is Scotland's flagship contemporary dance company. Working at the forefront of the art form, the company is invested in expanding the notion of 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.

[dundeerep.co.uk](http://dundeerep.co.uk)

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## Karl Jay-Lewin

### *Dance North*

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Karl Jay-Lewin is the Creative Director of Dance North Scotland, a dance organisation based in North East Scotland and dedicated to creating space for risk-taking contemporary dance; engaging with people from across the globe to just down the road.

Dance North Scotland is a Creative Scotland Regularly Funded Organisation, and hosts *RISE*, a festival of contemporary dance and performance.

Karl curates the programme for *RISE*, seeking work with a transformational quality. He may look for work that will change someone's perceptions or perspective on life or redefine their concept of what 'dance' is. Equally, he might seek out work that changes something in the artist through their performance of it.

Karl is also a performer and choreographer, and currently has a new work in development with Matteo Fargion, *If I Can't Dance I'm Not Coming*, a dance octet with live string quartet and is the third part of their Extremely Series.

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## **Katherina Radeva and Alister Lownie**

### *Two Destination Language*

Two Destination Language is the collaborative practice of Katherina Radeva and Alister Lownie - multi award winning interdisciplinary artists traversing dance, performance, theatre, live art and the visual arts. Their projects are bold and ambitious centraling identity and community, difference and joy. They employ innovative artistic forms to cross cultural, social, economic and geographic barriers. Rooted in dialogue, they believe in the transformative power of art to change how we see ourselves and the society we share. Their work brings people together in new, unexpected ways, creating shared spaces for reflection and mutual understanding.

Presenting at Tanzmesse is their critically acclaimed solo dance work *40/40* - a celebration of female joy, dancing, migrancy, hardship and combating body shaming in a 50 min work that packs a punch, and which has toured extensively across the UK. *40/40* is the kind of show that leaves you empowered to embrace your body and life just the way it is - celebrating everything that you are.

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## Kathryn Spence

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Kathryn Spence is a choreographer and dancer based in the Shetland Islands, Dancing on the Edge. Trained at Laban, she creates work often inspired by human impact upon the environment, taking inspiration from where she is while seeking connection with others. Kathryn creates dance films and live works and currently has two of each ready for touring. One of her Screendances was shown by the BBC as part of their Dance Anthology programme.

Kathryn's performances are showcased locally and internationally, most recently performing a duet in Beirut, which she choreographed alongside her Lebanese dance partner. This touches upon the connection between two unlikely people, exploring human connection and political divides.

Exploring the migratory patterns of birds and how these are changing, 'A Journey of Flight' is a multimedia dance installation piece that features original composition, choreography and moving image. The set is created from repurposed road underlay from a windfarm.

Kathryn is passionate about engaging with people and places through movement.

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## Mark Bleakley

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Mark (He/Him) is a Scottish and Irish artist and choreographer based between Scotland and Denmark. Developing work that expands beyond the boundaries of any singular artistic field or discipline. Like a true Gemini his practice follows desire and pleasure in many directions at the same time, producing a practice that is equally social as it is conceptual, rhythmic as it is sculptural. Initially trained in visual art, his practice has roots in social dance (Breakdancing and House dance), Marks emphasis on community and the social can be seen and felt throughout his work.

Current projects: In 2022 *Dance Makes The Floor* emerged: a long term participatory dance project centred around a collectively built dance floor collaborating with local communities. In 2024 Mark premiered *In A Particular Way*: a reflection on the nature of a community as a landscape. Exploring the ways in which dance, rhythm and play can create and shape our communities and the spaces we inhabit.

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## **Matt Fenton**

### *Two Destination Language*

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Matt Fenton is a theatre director, dramaturg and arts consultant based in Belgium, with a specialism in engaging local communities as decision-makers. As Strategic Producer for Two Destination Language, Matt is supporting the company's long-term business development and expanding its international profile, including through international touring and creative residencies.

After 20 years working as Artistic Director for UK theatres and arts venues (including Contact Theatre Manchester and Lancaster Arts), in 2023 Matt co-founded [www.FentonMicklem.com](http://www.FentonMicklem.com) to support cultural organisations to engage more deeply with their communities, and explore new models of governance and leadership. As a theatre director, Matt has worked with Elmi Ali, Yandass Ndlovu, Neil Hannon/Divine Comedy, Leentje Van de Cruys and the grime MC Hypes. He is currently directing *This Kind of Black* by Reece Williams, commissioned by HOME and Apples & Snakes.

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## Mele Broomes

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Mele is an artist and director of dance, performance, choreography and vocal experimentation. Her most recent work *through warm temperatures* opened the 20th anniversary of Edinburgh Art Festival, the UK's largest annual festival of Visual Art.

Her work *GRIN* was presented at Battersea Art Centre, London, Tramway Glasgow, alongside the film production which was also screened at Theatre Centre Canada and part of Cultura Inglesa Festival Brazil. In 2021 Mele was commissioned by Scottish Dance Theatre, where she created *Amethyst*.

Mele is currently developing group performance *Dictation* which is made up of dancers, singers and musicians. She is currently working towards a presentation in 2026, and due to present her most recent work, featuring a trio of performers including herself in Spring 2025.

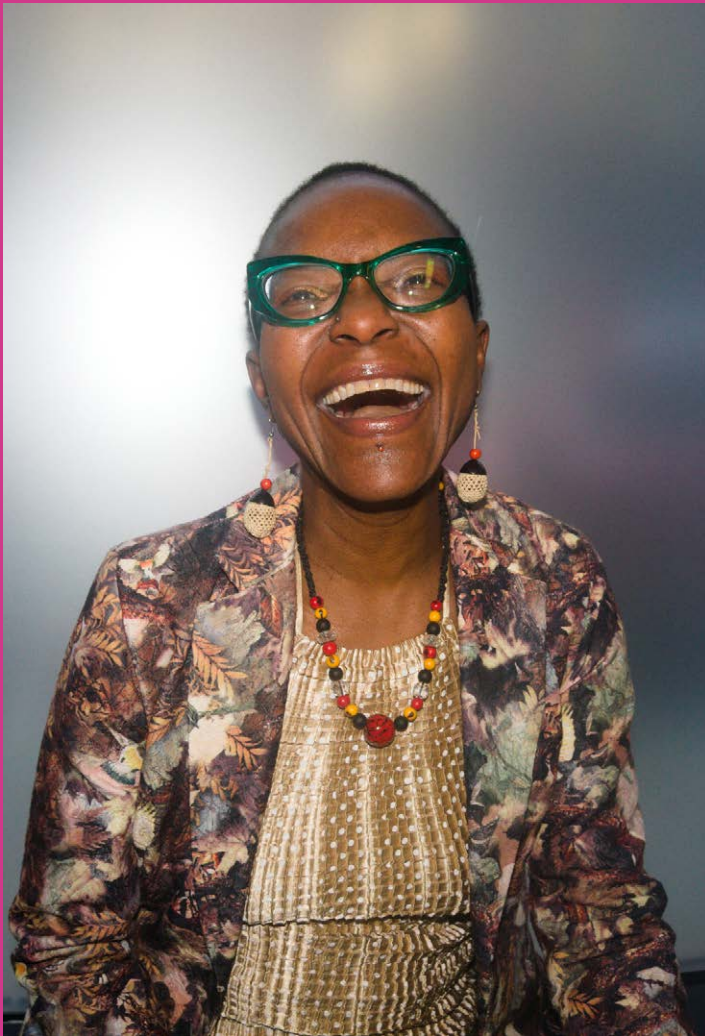
Mele has performed and presented works at The Place London; Take Me Somewhere; White Chapel Gallery, Festival del Silenzio Milan; Edinburgh Fringe; Art Night; Dance International Glasgow; Fest en Fest; Dundee Rep Theatre; Centre for the Less Good Idea, Johannesburg.

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## Salma Francoise Faraji

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*I Hear You*, a 25-minute solo performance, is created and performed by Salma incorporating choreography with integrated British Sign Language (BSL), spoken word and live music in collaboration with cellist, Peter Nicholson. The work is based on three prose she wrote shortly after the tragic death of George Floyd during lockdown. Salma has choreographed a unique dance language using BSL to explore non-verbal communication, cultural diversity, and challenge silence through empathy and shared vulnerability.

Salma is excited to share her narrative by implementing Artistic voices in schools and local communities, and break the barriers of equality, diversity and inclusion.

She recognizes that inequalities remain unaddressed, and has often corrected misguided perception, promoting visibility within cross-culture and shared identities. Salma welcomes an exchange of generous dialogue to explore the broader relevance of uniting languages, heritage, and African and Contemporary movement, within German culture and beyond. As a mature Dancer, Salma aspires to tour the work both nationally and internationally.

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## Dr Sarah Hopfinger

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Sarah Hopfinger is an award-winning queer disabled dance artist, working across choreography, live art, somatics, crip and disability practices, ecological performance, and queerness. She creates bold, playful, and intimate performances, collaborating with composers, visual artists and graphic designers.

Her performances have been commissioned and presented nationally and internationally with organisations including The Place, Battersea Arts Centre, South London Gallery, Dance Base, Tramway, Summerhall, Made In Scotland, ArtFart (Iceland), Festival Quartier Danses (FQD, Canada).

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## Skye Reynolds

Skye Reynolds is an interdisciplinary artist, performance-maker & educator. Her practice navigates the edges of dance, drawing upon text, comedy & the politics of real life. International experience includes: Associate Artist with Curious Seed @Cultura Inglesa Festival/Brasil 2022; choreographer @Fadj International Festival/Iran; Artist in Residence @Imaginate/Dance Base/NEA. PITCH, her solo show, was created with choreographer Jo Fong and toured Scotland/UK. She has performed in productions with Janis Claxton Dance (Shanghai), Tess Letham (EdinFringe), Derevo (Germany), Wendy Houston. Current R&D includes a solo project 'menopause & politics' and a collaboration with composer Semay Wu. Skye is also Artist in Residence with Edinburgh Printmakers Gallery.

Skye's most recent project *Into Flesh* is an international collaboration and interdisciplinary performance with choreographer Khamlane Halsackda. It celebrates queer friendship, ageing bodies & punk protest in a duet for stage & gallery (co-produced by Inkonst/Sweden & Tramway/Scotland 2023). *Out of the Box* is a dance-in-development inspired by Skye's work as an Early Years movement specialist, partnered by Starcatchers & Citymoves.

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## The Work Room

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The Work Room is an artist-led organisation, committed to supporting a sustainable environment for independent dance artists in Scotland. Our 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 our studio and home in Glasgow, The Work Room connects over 250 artists working in dance, movement and choreography. We are an incubator for ideas to be researched, developed, tested and produced, that go on to performances across the country and throughout the world.

Together with Creative Scotland, The Work Room has hosted the Dance from Scotland exhibition area since 2016; enabling us to build our connection with Tanzmesse and its growing international community.

Anita Clark (Director) is responsible for the strategic leadership of TWR and for developing partnerships.

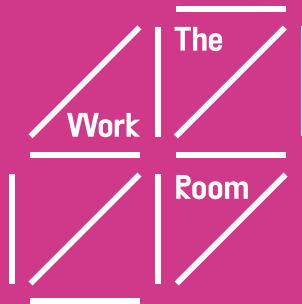
Sara Johnstone (General Manager) is the point of contact for artists and supports our artistic programme, including co-ordinating the Dance from Scotland delegation.

Jade Adamson is an independent dance artist and producer, currently working with TWR as project manager for the Dance from Scotland presence at Tanzmesse 2024.

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