

PITCH UP dance

helping theatre-makers and venues start conversations



INTRODUCTION

house is an initiative aimed at better connecting theatre-makers, venues and audiences across the South East and East of England.

We want to make it easier for theatre-makers and venues to form the kind of alliances that help artists to create their best work, theatre buildings to unlock their creative potential, and audiences to connect with new theatre. Pitch Up is our regular platform for starting those conversations and it's always been a key feature that theatre-makers and venues pitch alongside each other, creating a spirit of openness and common purpose.

dance theatre

As well as this, house has formed a pilot network of eight venues interested in develop audiences for dance. The pilot seeks to offer venues the opportunity and expertise to focus on developing audiences for dance and includes audience develop support, subsidised programming and events such as Pitch Up. Some of those pilot venues are represented here today, as well as our project partners Surf the Wave, South East Dance and The Place.

The first production in house theatre's dance theatre pilot will be *Juliet and Romeo* by Lost Dog, on tour from spring 2020.



Lost Dog's *Juliet & Romeo*
Photo © Zoe Manders

Of course there are people, ideas and opportunities in the room to which we have not been able to offer a platform and so we encourage you to take the initiative, meet a stranger or two, and make some new connections.

We're grateful to The Place for hosting us today, and to you for being here.

We look forward to saying hello.

housetheatre.org.uk
@housetheatre
#pitchup

OUR HOSTS

The Place, London's creative powerhouse for dance development, has been leading the way in dance training, creation and performance for 50 years. In a changing landscape, our vision for the future remains steadfast: We are powering imagination through dance, championing new ideas, embracing risks and creating a dance ecosystem unlike any other in the world, with optimal conditions for dance artists and enthusiasts to realise their full potential.

The Place is home to London Contemporary Dance School, Richard Alston Dance Company, an extensive theatre and artist development programme, education projects, a range of classes and courses and a nationwide touring model. As a pioneering dance organisation, we are committed to creating no-barriers access to exciting dance experiences and opportunities for everybody, offering a diverse and dynamic theatre programme for audiences, empowering artists and dance makers and giving young people access to the highest quality opportunities to touch their lives with dance. **theplace.org.uk**



SCHEDULE

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 13:15 | Arrivals and refreshments |
| 13:30 | Welcome and session one: Sonia Sabri Company TRIBE// Something Underground Last Legs Dance Theatre Miranda Laurence |
| 14:20 | Elevator pitches |
| 14:30 | Break |
| 15:15 | Session two: ATMA Dance Gandini Juggling Moving Memory Dance Sara Green Casson & Friends |
| 15:50 | Elevator pitches |
| 16:00 | Break |
| 17:00 | Closing comments |



farnham **maltings**

THE PLACE



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

SONIA SABRI COMPANY



Same Same.... But Different

Same Same... But Different is a new family show mixing Kathak, Hip Hop and contemporary dance, hints of live music, and physical storytelling to create a playful and colourful world exploring our curiosities and fears, the times we feel different and when we belong.

Pitch: We are looking for venue partners excited by the potential to develop new family audiences through this project and see its value in forging and strengthening community links. These partners would help us to develop the ideas behind the project, think through the practicalities of how it can work in different areas, and set up and manage connections with their local libraries.

ssco.org.uk
@SoniaSabriCo

Photos © (top) Simon Richardson
and (below) SSco

Sonia Sabri Company (SSCo)

SSCo is a leading contemporary South Asian dance and music company based in Birmingham. The artist-led company has an international reputation for presenting Kathak dance in a contemporary context, without diluting its integrity. The Company creates work that is relevant to diverse audiences; inspired by the rich possibilities that arise when Eastern and Western cultures meet.



Other project: Dastaan

A performance of live music and silent film featuring four world-class musicians of different musical genres, backgrounds and faiths, Dastaan celebrates the unique diversity of modern Britain. Through *Nasta'liq* (Persian calligraphy) and sublime dance by Marion Tait of Birmingham Royal Ballet, boundaries of cultures and lands merge, creating a heart-warming, universal sound. Funded by ACE. Supported by the British Library and Birmingham Royal Ballet.

TRIBE//



No Sudden Moves

Be drawn into a dance/gig, immersive landscape of full-throttled and tender choreography where personal decisions shift and alter the consequences of actions and scenes repeat with alternate endings. The electronic score creates a driving atmosphere evoking a dystopian cinematic experience. The diverse cast become powerfully charged as an ensemble through Fox's visceral, raw yet articulate movement language.

Pitch: We are looking for partners in developing this work and relating it to audiences; plus rehearsal space, space to store set, and assistance from venues with experience in supporting artists to make work for outdoors or that can be performed indoors and outdoors.

tribecompany.co.uk
@company_TRIBE

Photos © Camilla Greenwell

TRIBE//

TRIBE// is led by Victoria Fox-Markiewicz, and is the culmination of 20 years' experience at the cutting edge of dance. She is quickly establishing herself as a powerful female choreographic voice communicating through movement. "Visceral and fearless".



Other project: Still I Rise

Danced with full-bodied urgency and gutsy power, this raw, visceral and emotive work from choreographer Victoria Fox creates a fragile world of simmering tensions and unrest. The work channels the resilient, unapologetic nature of the iconic poem by Maya Angelou.

SOMETHING UNDERGROUND



How To Start a Knife Gang

A fast moving, dynamic, Bruntwood Prize-Longlisted play, incorporating Krump dance, high paced narrative, gritty characters, complex plot and imbued with high-energy physical theatre. Dealing with the issues of knife crime and sibling society, this is the new work from multi-award-winning Something Underground which has a track record of delivering ambitious projects, including ACE funded.

Pitch: We seek partner venues to programme the piece and enable us to progress to an ACE bid. Previously, partner South Hill Park first enabled us to showcase *Of Our Own Making*, then subsequent partner Tara Arts programmed a 20-show run in Feb 2019. We seek similar enthusiasm from partners; as well as directorial and choreographic support.

[@somethingunder](http://somethingunderground.co.uk)

Photos © (top) Jonathan Brown;
(below) Loulou D'Aki

Something Underground

Since 2006, Something Underground has won or been nominated for many prizes, produced nearly 20 original productions, and been granted significant ACE funding for its most recent.

We also teach, and curate festivals (including the 2019 Lewes Solo Theatre Festival).

Other project: Of Our Own Making

Combining dance/physical theatre with plot-based theatre, partnering Tara Theatre, we secured £40,000 ACE funding for *Of Our Own Making* (a story of refugees, ISIS-fighters, home-grown terrorism, tabloids), including a series of free dance workshops with local boys, alongside our 20-date production of *Of Our Own Making* in 2019.

somethingunderground.co.uk/of-our-own-making-venue-info/



LAST LEGS DANCE THEATRE



The Story of Robert Wedderburn

British diversity is not a recent phenomenon but the stories of black and mixed influencers are still not being told. Dance theatre helps to tell them where text is limited. Following success at Stroud theatre festival, we wish to take the tale of Robert Wedderburn's fight for reform in the 1800s to new audiences in Gloucestershire.

Pitch: This is a search for partners: Academic and historical organisers; cultural event organisers; dance agencies in the South East and East; beyond-museum curators looking to programme live performance to tie in with a venue that programmes dance theatre; funding partners to support our access needs (dyslexia) and submit an ACE bid; a producer/administrator; collaborators, eg Jazz violinist, lighting/costume designers, technician for 3D holographic display.

lastlegsdancetheatre@gmail.com
[facebook.com/lastlegsdancetheatre](https://www.facebook.com/lastlegsdancetheatre)

Photo © Gary Lea

Last Legs Dance Theatre

Peter Anderson and Marie-Louise Flexen are Last Legs Dance Theatre. Together they work with dance, theatre, spoken word, comedy, music, film and art to tell stories through performance. Peter trained at Rambert and Marie-Louise trained at London Contemporary Dance School in the late 80s and early 90s. Both artists are based in Gloucestershire. Between them, they have a wealth of professional experience spanning over 25 years, working in London, nationally and internationally with high-profile dance companies, independent choreographers and directors. As freelance dance artists and creators, they have received Arts Council grants, commissions, and awards for a wide range of productions and performances. Marie-Louise and Peter are embarking on a new chapter as mature dancers and performers with the aim to thrive with age rather than disappear.

MIRANDA LAURENCE



Dance Audience Club

Dance Audience Club is a dramaturg-led process thinking afresh about audience development in dance. It invites audiences new(ish) to dance into a supportive, informal space to gain confidence in watching dance. Guided by independent dance dramaturg Miranda Laurence, we will think about: What am I watching? How am I watching? Does it mean anything? How do I know if it's good?

Pitch: I am looking for like-minded venues to collaborate with on piloting Dance Audience Club and shaping associated dance audience development programmes. Venues could be new to dance, or already have established dance audiences. A partnership would involve providing space and promotion for the audience events and offering discounts. It could expand to hosting longer sessions or 'courses', or bringing in associate or resident artists. Partnerships, in-kind contributions and match-funding are welcome.

mirandalaurence.co.uk
@miralaur

Photo by Lorenz Stoekl

Miranda Laurence

With a background in producing, project management and artist development mostly in the world of dance, since 2015 I have also worked as a dramaturg with over 15 dance artists and companies in the UK and beyond, financially supported by ACE, South East Dance and Oxford Dance Forum.

Other project: Moving Dramaturgy workshop

In collaboration with Dr Ruth Pethybridge, I offer a workshop for theatre- or dance-makers and dramaturgs, exploring the practice of dance dramaturgy through dance improvisation, movement-based reflection, discussion, case studies, and independent thought.

ATMA DANCE



Spy Monkey

For family and school audiences, *Spy Monkey* reimagines a classic tale from the Ramayana. Bringing together the imaginative physical storytelling of Hip Hop and Bharatanatyam, the visually exciting, humorous work will reference spy characters such as James Bond and Ethan Hunt. Touring to a new consortium of South East venues in 2020. R&D will include young audiences.

Pitch: Looking to connect with diverse family and school audiences in different locations – to test performance and workshop ideas, work-in-progress sharings and marketing materials. Also looking for marketing expertise in family work to support us in developing an illustrated promotional image (using a graffiti-style), age-appropriate copy and short teaser/task-based profile raising videos. Plus performance and workshop opportunities for future touring.

atmadance.com
@ATMA_Dance

Photo © Chris Nash

ATMA Dance

ATMA Dance, led by Mayuri Boonham, creates cross-disciplinary South Asian dance with an omni-cultural appeal, for a variety of settings and audiences. Commissioners for Mayuri's work include the Royal Ballet; Royal Opera; Channel 4; BBC; British Council India; GemArts; The Place and Pavilion Dance South West.

GANDINI JUGGLING



Joy

Joy blends juggling and dance based on the choreographies of Merce Cunningham. Having spent three decades watching and being inspired by his work, and with the Merce Cunningham Trust supporting this ambition, Gandini plan to spend the next two years developing the piece, creating a dialogue with Merce's rich legacy - the dancing, the geometry, the systems and the philosophy.

Pitch: Gandini Juggling is at the early stages of this creation and at this point is looking for residency support, rehearsal space, co-producers and artistic collaborators.

gandinijuggling.com
[@gandinijuggling](https://www.instagram.com/gandinijuggling)

Photos © (top) by ASH;
(below) by Camilla Greenwell

Gandini Juggling

Over the past two decades Gandini Juggling has been one of the world's most prolific and adventurous circus companies. Founded with the aim of fusing juggling and dance, they have pushed the artistic and technical boundaries of juggling, resulting in performances that delight, astound and defy easy categorisation.



Other projects: Smashed 1 & 2

To celebrate 10 years of Gandini's hit show *Smashed*, Gandini will be touring *Smashed 1* and *2* throughout Autumn 2020.

MOVING MEMORY DANCE



Intimate Me

Age is just a number? Age doesn't matter? Then why is everyone so ageist? *Intimate Me* seeks to bridge the perceived differences between generations by exploring, through our unique dance theatre approach, the emotional experiences that all ages can share. Following funded R&D this autumn we are looking for partners for further development in 2020.

Pitch: We are seeking partners who already work with older people and are interested in creating the right circumstances for these conversations to take place (Spring/Summer 2020). This might be a part-participatory, part performance-work-in-progress event, probably involving food – but can be responsive to the specific context. Also looking for venues who might be interested in presenting the finished dance theatre piece (Autumn 2020).

movingmemorydance.com
[@MovingMemdance](https://www.instagram.com/MovingMemdance)

Photos © (top) by Matt Wilson;
(below) by Simon Richardson

Moving Memory Dance

Moving Memory Dance Theatre has been making surprising, funny, and life-enhancing performances for family audiences since 2011. Our visually striking work is drawn from the perspectives, opinions and experiences of older people, especially women, and challenges assumptions about age and ageing.



Other project: Beyond the Marigolds

Beyond the Marigolds incorporates Moving Memory Dance Theatre's trademark combination of movement, digital projection, music and spoken word. It received the 2017 Kent Creative Award for Performing Arts and has been performed in venues including Gulbenkian and, most recently (Feb 19), the Old Town Hall, Hemel Hempstead.

SARA GREEN



ID MY ASS

ID MY ASS is a collaboration between Sara Green and technologist Jo Portus. China are developing CCTV surveillance that identifies you by your walk, so we're putting together a 'future toolkit' to avoid detection. We plan to build the software, and – using voguing dancers – test how fast this self-learning technology can adapt.

Pitch: We are looking for venue/organisation partners to support early development. Initially, we need studio space in order to test the software with dancers; mentorship from any venues and individuals experienced or interested in digital performance, in order to ensure the accessibility. It's important that this work reaches a wide audience, and uses technology creatively rather than showcase its capabilities.

saragreencompany
@gmail.com
saragreen.co.uk
@joportus

Photo © (top) Sara Green;
(below) Harvey Pearson
for Villager Films

Sara Green

Sara Green is a choreographer with recent commissions from Manchester International Festival, London Fashion Week, Futurfest, RSC and Radiohead. Jo Portus is a technologist working across multiple platforms. He created the viral 'Babyblocker' chrome extension, and won the Facebook AR Hackathon '18.



Other project: BURNT OUT

BURNT OUT is a dance project dealing with trauma. Using movement, illustration and music it explores life with spinal conditions such as Scoliosis. Following initial presentation at the Place, the work is in development at the Lowry for presentation in 2020.

CASSON & FRIENDS



PREPPERS

A new piece of verbatim documentary dance theatre by Casson & Friends that asks: are we truly prepared? With interviews from members of the UK survival and preparedness community, intercut and combined with compelling movement, *PREPPERS* is a unique performance revealing our resilience and humanity in times of crisis. It explores what we need to truly survive.

Pitch: We are in early R&D, and looking for residency space for further development into creation. Having become a small to midscale touring company, we are also keen to take this new work to smaller venues. We would be interested in speaking to rural touring venues and organisations who we might be able to work with to develop our networks and ensure our work is suitable for these new contexts. We are also aiming to tour the work to nuclear bunkers: any links or knowledge of local bunkers would be brilliant!

cassonandfriends.com
@casson_friends

Photo © (top) Concept R&D Image
by Casson & Friends;
(below) Alisa Boanta

Casson & Friends

Under the direction of Tim Casson, Casson & Friends bring together diverse collaborators, communities, and often the public to create People Powered Performance: accessible, interactive, dance work that engages audiences in pioneering new ways.



Other project: Choreocracy

Dance and technology collide in *Choreocracy* – the interactive show that uses innovative mobile technology to give you control of the action in real time!

ELEVATOR PITCHES



Photo (The Hat Factory) by Aleksandra Warchol



artsdepot is a multi-award winning cultural hub voted Best Age Friendly Welcome at the 2018 Fantastic For Families Awards, Best Family Venue 2017 at the Family Arts Festival Awards. Our venue incorporates a 395-seat theatre, 148-seat studio theatre, Creation Space (artist development), gallery, drama, dance and art studios, free children's playspace, café and bar.

artsdepot.co.uk
@artsdepot

The Culture Trust Luton is an arts and cultural charity for the people of Luton and beyond. We showcase high quality arts and cultural activity across our four inspiring sites; Stockwood Discovery Centre, Wardown House, Museum and Gallery, the Hat Factory Arts Centre and Luton Library Theatre. We also deliver community-focused Library services and arts in the public realm engagement projects.

@thehatfactory
@lutontheatre
culturetrust.com

The Curve is Slough's iconic library and cultural centre, right in the heart of the town. Opened in September 2016, it houses the central library, an art gallery and a multi-purpose performance space amongst other facilities.

thecurveslough.com
@TheCurveSlough

ELEVATOR PITCHES



SURFTHEWAVE

Powered by



The Garage, Norwich is a Performing Arts Organisation and Venue in Norwich with 5 rehearsal studios, a small theatre and a café. The Garage run a large participatory programme delivering over 100 classes each week in dance, theatre and drama. The Garage currently produces theatre for young audiences and programmes small scale work year round.

thegarage.org.uk
@_thegarage

The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury is the only dedicated arts centre in the Cherwell District area. Our vision is to inspire creativity and enrich the lives of our communities by providing a high quality, varied artistic, education and participatory programme. We believe that by offering our communities the chance to engage with and be entertained by a variety of art forms we play a significant role in the cultural, social and economic development of the town.

themillartscentre.co.uk
@TheMillBanbury

Pavilion Dance South West is a centre of excellence for dance which works to transform communities through dance.

Surf the Wave is an ambitious programme powered by PDSW that aims to inspire a stepchange in how the UK showcases dance and extends and strengthens tours for artists and companies.

pdsww.org.uk
surfthewaveuk.org.uk
@pdsww_org
@surfthewaveuk



ELEVATOR PITCHES



South East Dance is an arts charity committed to making life better through dance. We challenge perceptions of what dance looks like: how it's made, who it's for and what it can achieve. We support dance artists, present bold new work, develop the infrastructure for dance and get more people across the south east involved in dance.

southeastdance.org.uk
@southeastdance



Worthing Theatres is the Connaught Theatre, Studio and Cinema, Pavilion Theatre and Assembly Hall.

We work with renowned theatre makers, promoters and producers throughout the UK and Europe and founded one of the largest contemporary circus programmes in the South East.

worthingtheatres.co.uk
@WorthingTheatre

