

DANCEEAST

Summer Lab 2017

Artist biographies

Russell Maliphant

Leading professional class and workshop on Tuesday

Russell Maliphant trained at the Royal Ballet School and graduated into Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet before leaving to pursue a career in independent dance. He danced with DV8, Michael Clark, Rosemary Butcher and Laurie Booth – with whom he was awarded a Time Out Live award for 'raising improvisational dance to new heights'.

Between 1991 and 1994 Maliphant studied anatomy, physiology and biomechanics, and qualified as a practitioner of the Rolf Method of Structural Integration (or Rolfing) in 1994. These studies inform both his teaching and choreographic work, along with a diverse range of body practices and techniques including classical ballet, contact improvisation, yoga, capoeira and tai chi.

Russell formed Russell Maliphant Company in 1996, and has worked with renowned companies and artists including Sylvie Guillem, Robert Lepage, Isaac Julian, Balletboyz and Lyon Opera Ballet. In 2002 he received the Time Out Live award for outstanding collaboration for his work Sheer, and in 2003 received a South Bank Show dance award for the piece Choice. He then created Broken Fall for Sylvie Guillem and Balletboyz which premiered at the Royal Opera House, and received an Olivier Award for best new dance production.

Highlights for Maliphant include Guillem invited Maliphant to create an evening of work for them both in 2005, culminating in the duet PUSH. This premiered at Sadler's Wells and received a South Bank Show award and an Olivier Award in 2006. In 2009 Maliphant created part one of Afterlight for In the Spirit of Diaghilev, Sadler's Wells' celebration of Les Ballets Russes. This received the Critics' Circle National Dance Award for best modern choreography in 2010. In 2011, Maliphant was awarded an honorary doctorate of arts from Plymouth University, and became an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells in 2005.

Yael Flexer

Leading professional class and workshop on Wednesday

Jerwood Award winner Yael Flexer is co-artistic director of Flexer & Sandiland, originally formed by Yael as Choreographer in Residence at The Place, London. To date Yael has created 13 full-length productions

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for the company, touring throughout the UK and internationally. The company has been commissioned to create live and/or interactive works for Sadler's Wells, Woking Dance Festival, Southbank Centre, Barbican Centre, The Engine Room, and Somerset & Cinedans (Amsterdam, The Netherlands).

Flexer & Sandiland's digital work *The Hum* (2017), commissioned by Brighton Festival, opened in May 2017. The company's recent touring production *Disappearing Acts* (2016) performed across the UK and internationally alongside the digital installation *Weighting* (2015 – ongoing). Past touring productions include *Weightless* (2012 – 14) celebrating the company's 20th anniversary, and *The Living Room* (2010 – 2011). The company has also toured the installations *Trip Hazard* (2013-ongoing) and *Gravity Shift* (2010 – ongoing).

Commissions as an independent artist include E-Werk Tanz Festival (Freiburg, Germany), Ludus Dance Company, EDge, Scottish Dance Theatre, mapdance, YDance Scotland, Wessex Academy, Gravity & Leivity, Lila, Freefall, 3 Score and Cascade Dance Companies. Yael has created numerous works for the Centres of Advanced Training programmes across the UK alongside other youth company commissions. Yael regularly leads choreographic labs, workshops and professional training in the UK and internationally, including Independent Dance, Greenwich Dance, The Place, The Point, Brighton Dance Network, Motus Dance Festival, Swindon Dance, Bewegungs Arts, Germany, Proda & RAS, Norway, Suzanne Dellal and The Tel-Aviv Dance Centre, Israel.

Renaud Wiser

Leading seminar session on Wednesday

Renaud Wiser is a choreographer based in London. He was born in Switzerland and trained in dance in Geneva before joining Ballet Junior in 1998. During his studies, Renaud was awarded the Migros Bursary for young talent for three consecutive years. He then pursued an international career as a dancer with renowned companies including the Geneva Ballet, Ballet National de Marseille, Gothenburg Ballet, Rambert and Bonachela Dance Company.

Early in his career, Renaud's interest for choreography led him to make work for young choreographers' platforms and in 2013, Renaud launched Renaud Wiser Dance Company. His work is known for its crafted physicality and intricate movement vocabulary. He has a particular interest in collaborative work strongly rooted in the contemporary world, tackling issues relevant to our human condition. He has created numerous pieces performed in the UK (*The Place*, *Dance City*, *Rich Mix*, *Pavilion Dance South West*, *Greenwich Dance*, *Stratford Circus Arts Centre*) and in festivals in Spain, Poland, Latvia, Switzerland and Italy.

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In 2011, Renaud took part in Siwic, a coaching project in Zurich for young and promising choreographers. He is a founder-member and co-choreographer of New Movement Collective, nominated for best independent company at the 2013 and 2014 Critics' Circle National Dance Awards, and an associate company of Rambert.

Vicki Igbokwe

Leading seminar session on Monday

Vicki's work focuses on empowerment, entertainment and education through the creation of dance theatre productions, coaching, dance based empowerment workshops, public speaking, and teaching in further and higher education.

Vicki has a BA (Hons) in Dance Studies from Middlesex University, and an MA in Cultural Leadership from City University.

Her career highlights include a five-year sponsorship deal with Nike, work as a Mass Movement Choreographer for the London 2012, Sochi 2014 and Glasgow 2014 Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games, and The Baku 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games. Vicki is also a trustee for One Dance UK, the UK body for dance.

UNIT / Tom Hobden

UNIT is the East of England's leading participatory dance company and was established following a series of highly successful collaborations between choreographer Tom Hobden and film director Kate Flurrie. UNIT creates projects, performances, films and training programmes that support dancers from all backgrounds and experiences.

Tom trained as an actor at De Monfort University with a BA in Contemporary Performing Arts, and pursued his study with an MA in Choreography at London Contemporary Dance School. His passion is the community, and working alongside everyday people to become the most extraordinary performers. Tom has worked for or alongside DanceEast, Dance United, the Royal Ballet School, Re:bourne, Darren Ellis Dance, Tom Dale Dance, Matthias Sperling and New Art Club.

Stuart Waters

Leading professional class and workshop on Monday

Since graduating from Northern School of Contemporary Dance in 1998 Stuart had taught extensively in all areas of education and community. He has toured nationally and internationally with companies

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including Wired Aerial Theatre, Motionhouse Dance Theatre, panta rei dance theatre (Oslo), Dansconnect, Attik dance, Cscape, Interplay theatre company and Barebones.

Stuart collaborated with Protein Dance (Luca Silvestrini) in the creation of the award-winning LOL (National Dance Awards Best Independent Dance Company 2011; British Council New Connections Award 2012). Stuart was also involved in the creation and UK tour of Border Tales for Protein Dance in 2013 – 2014.

To develop his choreography, Stuart secured the Lisa Ullmann Fund to train with Susan Klein (New York 2011); completed his MA in Contemporary Dance Studies (LSCD 2012); and was mentored by Janet Smith (Dance UK mentorship program 2014). This led to a G4A grant (2014), a commission from The Hall, Cornwall (2015), ten commissioned choreographic works for Centre for Advanced Training dance schemes and BA performing arts courses around the UK, and the research and development of RockBottom.

In 2009, Stuart worked with Adnuga dance company and Addis Abab (Ethiopia), leading creative classes with the company and teaching at two local centres for children orphaned by HIV, as well as local schools for disabled children. Stuart has since worked with young Tanzanian dancers as part of a dance festival in Dar Es Salaam and Zanzibar (2011).

Laura Norman (StartEast)

Leading breakfast morning on Wednesday

StartEast was developed by the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership Cultural Board to create a transformational cultural growth programme for the East of England. StartEast is funded by Arts Council England and the European Regional Development Fund, and supported by Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, delivered by a team at New Wolsey Theatre.

StartEast offers bespoke, targeted, 1-1 business advice and support, workshops and masterclasses, as well as grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 to help individuals grow their business. StartEast's aim is to help build a support structure that is right for the individual and their cultural enterprise with a dedicated team of advisors and industry experts.

Whether it is support needed to develop an idea or artistic vision, help with business growth and expansion into new markets, securing new contracts, increasing productivity or turnover, StartEast can help.

Laura leads on the strategy and development of the project programme. After studying Live Art, Laura became Creative Learning Practitioner/Pulse Festival Producer at New Wolsey Theatre. Other roles include Head of Education at Cambridge Junction, Resident Director at The Avenue Theatre and she runs

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her own Theatre Company.

Helen Dawson (DanceEast's Producer)

Leading breakfast morning on Tuesday

Alice Wade (DanceEast's Development Officer)

Co-leading seminar session on Tuesday with Tom Hobden