



## PRESS RELEASE – Tuesday 1 May 2018

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## DANCE UMBRELLA ANNOUNCES 2018 PROGRAMME MARKING THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LONDON'S FLAGSHIP FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL DANCE

- **Dance Umbrella** will take place from **26 September – 21 October 2018**.
- Dance Umbrella 2018 opens with **Big Dance Theater's** UK debut at **The Old Vic** with *17c*, a romp through the bracingly frank diaries of Samuel Pepys co-directed by **Annie-B Parson** and **Paul Lazar**.
- **Sasha Milavic Davies' *everything that rises must dance*** is a compelling celebration of female movement created with more than 200 women from across London.
- Guest programmer **Freddie Opoku-Addaie** curates his second ***Out of the System*** – a festival-within-a-festival at **Shoreditch Town Hall** which features three vibrant nights of international dance and music.
- **Ivan Blackstock** will present ***CRXSS PLATFXRM*** as part of ***Out of the System***, with new artists bringing fresh perspectives to street culture and dance.
- In ***Red*** at **Southbank Centre's Purcell Room** Beijing-based choreographer **Wen Hui** invites audiences to look again at a famous Chinese ballet from the period of the Cultural Revolution as part of Southbank Centre's China Changing Festival.
- Armed with a turntable, portable speakers and sheets of flooring, the Olivier-nominated **Colin Dunne** takes on the 'undanceable' music of the enigmatic Tommie Potts in ***Concert*** at **The Pit, Barbican Centre**.
- **Dimitris Papaioannou** returns to Dance Umbrella with his enigmatic exploration of life in the internationally acclaimed ***The Great Tamer***, making his debut at **Sadler's Wells**.
- A plethora of cardboard tubes, playful choreography and percussive sound combine to form ***KoKERS*** a show for 3+ years by Dutch company **Dadodans**.

- The effortlessly engaging **Le Patin Libre** defy every convention of figure skating to evolve a new dance form – on ice. The Montreal-based company return to Dance Umbrella with the UK premiere of **Threshold** at **Alexandra Palace Ice Rink**.
- Dance and theatre dramaturg **Ruth Little** will speak at the **National Theatre** as part of the **Dance Umbrella Lecture** series, followed by a Q&A led by Royal Court Artistic Director **Vicky Featherstone**. Plus a multitude of extra events, talks and screenings throughout festival 2018.

**Dance Umbrella**, London's flagship festival of international dance celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this autumn and announces its full 2018 programme today.

**Emma Gladstone, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Dance Umbrella**, introduces the programme:

*“Each Dance Umbrella festival has its own flavour, and this year is no exception. In our 40<sup>th</sup> year, it is a tribute to founder Val Bourne CBE that the strength of the foundations she laid in 1978 enable us to still stand here today. I’m thrilled that we’ll be kicking off DU 2018 with our first ever performance at The Old Vic, introducing London audiences to the remarkable Big Dance Theater, and closing the festival at the Alexandra Palace Ice Rink with the highly anticipated return of Le Patin Libre.*”

*Looking back at the pioneering role Dance Umbrella has played in London's cultural landscape, I am extremely proud that we remain an independent organisation, with performances happening in more locations than ever before. World class, international artists from twelve countries are heading our way this year in a programme of unpredictable variety and celebration of dance like no other.”*

## **THE FESTIVAL:**

### **17c – BIG DANCE THEATER**

**UK PREMIERE**

The Old Vic: Wednesday 26 – Saturday 29 September 7.00pm

Saturday 29 September 2.30pm

Press performance: Thursday 27 September 7.00pm

Opening the festival will be the UK premiere of **17c** by **Big Dance Theater**, a romp through the bracingly frank diaries of Samuel Pepys, the Londoner who danced, sang, strode, bullied and groped his way through 17th century life, recording every detail for posterity.

Co-directed by **Annie-B Parson** and **Paul Lazar**, Big Dance Theater layers movement, text, music and video into a century-spanning work that reveals the Baroque hipster's compulsions as a startling precursor to our own social media-obsessed times. Pulling the past into the present, Big Dance Theater revives the lost voices of Bess Pepys and her contemporary, the radical feminist playwright Margaret Cavendish.

From periwigs to lamé, historical literature to contemporary blogs, **17c** comes from a New York ensemble renowned for their maverick approach to classical material, in this their first visit to London.

Presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with The Old Vic.  
With support from Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation.

**EVERYTHING THAT RISES MUST DANCE – SASHA MILAVIC DAVIES**  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

Greenwich Peninsula: Saturday 29 September 2pm & 4pm  
BOXPARK Croydon: Sunday 7 October 12.30pm & 2pm  
Press performance: Saturday 29 September 4pm

At once meditative and mechanical, **Sasha Milavic Davies' *everything that rises must dance*** is a compelling celebration of female movement, incorporating both the everyday and the universal. This free performance is created with more than 200 women from across London.

Rippling with choreography that reproduces the minute movements of daily life while weaving in fragments of folk dance from around the world, the spectacle sets expressive, physical action to an evolving sonic score.

Director and choreographer Sasha Milavic Davies is known for making engrossing large scale work within dance and theatre and here collaborates with composer **Lucy Railton**. This intriguing project exploring relationships, identity and community receives its world premiere as part of Dance Umbrella 2018.

Presented by Dance Umbrella.

Produced by Complicité.

In partnership with Greenwich Peninsula and Croydon Council.

**DANCE UMBRELLA LECTURE – RUTH LITTLE** **FESTIVAL EXCLUSIVE**

National Theatre, Cottesloe Room: Tuesday 2 October 5.30pm – 7pm

Vicky Featherstone in conversation with Ruth Little

In the 2018 Dance Umbrella lecture, dramaturg and writer **Ruth Little**, in conversation with Royal Court Artistic Director **Vicky Featherstone**, reflects on the role of live performance as social gesture; a practice of communal movement in the public sphere which is far more than the sum of its (body) parts.

*Motive force: performance and the social body.*

Theatre and dance originate in the moving human body; in its capacity for physical and verbal articulation, its ability to motivate, demonstrate and orchestrate change. But as our experiences of the world become increasingly distributed and synthetic, as we move from the rhythmic to the algorithmic, what does performance do, what can it enact, that makes it so necessary to our social health, our common good, and our agency in violently divisive times?

Produced by Dance Umbrella in partnership with the National Theatre.

Supported by One Dance UK.

**RED - WEN HUI** **LONDON PREMIERE**

Southbank Centre's Purcell Room: Thursday 4 – Friday 5 October 7.45pm

Press performance: Thursday 4 October 7.45pm

Part of Southbank Centre's China Changing Festival

Beijing-based choreographer **Wen Hui's** first visit to the UK in ten years, **Red** looks again at the famous Chinese ballet from the period of the Cultural Revolution: *The Red Detachment of Women*.

Armed with guns, wearing pointe shoes, the all-female fighters of *The Red Detachment of Women* came to symbolise part of Mao's communist dream. As one of only eight permissible theatrical works of the time, the 1964 ballet was seen over and over by the Chinese.

Choreographer Wen Hui threads extracts, interviews and anecdotal material from original cast members into a dramatic documentary performance that goes beyond the ballet and official Cultural Revolution records. With projected film as a backdrop, she and three other dancers use their bodies as archives, their gestures illustrating stories and evoking memories, in this multi-generational response to this memorable period of history.

Presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with Southbank Centre.

**CONCERT – COLIN DUNNE**

**LONDON PREMIERE**

The Pit, Barbican Centre: Wednesday 17 – Saturday 20 October 7.45pm

Press performance: Thursday 18 October 7.45pm

**Colin Dunne's Concert** brings together two artists united by a deep appreciation of tradition yet compelled by their desire to break it apart: Colin Dunne takes on the 'undanceable' music of the enigmatic Tommie Potts (1912-1988).

Armed with a turntable, portable speakers and sheets of flooring, Dunne enters into a creative dialogue with *The Liffey Banks* (1972). This rhythmically deviant, melodically resplendent album presents a singular challenge to Irish dance's most celebrated contemporary artist, as he responds physically and percussively to Potts' irregular, richly textured tunes.

Created in collaboration with director **Sinéad Rushe** and composer **Mel Mercier**, *Concert* sees Dunne draw on his extraordinary technique and deep engagement with the music to illuminate it afresh in a negotiation of old and new.

Presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with the Barbican. With support from Culture Ireland.

**VIA KANANA – VIA KATLEHONG**

**UK PREMIERE**

**Part of OUT OF THE SYSTEM**

Shoreditch Town Hall: Wednesday 10 – Thursday 11 October 7.30pm

Press Performance: Wednesday 10 October 7.30pm

Guest Programmer **Freddie Opoku-Addaie** creates his second festival-within-a-festival for Dance Umbrella, which will include **Via Kanana**, a piece choreographed by South African dance legend **Gregory Maqoma**.

Pulsating with rhythmic energy and groove *Via Kanana* stands as an expression of light and hope, defying the adversity and fear caused by corruption in a post-apartheid era. The dynamic artists of Via Katlehong will bring the whistling, tapping, clapping rebellion of the quick-stepping Pantsula movement to the stage. As ambassadors of the culture, a way of life for township inhabitants, they articulate the angst, joy and boundless potential of their streets. Enriched by video and a luminous choral score, *Via Kanana* speaks of a promised land not yet delivered, and humanity against the odds.

Post-show each night the party continues with DJ Rabiah.

**Freddie Opoku-Addaie** is an East London-born choreographer, performer, and educator with Ghanaian roots. He has danced with companies such as Company Wayne McGregor and

Candoco Dance Company, and had his own works featured in Dance Umbrella as well as internationally in Europe, India and North America.

Invited to be Dance Umbrella 2017-19's Guest Curator – Opoku-Addaie's first *Out of the System* was held at Rich Mix in 2017, featuring a series of short works in a variety of spaces. This year features a full length South African work, a week long professional residency, alongside the durational street culture event *CRXSS PLATFXRM*.

Presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with Shoreditch Town Hall.

**CRXSS PLATFXRM**

**FESTIVAL EXCLUSIVE**

**Part of OUT OF THE SYSTEM**

Shoreditch Town Hall: Friday 12 October 6pm

A wave of talent. A fresh perspective on dance and street culture. A space for what's next.

Conceived by **Ivan Blackstock**, artist, innovator and co-founder of **BirdGang Dance Company**, *CRXSS PLATFXRM* elevates the underground, uncovering hidden genius from within London's street culture and beyond.

Featuring a live freestyle dance battle, presented in collaboration with Rain Crew, experimental sounds and multifaceted performances from Paris-based Gonzy and established and under-the-radar artists, gathering to drive forward an ever-morphing scene. With nods to fashion, art, music, tech and film, this showcase combines highlights and finales from the summer edition in Peckham including new work from visual artist, Izaak Brandt and extra features specially brought together exclusively for Dance Umbrella.

Presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with *CRXSS PLATFXRM* and Shoreditch Town Hall.

**THE GREAT TAMER – DIMITRIS PAPAIOANNOU**

**UK PREMIERE**

Sadler's Wells: Tuesday 16 – Wednesday 17 October 7.30pm

Press performance: Tuesday 16 October 7.30pm

**Dimitris Papaioannou** returns to Dance Umbrella with his enigmatic exploration of life in *The Great Tamer*, an elemental yet epic production that seduces the imagination with scenes of birth, death, destruction and reconstruction.

In a dreamlike universe between illusion and reality human bodies distort and unite, raw materials take flight, hidden objects emerge from the ground, uncovered in feats of simple invention. Paying homage to the Old Masters Papaioannou draws on his roots in the fine arts, his Greek heritage and the history of humankind to create a witty and surreal feast of visual delights.

An artist whose work spans theatre, dance and film Papaioannou first attracted recognition for directing the ceremonies of the 2004 Olympics. This internationally acclaimed work marks his debut at Sadler's Wells.

Contains nudity.

Presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with Sadler's Wells.

**KoKERS - DADODANS**

**LONDON PREMIERE**

Stratford Circus Arts Centre: Saturday 29 September 11am

artsdepot: Sunday 30 September 11am & 2pm

The Place: Saturday 6 October 10.30am & 2pm  
Watermans: Sunday 7 October 11.30am  
Press tickets available for all performances

A plethora of cardboard tubes, playful choreography and percussive sound combine to form a show perfect for both the young and the young-at-heart.

In **KoKERS** inventive landscapes are built and broken apart as the dancers balance, flip, throw, twirl and jump around the playground they have created.

In this satisfyingly simple performance, the dancers soon realise that the most fun is to be found when they combine forces. Gaia Gonnelli, Artistic Director of Dutch company **Dadodans**, is well known for her ambitious and spirited work that encourages children to use their own imaginations. The performance ends with the young audience being invited onstage to play among props so simple they can be recreated at home.

For ages 3+

A Dance Umbrella Orbital London Tour in partnership with artsdepot, Stratford Circus Arts Centre, The Place and Watermans.

### **THRESHOLD – LE PATIN LIBRE**

**UK PREMIERE**

Alexandra Palace Ice Rink

Thursday 18 October 8.30pm

Friday 19 – Sunday 21 October 6.15pm & 8.45pm

Press performance: Thursday 18 October 8.30pm

Effortlessly engaging, their exhilarating movement characterised by pure invention, the quintet of **Le Patin Libre** defy every convention of figure skating to evolve a new dance form – on ice. The Montreal-based company last wowed London audiences in Dance Umbrella 2014 with their award-winning *Vertical Influences* (recently seen on BBC2).

**Threshold** will be the collective's latest show to be brought to London by Dance Umbrella, a performance of gravity-defying grace and danger. At **Alexandra Palace Ice Rink**, this UK premiere and Dance Umbrella commission will see the charismatic ensemble experiment with the choreographic possibilities of 'the glide' – a state that allows the body to travel at speed through space, without moving. Playing with contrast and change, they zoom towards viewers seated on the ice, combining athletic virtuosity with joyous physicality.

Presented by Dance Umbrella in partnership with Alexandra Palace. Supported by Québec Government Office, London.

Co-producers - Dance Umbrella (London), Danse Danse (Montreal, Canada), Théâtre de la Ville de Paris (France), National Arts Centre (Canada), Nuits de Fourvière de Lyon (France).

## **FURTHER EVENTS:**

### **TALKTIME**

A programme of discussions, talks, articles and more – a place to read, think, learn, question and comment on dance and performance.

### **Meet The Artists**

A chance to hear from the makers in free post-show talks.

Thursday 4 October | Southbank Centre's Purcell Room | Wen Hui | BSL interpreted  
Tuesday 16 October | Sadler's Wells | Dimitris Papaioannou | BSL interpreted  
Thursday 18 October | The Pit, Barbican Centre | Colin Dunne

### **OPEN FORUM: Future Facing**

Audiences are invited to share their vision for the future with artists spanning four decades of Dance Umbrella's history. The evening is a chance to discuss dreams and tactics for thriving over surviving, and how to shape the world of independent creation in the decades to come.

Tuesday 9 October | 7pm | Siobhan Davies Studio | 85 St George's Road SE1 6ER | £7 (£5 concessions)

### **PANEL DISCUSSION: Out of the System**

#### **Beyond the three Ts: Tick Box/ Token/ Tolerated**

Artists and industry experts discuss what they are currently confronting in their work.

Audience members are invited to join in the debate about what ideas and practices can shift stale mind sets to move beyond the three Ts: Tick Box/ Token/ Tolerated.

Chair: Oluwatoyin Odunsi (Artistic Director of Vintage Misfits, independent programmer)

Panel: Mina Aidoo (embodiment teacher, artist and author) and Dr Olu Taiwo (Senior Lecturer in Performing arts, University of Winchester).

Wednesday 10 October | 5.30pm – 7pm | Shoreditch Town Hall | £5 or free to Wednesday's *Out of the System* ticket holders

## **PLAYTIME**

### **Le Patin Libre Skate Party**

Audiences are invited to join Dance Umbrella on the ice after Saturday's performance of *Threshold* at Alexandra Palace.

Saturday 20 October | Alexandra Palace Ice Rink | £5 (Saturday ticket holders only) and £10, includes skate hire

### **Children's Front-of-House Workshop**

Orbital Tour venues will run free front-of-house events for Dadodans' *KoKERS*. Check venues for details.

### **Via Katlehong Workshop**

With dancers from the Via Katlehong Company

Monday 8 October | 7pm – 8.30pm | Venue to be announced on website | £7

### **SCREENSAVER** by Janine Harrington

A kaleidoscopic dance and sound installation with four dancers and musician **Jamie Forth** coding the soundscape live for each performance. With the dancers in perpetual movement, they humanise the algorithms and complexities of symmetry and geometry used to create screen savers.

Watch the digital version on [danceumbrella.co.uk](http://danceumbrella.co.uk) or see it live during the festival. More details to be announced closer to the time via the website.

## **SKILLTIME**

Dance Umbrella believes in nurturing people at all stages of their career. SKILLTIME is aimed at artists, arts professionals and anyone looking to innovate their practice. For further information please see [danceumbrella.co.uk/skilltime](http://danceumbrella.co.uk/skilltime)

### **Systems Lab**

Conceived and curated by Dance Umbrella Guest Programmer **Freddie Opoku-Addaie**, SystemsLab gives artists' the opportunity to enrich approaches to their practice. Now in its second year, the programme supports ongoing choreographic curiosity, residency opportunities, dialogue and networking initiatives for mid-career UK and International artists.

### **Studio Sessions**

Studio Sessions returns, connecting national and international industry professionals with UK artists sharing work in progress. Taking place at Rambert and The Place, twelve informal presentations enable presenters, funders and supporters to see work well before it hits the stage. Among those taking part are Lucy Suggate, Mbulelo Ndabeni, Joan Clevillé, Vicki Igbokwe, Rambert and Oona Doherty.

By invitation only. Interested professionals should contact [carolina@danceumbrella.co.uk](mailto:carolina@danceumbrella.co.uk) for details.

Saturday 6 and Saturday 13 October | Rambert | Upper Ground, SE1  
Sunday 14 October | The Place | Duke's Road, WC1

**-ENDS-**

**For further information please contact The Corner Shop PR on 020 7831 7657**

**[Hannah Barnett Leveson](#) | [Hannah Clapham](#)**

## **HOW TO BOOK**

**ONLINE:** [danceumbrella.co.uk](http://danceumbrella.co.uk)

**PHONE:** Dance Umbrella on 020 7257 9384

Or through the venues, where applicable. Booking fees may apply.

## **LISTINGS**

**17c – BIG DANCE THEATER**

**UK PREMIERE**

**The Old Vic, SE1**

Wednesday 26 – Saturday 29 September 7.00pm

Saturday 29 September 2.30pm

Press performance: Thursday 27 September 7.00pm

Tickets: £12-45

On sale to Old Vic priority members 5 – 25 June, Dance Umbrella priority members can book from 22 June from 12 noon. General on sale 26 June from 12 noon.

**EVERYTHING THAT RISES MUST DANCE – SASHA MILAVIC DAVIES**

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**Peninsula Square, Greenwich Peninsula SE10:** Saturday 29 September 2pm & 4pm

**BOXPARK Croydon CRO 1LD:** Sunday 7 October 12.30pm & 2pm

Press performance: Saturday 29 September 4pm  
Tickets: Free, no booking required.

**DANCE UMBRELLA LECTURE – RUTH LITTLE** **FESTIVAL EXCLUSIVE**  
**National Theatre, Cottesloe Room:** Tuesday 2 October 5.30pm – 7pm  
Tickets: £10  
On sale now

**RED - WEN HUI** **LONDON PREMIERE**  
**Southbank Centre's Purcell Room:** Thursday 4 – Friday 5 October 7.45pm  
Part of Southbank Centre's China Changing Festival  
Press performance: Thursday 4 October 7.45pm  
Tickets: £20  
On sale now

**CONCERT – COLIN DUNNE** **LONDON PREMIERE**  
**The Pit, Barbican Centre:** Wednesday 17 – Saturday 20 October 7.45pm  
Press performance: Thursday 18 October 7.45pm  
Tickets: £18  
On sale now

**VIA KANANA – VIA KATLEHONG** **UK PREMIERE**  
**Part of OUT OF THE SYSTEM**  
Featuring Via Katlehong and choreographed by Gregory Maqoma  
**Shoreditch Town Hall:** Wednesday 10 – Thursday 11 October 7.30pm  
Press Performance: Wednesday 10 October 7.30pm  
Tickets: £18 (£15 concessions)  
On sale now

**CRXSS PLXTFXRM** **FESTIVAL EXCLUSIVE**  
**Part of OUT OF THE SYSTEM**  
Curated by Ivan Blackstock  
**Shoreditch Town Hall:** Friday 12 October 6pm  
Tickets: £10  
On sale now

**THE GREAT TAMER – DIMITRIS PAPAIOANNOU** **UK PREMIERE**  
**Sadler's Wells:** Tuesday 16 – Wednesday 17 October 7.30pm  
Press performance: Tuesday 16 October 7.30pm  
Tickets: £12- £27  
On sale to Sadler's Wells priority members now, 23 April – members priority 14 May. Dance Umbrella priority members can book from 19 May. General on sale 21 May.

**KoKERS - DADODANS** **LONDON PREMIERE**  
Stratford Circus Arts Centre: Saturday 29 September 11am  
Tickets: £10 (£8 concessions)  
artsdepot: Sunday 30 September 11am & 2pm  
Tickets: £10  
The Place: Saturday 6 October 10.30am & 2pm  
Tickets: £10 (£8 concessions)  
Watermans: Sunday 7 October 11.30am  
Tickets: £10 (£8 concessions)  
Press tickets available for all performances  
Recommended age 3+  
Tickets on sale now

**THRESHOLD – LE PATIN LIBRE** **UK PREMIERE**  
Alexandra Palace Ice Rink: Thursday 18 October 8.30pm,  
Friday 19 – Sunday 21 October 6.15pm & 8.45pm  
Press performance: Thursday 18 October 8.30pm

Tickets: £12 – £23  
On sale now

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **About Dance Umbrella**

Dance Umbrella is London's international Dance festival. We shine a light on new choreography every October, sharing memorable shows from around the world with audiences across the capital.

We are committed to taking dance out and bringing audiences in by touring in inner and outer London, broadening definitions of contemporary dance, and developing partnerships with non-dance venues and organisations such as The Big Draw, National Theatre, Battersea Power Station and local councils.

Founded in 1978, Dance Umbrella has reached audiences of well over a million people. Pioneering commissions by world class choreographers have been presented at sites ranging from the Royal Albert Hall and inner city rooftops, to Tate Modern and outer London parks. Emma Gladstone was appointed Artistic Director & Chief Executive in 2013, and in addition to the festival, Dance Umbrella now runs digital projects, creative learning schemes and professional development programmes throughout the year.

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