

FTF

Dance Group



WHO WE ARE

FTF Dance have formed an extremely proactive and creative subgroup within the Freelance Task Force (FTF), feeding into wider FTF conversations and various other subgroups. Having established FTF Dance to address the needs, demands, and conversations concerning the dance and movement art sector, the group is comprised of producers, consultants, choreographers, dance artists, movement directors, movement practitioners, teachers, and artistic directors based across the UK.

FTF Dance Members:

Alister O'Loughlin | Anna Alvarez | Annie-Lunnette Deakin-Foster | Assis Carreiro | Deborah Light | Deeps Singh | Ellen Yilma | Emily Alden | Ffion Campbell-Davies | Jaivant Patel | Jeanfer Jean-Charles | Jennifer Jackson | Jessica Wright | June Gamble | Marius Arnold-Clarke | Miranda Henderson | Natasha Player | Parbati Chaudhury | Rachael Nanyonjo | Sarah Shead | Urja Thakore

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

Through working, talking, knowledge-experience sharing, and network-resource-contacts pooling, we have managed to deliver the following activity. Brace yourselves, it's pretty EPIC!



BUILDING A DANCE-MOVEMENT WORKFORCE NETWORK

We have:

- Compiled a database of over 400 workers in the dance-movement sector
- Sent out weekly newsletters to this database containing industry updates, notes from industry meetings, funding news, surveys to collect data, plus additional advice-guidance that we have come across or received
- Compiled a dance Venues and Organizations database, which includes theatres that work with movement directors/choreographers
- Created a group Twitter account, acquiring over 200 followers so far

SIGN UP TO OUR NATIONAL DATABASE TO RECEIVE
NEWSLETTERS PACKED WITH ESSENTIAL
INFORMATION FOR WORKERS IN DANCE-MOVEMENT

GET IN TOUCH VIA TWITTER/FACEBOOK - @DanceFTF

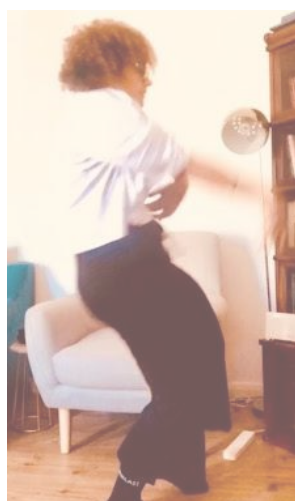
INDUSTRY BODIES

We have established consistent dialogue and good working relationships with One Dance UK, People Dancing, Arts Council England (ACE), as well as with Equity, Society of London & UK Theatre, Association of Independent Professionals & The Self-Employed, and the Independent Theatre Council via our presence in the wider FTF.



SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

We have initiated #MovewithMomentum #Still/Moving, a Movement Visual Protest on Twitter to actively populate and flood social media with movement.



FTF 7 WORKING POINTS & OUR LINKED INITIATIVES

Our work aligns with one of the initiatives that the wider FTF has been developing called the 7 Working Points. From these developing missions, we have streamlined our work in the following ways:

- 5 Guiding Principles document - a fair trade model draft for freelancers (FTF Working Point 1)
- IDEALLL - a working practices draft document addressing anti-racism and advocating inclusive practice across dance and movement sectors (FTF Working Point 3)
- Black Lives Matter (BLM) in Dance subgroup, which has held discussions with ACE and are connecting with other groups focusing on BLM in dance-movement (FTF Working Point 3)



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FTF 7 WORKING POINTS & OUR LINKED INITIATIVES CONTINUED

- Anti-Racism and Inclusion Index, which identifies cross-country initiatives, resources, and best-practice examples within the arts (FTF Working Point 3)
- Pay Structures document for movement and dance-related work, with the aim to get this addressed and taken up by various arts trade unions and organisations (FTF Working Point 5)
- National Portfolio Individual/Artist (NPI/NPA) proposal of discussed and designed models, which we hope to pitch to ACE (FTF Working Point 6)



SURVEY OF FREELANCE DANCE ARTISTS

Some of our findings were as follows:

- Q | Will you continue working in the dance sector?
 - Yes - 37%
 - No - 9.6%
 - Unsure - 53.4%
- Q | Did you apply for ACE's Emergency Response Fund?
 - Yes - 33.3%
 - No - 67.7%
- Q | Did you apply for the government's Self Employment Income Support Scheme?
 - Yes - 67.7%
 - No - 33.3%

PAY REVIEW SURVEY

We collected data to review how freelance dance artists' skills and career progression is recognised through their pay. Our 5 key findings were:

- 76.9% - are unhappy with their current rates
- 86% - have accepted work at a level of pay which makes them uncomfortable
- 76.4% - said they negotiate their own contracts
- 55.9% - do not have the resources or confidence to negotiate their own contracts
- Respondents believe that it is the responsibility of industry bodies to collaborate in lobbying for change in standards of pay



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THE FUTURE

By the end of the 13 weeks on the Freelance Task Force, FTF Dance will have had 31 Zoom meetings as a subgroup covering a range of personal and collective interests, and discussion points. We view this 13-week period as only the beginning of a conversation, of a movement, and of a group of freelancers passionate about dance coming together. Going forwards, we aspire to continue the amazing work that has been started as a result of the Freelance Task Force opportunity.



TO BE CONTINUED....

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