



ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

THE COMPANY

DU Dance (NI) is a vibrant, progressive dance company, highly regarded for its work at the cutting edge of dance and social and community development. Working through the medium of contemporary dance theatre and constantly pushing the boundaries of where and with whom dance has value, the company's work focuses on young people but involves people of all ages and abilities in a variety of community and artistic settings.

DU Dance (NI) is committed to delivering the same professional standard of work, regardless of whether that work takes place in a high profile venue or in a local school hall. The company advocates the entitlement of marginalised individuals and groups to benefit from the same opportunities as everyone else.

Through dance, the company aims to inspire people and communities to realise their full potential and is committed to building new audiences and to training and sharing skills.

OUR AIM is to introduce young people to dance and the creative arts and to advocate dance as a tool for facilitating personal and social development.

OUR VISION is to advance dance as an art form, build community connections and foster tolerance and respect.



The company's artistic and management team has over thirty years' experience of working within communities all over the world, using dance and the arts as tools for personal and community development and social change.



PROJECT PARTNERS

- Annadale Community Centre
- Belvoir Studio Theatre
- Beyond Skin
- Blessed Trinity College
- Causeway Coast & Glens BC
- Cityside Retail & Leisure Park
- Craic Theatre & Arts
- Cross & Passion College, Ballycastle
- Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich
- Dar Al-Kalima University, Bethlehem
- Dunanney Centre, Rathcoole
- Dungannon Youth Resource Centre
- Education Authority NI
- Leabank Nursing Home
- Ledley Hall Scouts Centre
- Newington Day Centre
- One Dance UK
- Queens University, Belfast
- Ranfurly Hill of the O'Neill
- Sheskburn Centre, Ballycastle
- STEP Language School
- St Patrick's College, Dungannon
- Southpaw Dance Company
- The MAC, Belfast
- University College Dublin
- Whiterock Children's Centre
- Y dance, Scotland
- Youth Action Rainbow Factory
- Youth Arts Wales

PROGRAMMES OF WORK

DU Dance has formulated its approach into interconnected programmes of work under the following generic titles:



CROSSING THE DIVIDE - focuses on cross-community work using dance, with its physical, emotional and cognitive demands, as a tool for cohesion. This work provides people with a safe environment in which to let go of fears and prejudices and begin to have contact with each other through our common humanity. In the belief that most attitudes to life are established in childhood and on the understanding that change needs to happen both at grassroots as well as policy level, DU Dance (NI) works with young people in a variety of educational and social settings, concentrating on areas where participants experience inter-community conflict.



CLOSING THE GAP - focuses on inter-generational work by bringing people of different generations together. Historically, dance has been a social gatherer with people of all ages and genders. Currently, however, there are few situations that bring people of different ages together. With advancements in digital technology and the radical change in forms of communication, the generation gap has increased. Closing the Gap seeks to address this lack of connection and to challenge preconceived attitudes that obstruct integration and increase isolation.



BUILDING BRIDGES - benefits young people who are at risk of being socially segregated due to their special needs, cultural difference or disability. People who are perceived to be different in some way are often pushed to the margins of society and are excluded from full participation by the organisation of our physical and social environments. Almost all encounter prejudice, bullying, insensitive treatment and discrimination at some time in their lives. This programme seeks to build connections between different groups, to celebrate difference and facilitate a process in which every individual can be fully received into their community.



OPENING THE SPECTRUM - focuses on broadening horizons and opening up new opportunities. It includes one-off workshops, summer schemes, performances, festivals or longer ongoing projects. The programme incorporates work outside Northern Ireland, which is undertaken only if there is a social or developmental aim that fits into the framework of the company's mission statement. Programmes of work delivered internationally have resulted in the development of continuing partnerships with local development organisations.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Board of Directors

Rosamond Bennett (Chairperson) - Chief Executive Officer, Christian Aid Ireland

Valerie Catterson (Secretary) - Chartered accountant and freelance financial manager

Claire Flynn - Head of Public Affairs and Stakeholder Engagement (UK), The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Ian Moore - Engagement, Volunteer and Communication specialist

Liz Kelly - Associate Lecturer at Belfast Metropolitan College and Course Coordinator and lecturer at Queens University, Belfast

Marie O'Donoghue - Manager of Creative Schools/Schools Improvement - Education Authority Northern Ireland

Tom Hughes - Online Visual Content Producer, BBC Northern Ireland

Youth Steering Group

Rebecca Wallace (Young Ambassador)

Molly Kelly (Young Ambassador)

Julia • Kitti • Leo • Nikita • Noah • Oisin • Oresta • Paulina • Rory • Saoirse • Teirna

Company Staff

Mags Byrne - Artistic Director

Kate Guelke - Creative Producer

Babs Hilland - Finance Manager

Rebecca Schwindt - Administrative Assistant

Morag Stuart - Marketing Co-ordinator

Deborah Hamilton - Youth Engagement Project Director

Sheena Kelly - Community Development Artist

Core Youth Engagement Dance Artists:

Amy Hill • Christine O'Neill • Michaela Elliot • Philip Johnston • Sean O'Neill

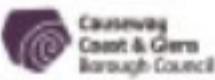
PRINCIPAL FUNDERS:



SUPPORT & FUNDING



A&OP & YPMH



Esmé Mitchell Trust



The Cathedral Church of St. Anne Belfast



Health & Wellbeing
Whiterock Women's Centre

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