

The postgraduate dance company of award-winning  
Joss Arnott Dance and the University of Salford



# EMERGENCE

## TRIPLE BILL 2025

**SAY (SARAH GOLDING AND YUKIKO MASUI) |  
SOFIA NAPPI | JOSS ARNOTT AND LISA MARIE ROBINSON**

**TOURING AND LIVE STREAM EVENTS  
MARCH–JUNE 2025**

**EMPOWERING THE FUTURE OF DANCE**

## TOUR PROGRAMME

**Welcome and thank you for joining us for the Emergence 2025 Triple Bill programme.**

Celebrating our seventh year, the 2025 touring programme features three brand new dance productions performed by an international cast of brilliant dance artists. I have admired the work of Sofia, Sarah, Yukiko and Lisa for many years and I am extremely grateful for the pieces they have created and shaped for this year's company.

All three pieces in the programme share a common theme and driving force – the pleasure of movement.

‘CHIMERA’ by Sofia Nappi explores her signature and expressive movement language and draws inspiration from the mythical chimera creature. With a strong focus on sensation and the creation of fantasies, the work explores the transformation of individual stories, weaving the dancers’ individuality together to reveal a unified community.

‘153 8s’ by SAY (Sarah Golding and Yukiko Masui) is a double-casted piece, inspired by the concept of a music album, using four distinct tracks. Each track has its own unique qualities, creating a piece that is both explosive and electrifying. With carefully selected music from artists they have strong connections with, the piece showcases the individual talents of each dancer, highlighting their unique strengths and styles, while also fostering a powerful sense of unity.

The final piece in tonight's programme is ‘EUPHORIA’, a new work created in collaboration with the dancers and our wonderful assistant choreographer, Lisa Marie Robinson (Joss Arnott Dance Artist/Emergence '23 alumna). The piece investigates the complexities of our ego, demonstrated through the interplay between choreography and new music by my long-term, mastermind composer James Keane. The work explores the dancers’ journey to euphoria, allowing them to lose their inhibitions and become the best versions of themselves.

Thank you to Sofia, Sarah, Yukiko and Lisa for their artistry and generosity. To the University of Salford and our colleagues; Yue Ying Ho, for being a fantastic Rehearsal Assistant; Tim France; our wonderful collaborators and team; and, of course, our amazing Programme Leader, Debbie Milner.

A special thank you to our company dancers for their commitment to the programme and ongoing dedication. I congratulate you on your resilience and applaud your artistry within the ambitious programme we have created. And finally, to you, our audiences - we are extremely grateful to share our passion for dance with you!

Please let us know what you thought of tonight's show by completing the audience feedback form after the show and tagging us on social media.

As the Artistic Director of Emergence, I look forward to sharing future programmes of work with you all.

I hope you enjoy the programme.

**Joss Arnott**







## ABOUT **EMERGENCE**

The MA Dance: Performance and Professional Practices programme is a professionally focused course (12-months), co-designed and delivered between Joss Arnott Dance and the University of Salford.

This bespoke programme not only focuses on contemporary dance performance at the highest level but also addresses the broader needs of dance professionals, including modules on producing, teaching, and workshop design/delivery—allowing dancers to develop their skills, knowledge, and experience to expand their professional opportunities upon graduation.

Dancers become part of Emergence, an industry-led postgraduate dance company that works with internationally acclaimed choreographers to produce a programme of new performance works each year.

Emergence tours nationally under the Artistic Direction of Joss Arnott, alongside Programme Leader Debbie Milner.

This bespoke programme has industry collaboration at its very heart and mirrors working environments in the creative industries whilst providing dancers with the skills and resources they need to be able to succeed as dance artists and adjusting to the ever-evolving climate.

This bespoke programme places industry collaboration at its very heart, mirroring real-world working environments in the creative industries while equipping dancers with the skills and resources needed to succeed as dance artists and adapt to an ever-evolving industry.

Emergence strives to be recognised as one of the UK's leading postgraduate dance companies, consistently producing high-quality dance performance work to share with audiences and delivering bespoke outreach programmes each year to participants aged 11-80+.

We inspire and empower the next generation of dancers and choreographers by providing them with the experience, knowledge, and resources they need to develop thriving, sustainable portfolio careers in the arts.

The commissioned choreographers for Emergence 2026 are Jason Mabana, Faye Stoeser, Joss Arnott, and Lisa Marie Robinson. The new Triple Bill programme will tour in Spring/Summer 2026.



## ABOUT JOSS ARNOTT DANCE

Joss Arnott Dance (JAD) are a professional, contemporary dance company based in the North West of England, currently celebrating our 15th anniversary in 2025.

JAD want more people to see dance. We understand the power of the arts to influence social mobility, and we draw on our working-class roots to give everybody the best arts experience, no matter their background. Our commitment to a 'not I, but we' approach means that we work with people in the North of England to design ambitious, exciting, extraordinary, inspirational shows using Arnott's stunning and dynamic choreography.

We take our work to places where people gather, performing in theatres, community venues, at festivals and on the streets. We will always be generous in our leadership: developing talent and encouraging creative excellence in everyone we work with. Our people-powered approach, combined with our artistic ambition means that we are trusted to deliver stand-out shows that bring new audiences to dance.

The company produces and tours ambitious, excellent and relevant dance productions that are grown from contemporary dance techniques, inspired by music and shaped by a modern aesthetic.

We hold our communities and audiences at our core and our people-powered touring productions are created for a variety of settings and audiences including indoor, outdoor, children and family dance productions. Our Human Centred Design process and approach to producing work allows us to create relevance for our intended audiences and empower those who we engage with.



Dancers—Dominic Coffey, Yue Ying Ho, Charley Mitchell and Shannon Kate Platt  
Photo credit—Josh Hawkins

The company's touring productions feature athletic, technically brilliant performers who aim to excite and inspire audiences, regardless of their dance experience or knowledge, through Artistic Director Joss Arnott's stunning and dynamic contemporary choreographic style.

We hold education, participation and our communities at the core of all our activity whilst innovating world-class collaborations and initiatives.

The company prides itself on bringing new audiences to contemporary dance through Arnott's bold choreographic language that has been described as 'exquisite to watch' The Stage, and 'the perfect tonic for British contemporary dance' londondance.

## VALUES

**Experience:** We know where our strengths lie, and we don't try to do everything. We feel it's best to do a few things extremely well to ensure our collaborators, stakeholders, audiences, participants and fellow creatives have the best experience when they work with us.

**Quality:** Everything we do is driven by a commitment to excellence, ensuring that every interaction with us is of the highest quality.

**Collaboration:** Creativity is within all of us, and we strive to collaborate with a diverse range of artists and communities to ensure our work is of the highest quality, resulting in an experience that is exceptional and relevant.

**Passion:** Our passion and ambition for dance is clear, and we want to ensure that passion reaches everyone who works with us.

**Diversity:** To hold diversity at the core of the organisation and as part of our core artistic process.



Dancers—Larissa Longsee and Vincenzo D'Aquisto  
Photo credit—Josh Hawkins





## **JOSS ARNOTT**

### **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Founding Joss Arnott Dance in 2010, Joss is an internationally award-winning Artistic Director and choreographer who has been continuously supported and commissioned by leading dance agencies, venues and funding organisations.

Joss is in demand as a choreographer, having been commissioned to create work for the UK's leading professional dance companies and dance conservatoires. His artistic vision is fuelled by creating a portfolio of work for a range of audiences that are at the heart of everything he produces, including indoor, outdoor and family-orientated productions.

Joss strives for innovation of the highest quality and curates world-class collaborations for Joss Arnott Dance which became evident in 2015 with

the company's 5th-anniversary touring programme that featured live music from the world's premier solo percussionist, Dame Evelyn Glennie.

With a commitment and passion for talent development, Joss has been a Focus Group Artist for Sadler's Well's National Youth Dance Company, BBC Young Dancer consultant and has worked with and produced multiple works for the National Centre for Advanced Training Schemes. He was previously short-listed for One Dance UK's People's Choice Award, has been a Trustee for Dance United Yorkshire and is currently an Associate Artist at Lincoln Arts Centre.

2018 marked the year of the newly formed partnership between Joss Arnott Dance and the University of Salford with the launch of their MA Dance: Performance and Professional Practices programme that established EMERGENCE.

Over the past four years, Joss's interest in cross art form collaboration has been demonstrated further, working with the University of Salford's music, costume, fashion design and animation programmes within the School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology on productions for both Emergence and Joss Arnott Dance.

## **DEBBIE MILNER**

### **PROGRAMME LEADER MA DANCE: PERFORMANCE AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES / EMERGENCE AND DANCE SUBJECT GROUP HEAD**

Debbie has over twenty years' experience of working as a professional dance artist. During this time, she has enjoyed a successful and varied career performing, choreographing with regional, national and international dance artists and companies, community groups, arts organisations and cultural industries.

Debbie has a proven track record in Artistic Lead and Rehearsal Director roles. Debbie was the Artistic Director of the all-male undergraduate company EdgeFWD, which was short-listed for The Times Higher Education (THE) Awards for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts in 2012. Debbie was also the Artistic Lead for the successful postgraduate dance company—12 degrees North. She is a member of the NATD (National Association of Teachers of Dancing) and is an alumni of Aurora, Advance HE's leadership development initiative for women.

Debbie has been working in Higher Education for 16 years, receiving a Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2011 and short-listed for One Dance UK's Inspirational Lecturer at College, University or Conservatoire Award in 2022. Debbie is currently the Subject Group Head for Dance and teaches across all the dance programmes delivering contemporary technique, contextual studies, dance pedagogy and creative entrepreneurship. Her research and teaching practice considers how we can best prepare and support dance students so that they are industry ready and can graduate with the information and confidence necessary to navigate their chosen career path.





## **SOFIA NAPPI**

### **GUEST CHOREOGRAPHER 2024/25**

The international choreographer and dancer from Italy trained at the Ailey School in New York and deepened her studies internationally. The close contact with the Hofesh Shechter Company and her involvement with Ohad Naharin's Gaga language had a particular influence on her work.

Nappi is Artistic Director and co-founder of KOMOCO, supported by the contemporary dance collective Sosta Palmizi in Turin and her first muses Adriano Popolo Rubbio and Paolo Piancastelli. Already with her first pieces for KOMOCO/Sofia Nappi, she won the Introdans Partner Award 2021 at the Rotterdam International Duet Choreography Competition 2021 as well as the First Prize, the Critics' Prize and the Production Prize of the Tanja-Liedtke-Stiftung at the 35th International Competition for Choreography Hannover 2021.

KOMOCO/Sofia Nappi has performed in Germany, Austria, the USA, Italy, the Netherlands, Israel, France, Albania, Spain, the Canary Islands, Mexico, Kosovo, Belgium and Hungary as well as at numerous Italian and international festivals and dance platforms, including La Biennale Di Venezia, the Albania Meeting Dance Festival, the RomaEuropa Festival, MASDANZA, the COLOURS International Dance Festival in Stuttgart and the Teatro del Canal Madrid.

Sofia regularly collaborates as a freelance choreographer with renowned international ballet and dance companies: In December 2021, she staged her piece 'Holelah', originally created for La Biennale Di Venezia 2019, with the ballet company of the Nationaltheater Mannheim. 2023 saw the world premières of 'Tagadà' for the Staatsballett Hannover and 'Moving Cloud' for Scottish Dance Theatre as a contribution to the bill 'Celtic Connections'.

A new creation for the Dutch company Introdans celebrated its première in May 2023. For 2024, Nederlands Dans Theater has commissioned a new work from her, and she will choreograph for the opera 'Platée' for the GöteborgsOperan. Her company KOMOCO/Sofia Nappi will première a full-length evening created by her.

**[www.komocodance.com](http://www.komocodance.com)**

 **[@sofianappi.kc](https://www.instagram.com/sofianappi.kc)**

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

Photo credit—Roberto Graziani





## **SAY (SARAH GOLDING AND YUKIKO MASUI)**

### **GUEST CHOREOGRAPHERS 2024/25**

Sarah Golding has received nominations for a British Black Theatre Award for her movement direction for the West End's 'Cruise' (Duchess Theatre). Sarah trained at Trinity Laban and received a BA and MA in dance performance (Transitions Dance Company). Once graduated, she became a dancer with Lila Dance in 2014 where she toured nationally and rurally. She has performed for theatre companies and choreographers including the Royal Court (The Internet Is Serious Business), Bang Bang group, Darcy Wallace, Quang Kien Van, Cathy Waller, Adam Russell. Sarah has most recently performed in the West End and with the world touring cast of 'STOMP'.

Sarah's contemporary choreographic credits include BalletBoyz (The Intro) which featured in their Deluxe tour; Phoenix Dance Theatre (KALENA) mapdance 21 (STATE), 'Blood and Belief' (U.Mi-1 London Fashion week 21); 'TRANSIT-20' (Dance film collaboration with South African dancers) and Trinity Laban (conversations with x). Sarah's theatre choreographic credits also include 'Wizard of Oz' (Watermill Theatre), 'Little Women' (Park Theatre), 'Candide' (Mountview) and 'Primetime' (Royal Court).

Sarah choreographed the workshop presentation of the new adaptation of 'Jekyll and Hyde' (produced by Lambert Jackson Productions). Sarah was recently movement director on 'KENREX' for Sheffield Theatres and Southwark Playhouse.

Yukiko Masui has been the recipient of a Choreography Award from DanceXchange, an Akram Khan Mentoring Award from Sky Arts and is a Work Place Artist at The Place. Yukiko, originally from Tokyo, Japan, started her training in Hip Hop, Ballroom Latin where she developed her passion for dance and movement.

She moved to London to train in contemporary dance where she completed her MA as part of Transitions Dance Company. Masui has worked as a choreographer and movement director, in theatre including 'Miss Julie' (Southwark Playhouse); 'Toy Show the Musical' by RTE (Dublin Convention Centre); 'A Little Night Music' (Storyhouse); 'Say Yes to Tess' (Leeds Playhouse); 'Guy: A New Musical' (The Bunker); 'Taming of the Shrew' for Two Gents; and 'Urine Town' (London College of Music).

Contemporary dance choreography includes 'Femme Spreading' (Norrdans); 'For Seasons' (mapdance); 'Dream Deprivation' (London Contemporary Dance School); 'Drowning in Your Own Sins' (Northern School of Contemporary Dance); 'State of Readiness' (London Studio Centre); 'Break it Down' (Trinity Laban); 'The Night Is Darkest Just Before the Dawn' (National Youth Dance Wales). Her own works 'Unbox', 'It Takes Two Too' and 'Falling Family' have been commissioned and toured internationally (Birmingham Hippodrome, Norrlands Opera and more).

Performer's credit includes 'Carmen' on international tour for Agudo Dance Company; Norrdans on international tour; 'Tempo' (Sadler's Wells); 'Speak Louder Than Words' on UK tour for Cathy Waller Company; 'Still I Rise' for TRIBE; 'Smack That'

(Barbican); and 'Saving Face' (Curve). Film and Commercial work include Nike, Coldplay, So You Think You Can Dance (UK) and Ministry of Sound.

### **SAY**

SAY was founded by Sarah Golding and Yukiko Masui in 2019. They focus their work on challenging the elitism often associated with contemporary dance. As a duo, they have created 'SAY: AF' - a dance film with the international festival Dance Umbrella. They have recently been featured dancers in 'The Marvels' and were dance captains and performers in the Commonwealth Opening Ceremony 2022.

SAY was commissioned to create a piece for National Dance Company Wales, 'SAY Something' which toured nationally and internationally. SAY have made pieces for



Trinity Laban, London Contemporary Dance School and often work as movement directors for various productions. They have recently worked on 'The Effect' at National Theatre and 'The Shed', NY and 'Romeo & Juliet' starring Tom Holland, directed by Jamie Lloyd at Duke of York's Theatre. Co-produced by The Place, they toured their first show 'the album' nationally and internationally and are now developing their latest piece 'HOT in HeRe'.

<https://www.yukikomasui.com/say>

 @s\_a\_y\_dance

Photo credit—Henry Curtis



## LISA MARIE ROBINSON

### ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER—‘EUPHORIA’



Lisa Marie Robinson, grew up in the North East of England and is a passionate contemporary dance artist.

Lisa began her training at Dance City CAT in Newcastle where her adoration for contemporary dance was sparked. She then continued her training and went on to gain her BA Degree at Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance in London.

Driven to explore more of the world of performance and contemporary, Lisa embarked upon her MA with Emergence 2022/3; Joss Arnott's postgraduate company, where she worked with Flockworks, Anthony Missen and Joss Arnott, touring a triple bill programme nationally.

Throughout her training and career to date, she has worked alongside

companies and choreographers such as Matthew Bourne's New Adventures (Youth Cast), Shobana Jeyasingh, Alleyne Dance and Southpaw Dance Company whilst becoming a Dance Artist for Joss Arnott Dance. Lisa is now a freelance artist based in London. She is currently choreographing and working within the commercial and fitness industries whilst being represented by multiple talent agencies.

Lisa is super excited to be working alongside Joss Arnott again and to be back working with the new Emergence 25 company!

 @lisa.m.r01

Photo credit—(c) M.Edition

## EMERGENCE 25 PROGRAMME

**Artistic Director** Joss Arnott

**Programme Leader** Debbie Milner

**Dancers** Ozzy Berzin-Cohen, Antea Buro, André Chandler, Lewis Cole, Sama Daw, Abbie Fearn, Alessandra Felci, Sasha Gunning, Faye Jones, Phoebe Leighton, Chiara Moore, Joshua Owen, Ruby Picken, Louise Purvis, Ella Ronte, Clara Selberg, Chloe Smith, Anna Stricker, Tzu-Hsien Wang and Luying Xu

**Rehearsal Assistant** Yue Ying Ho

**Producer** Phil Hargreaves

**Marketing Manager** Jennie Gentles

**Education and Outreach Producer** Chloe Stott

**Finance Officer** Karen Parry

**Lighting Designer** Charlie Cragg

**Head of Costume** Rebecca Coleman

**Production Managers** Mell Bird and Rebecca Slack

**Tour Technicians** Charlie Cragg and Charlotte Stoker

**Social Media consultant** Jessie Mallinson

**Photography and Film** Josh Hawkins

*Please note: This programme contains loud music, the use of haze and flashing lights (no strobe).*



Photo credit —Sasha Gunning



## EMERGENCE 25 PROGRAMME

### RUNNING ORDER

#### CHIMERA

**Choreography** Sofia Nappi in collaboration with the dancers

**Music** Barry O'sullivan—'Spanish Serenade', Diego Fernandez—'The Gastruck', Alessandro Cortini—'Scappa', Acid Arab—'Ejma' and Barry O'sullivan—'Romanza'

'CHIMERA' explores the tension and beauty of individuality within a collective. Drawing from Greek mythology, the Chimera—an impossible fusion of lion, goat, and serpent—becomes a metaphor for the dancers themselves. Each of the 20 artists brings their own unique cultural, artistic, and physical traits, creating a dynamic ensemble that's more than the sum of its parts, much like the mythical creature.

Through KOMOCO's research and the 'Kreaturistic Character', the dancers dive deep into their instincts, playfulness, and subconscious. Together, they form a creature made of distinct stories, bodies, and energies. At times goofy like a goat, fluid like a serpent, and powerful like a lion, the group celebrates both individuality and unity. Every dancer remains connected to their own essence, while contributing to a collective that constantly evolves.

'CHIMERA' isn't about following a linear narrative. Instead, it takes us on a journey through a fantastical world where individuality and togetherness coexist. It's about embracing our personal uniqueness while recognizing we're part of something larger—reflecting the ever-shifting balance between self and community, where each dancer's transformation fuels the whole.

*15 minutes*

PAUSE (5 minutes)

#### 153 8s

**Choreography** SAY (Sarah Golding and Yukiko Masui) in collaboration with the dancers

**Music** Mikey J—'DRIVE', Baba Sy & B4mba—'Jambaar', Jag U R—'Let The Rain Pour' and The Dirty 33 & Bobbie Johnson—'Gwop'

'153 8s' is a double-casted dance piece built around four original tracks created by musicians SAY regularly collaborate with. It is all about the magic that happens when dance and music are in sync. It's a high-energy exploration of rhythm and movement, creating a space where both art forms share the spotlight equally.

The piece is split into four parts, each inspired by a different sound and vibe. Each track has its own feel, shaping the way the movement comes to life. While the timing is always tight and structured, every section has its own unique energy based on what the music brings out.

At the heart of the choreography is counting—specifically learning fast, intricate phrases built around groups of '153 8s'. Is all about connecting to the rhythm and letting the music guide the movement.

*15 minutes*

INTERVAL (20 minutes)

## EMERGENCE 25 PROGRAMME

#### EUPHORIA

**Choreography** Joss Arnott and Lisa Marie Robinson in collaboration with the dancers

**Original Music** James Keane

**Additional Music** Philippe Quint with Joshua Bell—'Smile (Theme from Modern Times)'

**Artistic Consultant** Sue Buckmaster, Theatre-Rites

**Costume Design and Construction (MA Fashion Design)** Khadija Adda, Chloe Coleman, Isobel Dawson, Xenia Fernandes, Yusuf Kaplan, Mahnoor Khan, Elizabeth Knight, Lovlyn Liju, Tanvir Mahidy, Beth Meyers, Sanjana Nair, Darcie O'Connor, Eva Parry, Nicolas Piredda, Louise Shirras and Shravya Shivaprasad

**With thanks to** Rebecca Coleman, Sally Donaldson, Paul Marsden and Bashir Aswat

'EUPHORIA' explores the physical and emotional responses of a conflicted ego, that allows the performers to delve into the three ego components (id, ego and superego) to discover how they behave, whilst questioning what they allow us to reveal and experience.

With an emphasis on embracing individuality and the importance of being present, this new dance production uncovers each performer's journey of trying to break away from social norms and finding their true self, investigating both introvert and extrovert behaviours of their ego.

Questioning what is real and what is façade, 'EUPHORIA' explores the moments when we feel both in and out of control whilst striving for our inhibited self to become empowered and stronger.

Demonstrating a display of youthful, euphoric energy through dance and music interplay, 'EUPHORIA' also portrays raw, hopeful storytelling threaded together through echoes and memories that enables us to remember where we have been, where we are now and where we are going in relation to both our individual and collective journeys.

*38 minutes*





## 5 MINUTES WITH SOFIA NAPPI

Hello, I'm Sofia Nappi. I'm an independent choreographer, and I work for different theatres, companies and institutions, but I am also the Artistic Director of my own company, KOMOCO, which is based in Italy and tours internationally.

I have had the pleasure to be invited by Joss to choreograph on the Emergence dancers, and it was a great honour. It's also the first time for me to work as an independent choreographer in the United Kingdom. I've been to Scotland before though, creating for Scottish Dance Theatre, and I'm really excited to work with, like very young people ready to soak up information and to be really open to grow.

It's such a diverse group with a lot of different backgrounds, personalities, artistic interests, different characters and bodies - so I was really inspired by them and I decided to draw more an idea of a narrative inspiration working with the dancers.

So the word, Chimera, came to my mind which is a mythological creature made of different parts; a snake, a goat and a lion. I connected this idea to the research as the Chimera is made of different parts, but somehow it makes this very mysterious other worldly creature, and so how the dancers are with their individuality and storytelling through the research, they can create this one, whole creature, called the Chimera.

I would like the audience to experience a sense of group, community. It's always up to the viewer, like any form of art. I believe, it's always like, when you look at the painting it's very subjective, what you receive from it. But I believe, and hope I can bring a sense of group to the space. Union. Something that brings a wave of energy together, rather than enlightening the one, and within that, the dualities and the playfulness of it.





## 5 MINUTES WITH SAY (SARAH GOLDING AND YUKIKO MASUI)

Y: We've been working on an idea of really physicalising the music with the dancers, where we chose songs that we really love and from artists we know personally to really highlight their music. Within the piece we have a range of music as we wanted to have a musical journey throughout the tracks.

S: We listened a lot to the music and thought, ok... what's the vibe of this song? What do the lyrics say? What energy is behind the beat? We usually give some tasks to the dancers but we often generate a lot of material. We'll be in the corners of the space making up material, one of us will teach and then the other person will jump in, so it's been a process that's explored both of those things.

Y: We often explore grooves, so we listen to the music and question how would we groove if we wanted to dance to this track. We have smashing phrases that we generated and shared with the dancers, but we also have moments of groove on the spot so that audiences can experience a juicy groove that you can hear and see.

I remember when, even before Joss asked us to make the piece, we were like, we would really love to work with Emergence because in our heads, Emergence has such a clear physical idea as a company. For us, it's edgy, punchy and full of raw talent and energy. So we've been really blessed to be working with this year's company.

S: And also, because there's so many dancers, there's 20 and it's very rare that we get the opportunity to work with that many artists that are skilled in this way and our piece is double cast, so we've got 2 casts of 10 and it's been really interesting to switch out and work with the different energies and strengths in each group. There's definitely strengths in different areas and that's really, really amazing to see.

S: Within this work, I think what we would love the audience to feel by the end of it, is that they want to be in it. They want to go party! They want to like hang out with the dancers. They want to download all the tracks. I also think we would love the audience to feel that they want to have an involvement in that world somehow, whether it's through being physical or just like listening to the music. I think that's something that we always try and create by the end of our work.





## 5 MINUTES WITH JOSS ARNOTT AND LISA MARIE ROBINSON

J: Our work for Emergence this year is heavily influenced by new and original music by James Keane and the emotional drivers behind it. We've been exploring this with the dancers through an in-depth creative process that has led to the piece overall, demonstrating the dancer's journeys from both a physical and emotional state of stuckness leading them to euphoria, acceptance, release and vitality - whilst embracing their individuality and each another.

Our goal from the beginning was wanting the dancer's inhibited-self to become more empowered and stronger so they could experience something new and challenge themselves both through the process and also performing the work.

L: As the piece has evolved, we have worked also with this idea of memories and echoes. Working and being inspired by the creativity of the dancers has inspired this core structural theme throughout the piece and reminding us where we have been, where we are now and inviting us in to where we are going.

J: The concept of exploring the ego was also a real interest of mine from the beginning. We've been investigating the idea of conflict between the 3 components of the ego (id, ego and superego) and delving into their behaviours by exploring how they can be physicalised and what do they allow us to reveal, experience? Alongside this, we've been exploring how our ego responds to different music styles and genres, whilst also breaking down the ego to show the complexities, layers and stories we have as people to share through dance.

This piece is probably the most musically diverse I've ever made – it is really ambitious and features many different dance genres - there's classical, contemporary, house music, there's big band influences so it's quite a musical feast for audiences to experience which I hope they enjoy. James has done such a brilliant job and it's been an absolute dream to work with.

L: I've found the music super integral to my choreographing. It's such an amazing piece of craftsmanship that has excited, challenged and pushed us both choreographically and creatively!

J: Throughout the process, we've been teaching material to the dancers for them to embody the stylistics qualities of my work that comes from a range of dance techniques and influences from pop culture. There have been a lot of collaborative and creative tasks where the dancers have generated their own material.

We've also collaborated with MA Fashion Design this year who have designed and made all of the dancer's costumes which has been a wonderful experience to be involved in.

We have 20 dancers this year which is brilliant, it's our biggest cohort yet so it's been really moving actually to see that energy that the dancers are giving to the piece and how they're developing. They're a really special group of people and they've offered us so much to the process. Their creativity is incredible and their willingness and grit to develop the work is really inspiring.

L: It has been an absolute pleasure to work with such a talented group of dancers, they have brought such an amazing energy to the whole process. I'm super grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside Joss and the dancers, they have left me really inspired.



J: I'd like audiences to appreciate the variety and scope of what we've been exploring from the creative process to stage. 'EUPHORIA' is very on brand for me but it's allowed me to explore new processes and elements of storytelling so I'm really excited to see how the audience react to the dancers and what they have to offer as artists, how they can be moved by the dancers and how the audience can enjoy a varied range of music in the piece.

L: I'd also like the audience to appreciate and be in awe of the dancer's creativity, talent and energy, the amazing music and Joss's creativity.

J: There's been so much hard work and graft gone into making the piece what it is and I hope that comes across for the audience, for them to enjoy and to be entertained by what they're watching on stage. We ultimately want the audience to relate to a universal message of embracing ourselves and join us in celebrating our love for seeing what dance, music and production can all achieve together to create a really moving and uplifting experience for everyone.





## EMERGENCE 25 COMPANY DANCERS



### **Ozzy Berzin-Cohen** (he/they)

Ozzy Berzin-Cohen is a queer artist and swimmer from London. Born with talipes and never expected to walk, he ended up becoming a swimmer and later discovered his passion for dance at 14. His journey into dance was unconventional, starting with commercial styles before discovering contemporary dance during GCSEs and A-Levels (2016-2020). He then joined The Place CAT Scheme (2019-2020) and went on to complete a BA (Hons) in Dance at Falmouth University (2020-2023). During his training, Ozzy choreographed a full-length work, and performed in pieces by choreographers such as Simon Birch, Kevin Turner and Katrina Brown. Alongside his degree, Ozzy choreographed and danced in student films, performed at Tate St Ives, and stayed politically active in Cornwall.

After graduating, Ozzy spent a year freelancing, working with companies such as Théâtre Volière, Mad Jacks Dance Theatre, Indigo Dance Company and independent choreographers including Finnleigh Zach Dance in Paris.

His freelance journey took him to Prague, where he trained closely with Lenka Vagnerová & Company, gaining deep insights into their repertoire and practice. He also completed intensives with Hofesh Shechter, KOMOCO, Rambert and Crystal Pite.

Ozzy's movement practice is grounded in floorwork, gaga, and release, while he continues to refine his technical skills in Cunningham and ballet. Alongside performing, he has pursued his choreographic work, conducting research for two new pieces exploring the unknown in the natural world and its physical and scientific processes.

Beyond dance, Ozzy is a qualified swim teacher and lifeguard and has completed several long-distance swims in Cornwall and the Lake District. He has over 10 years' experience in youth work and key-working, and can always be found swimming in a lake, climbing a tree, the studio, or the vegan aisle of the zero-waste store.

 @ozzyb.c

### **Antea Buro** (she/her)

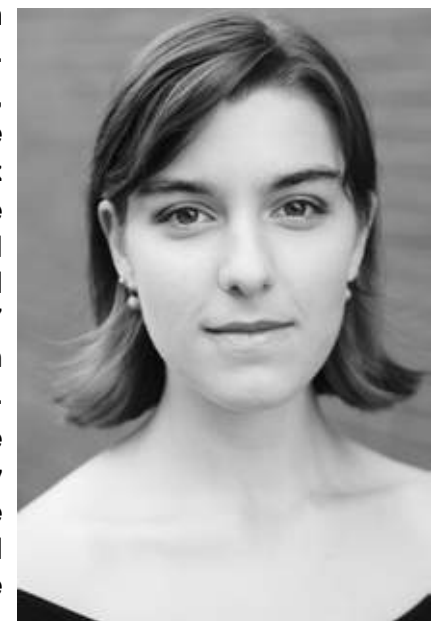
Born in Italy, after the Liceo Classico and professional training in ballet and contemporary dance, Antea has been the first student who attended a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Classics and Dance Studies at University of Malta, achieving a First Class Degree and being listed on the Dean's List of the Faculty of Arts 2024. She covered the role of Public Relations Officer (PRO) in the 2023-2024 Executive Board of USPA, University Student Association of the School of Performing Arts of University of Malta.

Antea's field of research concerns the relationship between word and movement, investigating movement's power of concreteness through improvisation. In this respect she developed the Practice and Research choreographic project 'How long does the movement last?' (2024) and took part in the first undergraduate panel at the 10th School of Performing Arts Conference 2024 'Subject/Object/Practice/Place' delivering a speech about her experimental dance film 'Ancient Values' (2023).

During her studies, Antea danced creations by Eszter Gál (Hungary), Justin Roy Barker (UK/Malta), Paula Guzzanti (Argentina) and by the emerging choreographers Noémi Piller (Hungary), and Mel Sielańczyk (Poland). She also took part in the interdisciplinary collaborative project The Caligari Experience within the Three Palaces Festival 2023, produced by Compass Company (Bristol, UK) and she danced choreographies by Ido Gidron (Israel) and Justin Roy Barker (UK/Malta) in the production M.A.D. - Music and Dance within the Malta International Arts Festival.

In 2024 she participated in the Erasmus + Blended Intensive Programme 'Collaborative work between Science, Art and Creation' promoted by University of Seas SEA-EU at Université de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO) in Brest (France), dancing the creation GENESIS; Growth and Transformation by Elisabe

 @antea\_buro





## EMERGENCE 25 COMPANY DANCERS



### **André Chandler** (he/him)

André was born and raised in Birmingham. At a young age, André longed to perform. He started acting, singing, and dancing at college and later progressed onto his studies at the University of Salford where he worked with practitioners such as Josh Hawkins, Dom Coffey, Ruth Jones, Tangled Dance Company and Matrafisc.

André also studied abroad at Wayne State University as part of a study exchange programme in the United States where he continued to hone his craft in contemporary dance and explore new styles such as flamenco and African diaspora.

Specialising in contemporary dance exploring themes of improvisation, self-expression, and sensuality he strives to go above and beyond working in the studio and has developed his practice in combining contemporary dance with wrestling which he trained professionally at

Futureshock Wrestling.

André loves to perform, and his most recent highlights include performing in the Manchester Pride parade and freelance work with Morph Movement.

In the future André aspires to perform on cruise ships and continue his journey as a portfolio artist.

 [@andre\\_\\_creative](#)

### **Lewis Cole** (he/him)

Lewis is a contemporary dance artist from Swansea in South Wales. Lewis discovered his passion for movement and dance at age 5 when he joined a community dance class to train in tap, modern and ballet. This is where he found his joy and love for musicality, creating rhythms when tap dancing.

Lewis discovered contemporary dance at 15 joining County Youth Dance Company who opened his eyes to the opportunities that contemporary dance has. He then went to study at Neath College to study his BTEC and A Level in Dance which led him to train at London Contemporary Dance School (21-24).

During his time at The Place, Lewis discovered an unexpected obsession with hip hop and street related dance styles, the main of which being popping which has now become a key part of his practice and dance identity. He also worked with an array of choreographers including SAY Dance, Vicky Mantey and James Cousins to name a few. Lewis is passionate and proud of being a Welsh dancer, being a member of National Youth Dance Wales and wanting to create a bigger dance scene in Wales in the future using his new found love for contemporary, hip hop fusion.

Outside of dance, he is interested in football, Formula 1 and martial arts, being a black belt in karate.

 [@lewis\\_r\\_cole](#)





## EMERGENCE 25 COMPANY DANCERS



### **Sama Daw** (she/her)

Sama Daw from Nazareth city, started dancing at the age of 4 where dance as a profession is untraditional. Since the age of 8 she has also been pursuing her interest in music by playing the violin. At the age of 17 she was part of a string orchestra conducted by Zvi Carmeli for a year.

After completing her high school studies, majoring in physics and chemistry, she joined the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance for a year but left to follow her dream after getting offer a place at Rambert School.

She graduated with a BA degree from Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, following the steps of her late teacher Ayman Safiah. During her studies, she got the opportunity to collaborate with the Royal College of Music, increasing her interest in performance and constantly exploring what resides between them.

She also worked with several choreographers such as Russell Maliphant, Akram Khan, Jason Mabana Dance, Tanztheatre Adrian

Look and Faye Tan amongst others, performing nationally and internationally among many; ROH Next Generation Festival, 'Danse En L'Île' Dance Area Geneva, Teatro Comunale, Paray le Monial, and Suzanne Dellal Centre. Sama is constantly influenced to keep exploring and finding interlinks to grow her artistry.

 [@samadaw\\_official](#)

### **Abbie Fearn** (she/her)

Born in Wigan, Abbie's dance journey began at age three, fuelled by a love of movement (and Angelina Ballerina). After moving to Western Australia, she continued her ballet training at the only studio in her regional town offering exams. Soon exploring various other styles and going on to be captivated by both contemporary dance and the excitement of performing on stage.

At 17, Abbie relocated to Perth to attend the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, where she pursued a bachelor's in dance. Her studies included performing classical works such as 'La Bayadère' and 'Don Quixote', whilst deepening her connection to contemporary dance, working with the Tannhauser Foundation on remounting Pina Bausch's, 'Tannhauser Bacchanal', and engaging in workshops with DV8's Lloyd Newson.

Abbie remounted excerpts of Rafael Bonachela's, '2 One Another' and performed repertoire from Crystal Pite's, 'Solo Echo'. Going on to choreograph her own works and facilitate the ideas of her peers through dance. Abbie's experiences extended to secondments with Sydney Dance Company and The Australian Ballet Company, enriching her knowledge of elite contemporary creation and performance and fostering a love for education and community within dance.

Since graduating, Abbie has combined her passion for dance with education. This year, she has worked with the Western Australian Ballet's outreach department to facilitate workshops across the state. Additionally, she coaches gymnasts and school students while continuing to dance and collaborate within Perth's contemporary industry. Abbie enjoys outdoor adventures, learning new sports, baking, and engaging in creative pursuits like drawing and painting. But mostly enjoys sharing any of those with her friends and family.

With a fascination for the intersection of dance, music, and community, Abbie is committed to connecting through dance. Now in Salford, she looks forward to furthering her artistic and personal growth with Emergence and hopes to advance her professional performance career in the future.

 [@abbie\\_fearn](#)



## EMERGENCE 25 COMPANY DANCERS



### **Alessandra Felci** (she/her)

Alessandra Felci, Italian and Swiss dancer, was born and raised in Italy, where her deep passion for dance emerged at an early age. She began training locally and by age 14, moved to Milan to attend a ballet academy, furthering her classical foundation. At 16, Alessandra relocated to Switzerland, continuing her dance studies while broadening her expertise across various techniques, including ballet, contemporary, and tap. Her dedication to dance led her to participate in high-profile competitions such as Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP), Prix de Lausanne, and Tanzolymp. In addition to her academic achievements, Alessandra excelled in her linguistic studies, graduating from high school with the highest honours and receiving a merit-based scholarship.

At 18, Alessandra earned a scholarship to study at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, where she graduated with First Class Honours. Her time at Laban allowed her to explore

diverse dance techniques, performance skills, film making and choreography. Her original piece, 'Struggle Within', was selected for the BA2 show, showcasing her creative vision. In her final year, Alessandra won the Innovation Award, which marked the beginning of her journey into film making. She began producing her first dance short film, 'Dance Has No Age', a project that represents the start of her research into movement therapy, a field she has always been passionate about.

Throughout her time at Laban, she also worked as a ballet teacher, further nurturing her skills and sharing her love for dance with others.

Outside of dance, Alessandra has a deep passion for animals and often finds solace in nature. She also has a strong love for visual arts and crafts, enjoying the creative process of making things by hand. An active individual from a young age, she has participated in various sports, including skiing, climbing, and running. Alessandra's diverse interests, combined with her dedication to dance and movement therapy continue to enrich and shape her artistic journey.

 [@alessandra.felci](#)

### **Sasha Gunning** (she/her)

Sasha is a Czech/British dual national and grew up in Yorkshire where she completed all of her dance training before Emergence. She began dancing at the age of 3 at her local dance school on the top floor of a pub in the town she grew up in, in East Yorkshire. She began with ballet and tap lessons, later also training in modern jazz. She was introduced to contemporary when she began her training with Phoenix Dance Theatre's Youth Academy, a few years before her BA. Prior to her BA she also trained with SLP College, Ballet Boost Associates, and joined the CAT Scheme at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance where she later earned a place on the degree course.

During her training, she has performed works by Alleyne Dance, Sandrine Monin, Antonio Bukhar Ssebuuma, Imogen Reeve and Joseph Mercier amongst others. A highlight of her training at Northern was her graduation show, performing the first re-staging of 'Grand Finale' by Hofesh Shechter Company (rehearsed by Erion Kruja).

Sasha is very excited to begin her journey with Emergence, learning more of the northern dance scene, refining her practice, staying curious and open-minded, up-skilling and exploring creatively with a hugely talented group of artists.

Outside of the studio Sasha enjoys hiking, crochet, cooking/baking and spending time with friends and loved ones.

 [@sashagunning\\_dance](#)





## EMERGENCE 25 COMPANY DANCERS

### Faye Jones (she/they)

Growing up in the Manchester dance scene, Faye began her journey studying ballet, tap modern and jazz. The Lowry CAT scheme allowed for her to be exposed to multiple different styles of contemporary dance and gave space for her creative practice. With the guidance of facilitators such as Josh Hawkins, Josh Wild and the members of Company Chameleon, Faye began a foundation degree at Northern School of Contemporary Dance, where Faye developed their love for combining film with dance finding inspiration in filmmakers such as Luca Guadagnino, Ari Aster and Sam Raimi.

After this year Faye joined London Contemporary Dance School where their love for film flourished alongside working with choreographers such as James Cousins and Holly Blakey. Faye is keenly interested in pushing the boundaries between live performance and cinema through the genres of horror and science fiction, utilising the large range of dance styles they have encountered throughout their dance journey to create creatures and beings not of this world.

 @faye.joness



## EMERGENCE 25 COMPANY DANCERS

### Phoebe Leighton (she/her)

Phoebe's dance journey began when she was 3 years old. Whilst growing up Phoebe participated in a range of dance styles at her local dance school, Dexterity - Estha Jones School of Dance. These styles included ballet, modern, tap, contemporary, jazz, commercial, and hip-hop as well as training as a rhythmic gymnast. During her time here, Phoebe was lucky enough to have numerous performance opportunities and exposure to competitive dance.

At 16, Phoebe was chosen to work on an 'Alston Inspired' project. This involved creating a curtain-raiser for Richard Alston Dance Company with choreographers Richard Alston, Ihsaan de Banya, Laura Gibson and Two Thirds Sky. Following this amazing experience, Phoebe knew she wanted to pursue a career in contemporary dance.

Phoebe trained at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance on the BA Contemporary Dance course and graduated with a First-Class Honours degree in 2022.

Since graduating, Phoebe has worked as a freelance dancer with companies including Urban Interface Dance UK and Riverside Dance. She has also set up her own business as a Personal Trainer and Online Coach, specialising in women's health within fitness and dance. Phoebe has also taught contemporary dance and body conditioning to children and teens as well as Pilates and Pilates Barre to adults.

 @pbtraining2022



### Chiara Moore (she/her)

Chiara began her journey as a figure skater, competing nationally and internationally as part of the British squad. However, it was the off-skates dance training that really captured her. She joined the Centre for Advanced Training Scheme at The Lowry, where she performed works by Akram Khan Company and Jamaal Burkmar.

From there, Chiara became a member of National Youth Dance Company, working with Russell Maliphant and Alessandra Seutin, performing at Sadler's Wells main stage and other venues nationwide. She continued her training at Rambert School, graduating with a BA (Hons) in the summer of this year. During her time at Rambert, Chiara performed pieces by Russell Maliphant, Arthur Pita and Robbie Ordona, and performed at the Royal Opera House Linbury Theatre, Festival Jeunes Ballet in Geneva and Sadler's Wells Lilian Baylis Studio.

In her own creative practice, Chiara has a passion for choreography. This year, she explored her choreographic voice as part of Alleyne Dance's Young Choreographers Programme, and has showcased her work at Rambert Platforms, Sadler's Wells Lilian Baylis Studio, Oxford's Old Fire Station Theatre and has recently been working on a film project of her latest choreography.

Outside the studio, Chiara loves collecting vinyl, baking (especially coffee cake) and indulging her inner cinema geek as a bit of a Letterboxd addict.

 @chiara\_mxxre





## EMERGENCE 25 COMPANY DANCERS



### **Joshua Owen** (he/him)

Josh was raised in Newtown Powys, Mid Wales, where he developed an early interest in gymnastics. At the age of 14, he began his dance journey, self-training on a mattress in his back garden. His formal dance training commenced at 16 in college, where he studied performance and production arts, earning a UAL diploma. During this time, he had the opportunity to perform in scare mazes and explore his passion for acting, which introduced him to contemporary dance and earned him an award bursary.

Josh was later accepted into Bath Spa University to study contemporary dance. His experiences include participating in the company module V3NTURE, attending intensives with Alleyne Dance, Trash Dolls (Sam Amos), and Amy Foskett, and performing in RES24. Leaving Bath Spa, he received an award for Outstanding Achievement in creative dance practice 2024.

In his artistic pursuits, Josh values connection, flow, and the aesthetics of movement, drawing inspiration from cinematography and research. He is influenced by the writings of Fernando Pessoa and integrates his lived experiences into his work. Outside of dance, he enjoys music, nature walks, history and old cameras.

 @\_\_joshua\_owen\_\_



## EMERGENCE 25 COMPANY DANCERS



### **Ruby Picken** (she/her)

Ruby was born in Ilkley, West Yorkshire and she began her dance training at just 3 years old at The Northern Dance Centre in Skipton, focusing on Ballet, Modern and Tap with ISTD and RAD syllabi. By the age of 10, she advanced to the Associate program at the Academy of Northern Ballet in Leeds, where she furthered her ballet and contemporary dance education.

In 2021, Ruby successfully auditioned for the Northern Ballet School in Manchester, where she embarked on professional training. During her time there, she immersed herself in Ballet, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Tap and Contemporary dance. In her second year, she chose to specialize in Jazz through an intensive jazz focus course, diving deeper into both Jazz and Contemporary styles which she graduated from in 2024 with a level 6 Diploma. Ruby's previous commitment to teaching also re-emerged as she passed her ISTD DDE exam in teaching ballet in 2024, building on her earlier experience teaching pointe preparation and stretching classes from the age of 15.

Ruby has also participated in the National Youth Ballet of Great Britain's summer intensive since she was 10. This program allowed her to work with renowned choreographers such as Etta Murfitt, Miguel Altunaga, Monique Jonas and Louise Bennett, performing at venues like the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham and Sadler's Wells in London. Her passion for contemporary dance grew significantly from these experiences, leading her to join Chameleon Youth in the 2023/2024 season, where she engaged in local and London-based performances.

Outside the studio, Ruby enjoys hot yoga, family dog walks and travelling.

 @rubypicken\_

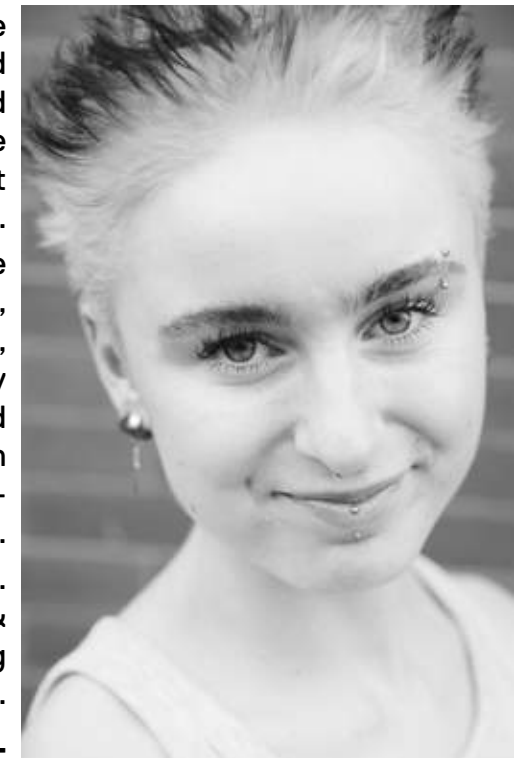
### **Louise Purvis** (she/her)

Originally self-taught for several years at her home in Belfast, Louise's love for dance and all forms of movement began as a teenager and has only continued to grow. At 15, joining weekly classes at Ajendance Belfast was the catalyst for her career as she was encouraged and supported to pursue her training for the first time. Louise soon moved schools to St. Louise's Comprehensive College to partake in post-16 dance education and gained a place on the ballet scholarship programme.

In 2020 she moved to London to begin her professional dance training at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, where she expanded her technical training including Horton, Curtis-Jones, Cunningham and Ballet techniques. Recently graduating with a First-Class Honour's degree, she has worked with various movement artists such as Richard Alston, Alison Curtis-Jones and Amarnah Ufuoma Cleopatra Osajivbe-Amuludun.

Louise is very high-energy and enjoys a variety of sports. She is keen to further her career as a dancer and strength & conditioning specialist. She aims to make quality dance training more inclusive and accessible to a wider range of people.

 @\_louisepurvis\_





## EMERGENCE 25 COMPANY DANCERS



### **Ella Ronte** (she/her)

Ella was born in Clapham, London and started dancing at the age of 3 in her local dance school, Fancy Footwork. Baby ballet progressed into RAD and ISTD grades that were completed through weekly classes. She then joined Central School of Ballet's Associates Program and secured a principal role in London Children's Ballet's 2019 production of 'Ballet Shoes'. This is where she fell in love with the idea of dancing professionally. At age 14, Ella started training vocationally at Tring Park School for the Performing Arts, expanding her exposure to new dance styles from commercial to different contemporary techniques. A lot was learnt despite dancing around bookcases and sofas during the 2020 lockdown!

At age 16 Ella's full-time training began at Central School of Ballet in London where, in her first year, she studied Graham technique, improvisation and choreography alongside her classical ballet. Slowly but surely, as her experience grew, the movements and artistry of contemporary dance eclipsed ballet in enabling Ella to express her

passion and joy for dance.

In her second year she was selected to choreograph and showcase a contemporary dance piece on her peers. In her final year she toured with the Ballet Central company, taking a featured role in 'Night Flight' by Caroline Bolton and working with Jules Cunningham on a newly commissioned piece. She also tackled dancing on the stony bank of the River Thames for a recording of Daniel Davidson's 'I Think We Are on Different Planets' which was shown on CNN news as part of Climate Action Week 2024.

Away from dancing Ella enjoys theatre-trips, baking and board-games.

 [@\\_ellaronte\\_](#)

### **Clara Selberg** (she/her)

Born in Stockholm but raised in Lulea, Sweden, Clara trained from a young age at the local dance studio before moving to London at the age of 18 to start her professional training at London Contemporary Dance School. She graduated in 2023 with a First-Class Honours.

During her studies, Clara worked with a broad variety of choreographers and took part in the creation of several pieces. Clara has performed in pieces by Akeim Toussaint Buck and Ella Mesma, Monique Jonas and Jason Mabana. She also performed in 'Sometimes, Even Now,' by James Cousins Company at the National Theatre's River Stage in the summer of 2023. During her studies, she participated in an exchange program with Suny Purchase in New York where she learned modern techniques from teachers such as Linda Celeste Sims, Jean Freebury and Stephanie Tooman.

In October 2021 she participated in a performance by Pascal Theatre Company called 'Dancing, Talking, Taboo' that was performed in St Pancras Church, London. In the summer of 2022, Clara travelled to Italy to take part in Orsolina28's summer intensive with Juliano Nunes, Alice Klock and Florian Lochner. At the end of that week, she performed at Orsolina's open-air stage.

Clara has also choreographed and produced performances in her hometown in Sweden. She choreographed and performed a performance called 'Ever-changing' that was performed in an art gallery. As a part of her dissertation at her School in Sweden, she choreographed and performed a performance called 'Tro, Hopp och Kärlek', about her grandfather's experience of living with chronic back pain.

Outside of her dance training, Clara is interested in Early Childhood Education and has worked as a nursery assistant in a nursery in London. In the future, Clara sees herself combining her passion for art with her passion for teaching.

 [@claraselberg\\_](#)



## EMERGENCE 25 COMPANY DANCERS



### **Chloe Smith** (she/her)

Chloe was born in Wales, where she discovered her love for dancing at the young age of five. She started her training at Delta Academy where she practised most evenings and weekends in ballet, tap, commercial, jazz, acting and singing. Becoming a competition dancer at eleven, competing nationally gave her the drive to work hard at technique with PBT and having private lessons with dancers such as Hannah Kenna Thomas, the white cat in the west end musical, Cats. In her teenage years she developed a passion for teaching, providing these techniques to younger students while choreographing dances for their exams, shows and competitions.

At 19, Chloe moved to Manchester to study dance at the University of Salford where she expanded her vocabulary in movement and continued training. Here she found her passion in contemporary dance along with new skills such as aerial, digital dance and site-specific work. At Salford she had the opportunity to work with Josh Hawkins, Coalesce Dance Theatre, Move Manchester, Tangled and Company Chameleon.

Once graduating, Chloe became a freelance artist working on projects with Ruth Jones, Walk the Plank, Kevin Edward Turner and Move Manchester for performances, parades, workshops and films. Then becoming an Associate for the University, gaining experience in administrative and social media skills.

Outside of dance, Chloe has always loved being in nature whether that's walking her dog or hiking up Snowdon. In her own time, she enjoys swimming, cycling and spending lots of time with friends at gigs or beating them at pool in the pub.

 [@clo.smith.dance15](#)





## EMERGENCE 25 COMPANY DANCERS



**Anna Stricker** (she/her)

Born and raised in the small town of Davos, Switzerland, Anna began dancing at 5 years old. Thanks to a dedicated dance teacher who passionately motivated young kids to dance in a town predominately shaped by its offer in winter sports. She started out with modern and jazz classes and added ballet to the mix in her late teens. In the years 2013-2018, Anna went to Bolzano, Italy each summer to join the Bolzano Danza workshops, where she fell in love with contemporary dance. After finishing school, she moved to Dundee to join The Scottish School of Contemporary Dance (The Space) to pursue her desire of learning more about contemporary dance.

During her time in Dundee, she got to see Scottish Dance Theatre perform, observe their rehearsals and learn from them directly through placement and workshops. This continued to inspire her to carry on with her dance journey.

Anna graduated from The Space with a First-Class Honours degree in 2024. While studying at The Space, she had the pleasure of working with choreographers Tommy Small, John Ross and an amazing team of lecturers and students at The Space. Additionally, she got to be a part of Matthew Hawkins' 'Because We're Curious', a site-responsive work at the V&A museum in Dundee and 'Re-imagined Depth', a collaborative degree show directed by artist Shannon Maitland.

Outside of dance, Anna loves to be in nature, preferably where there are animals to pet, mountains to see and cold lakes to jump into. She is also a big advocate for Switzerland's snowy winters and will welcome anyone who challenges her to a sledging race.

 @anna.stricker

**Tzu-Hsien Wang** (she/her)

Tzu-Hsien, originally from Taipei, Taiwan, has been dancing for 19 years. Since childhood, she has trained in various dance styles, including Chinese dance, ballet, contemporary dance and floorwork techniques. Tzu-Hsien studied in the Department of Dance at Chinese Culture University, majoring in modern dance and had the opportunity to perform in Stephanie Lake Company's work 'Colossus' at the 2022 Taiwan International Festival of Arts (TIFA).

After graduating, she was fortunate to receive a scholarship from the Ching-Lin Foundation in Taiwan, which allowed her to participate in the American Dance Festival in North Carolina, USA. She then travelled to New York for three months of intensive contemporary dance training. Upon returning to Taiwan, Tzu-Hsien reignited her passion for dance, and has been actively searching for platforms and opportunities to perform wherever she can. In addition to contemporary dance, she is also very interested in floorwork and occasionally holds her own workshops in Taiwan.

 @\_\_\_\_\_z.x



## EMERGENCE 25 COMPANY DANCERS



**Luying Xu** (she/her)

Luying Xu was born in Kunming, China, where the city is full of ethnic cultural atmosphere and where most of China's ethnic dances originate from. Therefore, she began to learn dance at the age of five and embarked on her dance journey. During the six years of entering a professional dance school in the first stage, she participated in a performance directed by the choreographer of the Spring Festival Gala and played many important roles. In the 2016 University Student Art Festival competition, she served as the lead actor and won the gold medal, accumulating rich performance experiences. Later, with the fourth place in the Yunnan art examination ranking and the third place in the dance choreography ranking, she entered the four-year undergraduate dance programme.

During her four years of undergraduate study, she chose to major in dance choreography and began to study various small ethnic dance genres that are intangible cultural heritages. She followed her

undergraduate tutor to go deep into villages to learn folk dances and extract dance vocabulary for choreography. Later, she recorded the dance teaching demonstration for the Taoli Cup.

At the time of graduating from undergraduate studies, she received the honour of an outstanding graduation dance creation work. During the undergraduate study period, she entered the studio of outstanding dance performers and choreographers in Yunnan Province and has four years of dance work experience, mainly teaching children's dance and art examinees. She participated in choreographing the dance program of the Yunnan Children's Spring Festival Gala. Later, she served as the dance choreographer of the public welfare film 'Five Beams of Sunshine' and participated in the shooting of the opening credits. After the end of undergraduate studies, in order to develop her own dance style, she has joined Emergence to further her study.

 @xvluluyaonixi





## EMERGENCE TEAM AND COLLABORATORS



### Phil Hargreaves - PRODUCER

Phil Hargreaves is an award-winning cultural leader specialising in crafting cultural experience that are relevant, punchy and audience focused. Phil works in a range of settings to support the development of artists, economies and artistic productions. Phil's passion is ensuring everyone has access and opportunities to engage with and share cultural experiences, ranging from large scale outdoor productions and festivals to intimate light installations and everyday culture.

Phil's current work includes working with Highly Sprung, alongside having been the Executive Producer for Joss Arnott Dance since 2010. He is a board member for Outdoor Arts UK and the Co-Chair of Light Up the North Network. Since August 2024, Phil has been the Festival Director for Freedom Festival Arts Trust.

Photo credit: Déda

### Yue Ying Ho—REHEARSAL ASSISTANT

Yue Ying Ho is a freelance dance artist based in Manchester. Raised in Swansea, Wales, Yue Ying started her training as part of County Youth Dance Company, National Youth Dance Wales and National Dance Company of Wales: Associates Program. Yue Ying began her formal training at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, graduating in 2020 with a First-Class BA Honours degree in Contemporary Dance. In 2021, Yue Ying furthered her training, completing her MA Dance: Performance and Professional Practices under the artistic direction of Joss Arnott as part of Emergence and touring new works by Joss Arnott, Becky Namgauds and Kevin Edward Turner (Company Chameleon).

Since then, Yue Ying has toured professionally throughout the UK, with companies including Joss Arnott Dance, Company Chameleon, Kapow Dance Circus Theatre, HAWK Dance Theatre and Matsena Productions. Alongside performing, Yue Ying is also active in other areas of the dance sector, including: choreographing, teaching, directing, and producing.

Yue Ying has taught and created works on aspiring young dancers for National Youth Dance Wales, The Lowry CAT Scheme, Company Chameleon Youth Juniors, Dance City CAT and the University of Salford with both undergraduate and postgraduate students. For Joss Arnott Dance, Yue Ying was part of the original cast for 'TIN MAN' and the company's outdoor production 'RUSH'.

 [@yueyingho\\_dance](https://www.instagram.com/yueyingho_dance)



## EMERGENCE TEAM AND COLLABORATORS

### Charlie Cragg - LIGHTING DESIGNER



Charlie trained at LIPA from 2005-2008. He has worked as a freelance technician across both music and theatre festivals around the UK. He joined Salford University as a full-time technician in 2015. He has worked on too many different projects to mention and has seen many students through our doors. He still freelances as a part-time lecturer, technician and musician, alongside his job here at Salford. Music has always been an important part of Charlie's work and has always inspired his approach to lighting design.

During his career he has had the opportunity to work with an amazing array of artists and companies such as Walk the Plank, Teunkie Van Der Sluijs, David Crowley, Rachel McMurry, Mark Winstanley and Choreographers such as Alice Klock and Florian Lochner (FLOCK), Anthony Missen (Company Chameleon), Maria Caruso, Bridget Fiske, Lisa Simpson Inclusive Dance and Coalesce Dance Theatre.

### James Keane—'EUPHORIA' COMPOSER

Trained at Trinity College of Music. A composer, conductor, orchestrator, director, deviser, multi-instrumentalist and improviser. He has worked with skins, strings, bottles, bags, radiators, reeds, tables, tubes, chalk, celery, computers, theatres, living rooms, bones, trombones, algorithms, voices, orchestras and other instruments. He's played other people's music in the Brooklyn Academy of Music, an Operating Theatre and Sydney Opera House; other people have played his music in Sadler's Wells, Blackpool, Tasmania...

He has conducted, played and performed with Clod Ensemble since 1995 and has toured internationally with Hofesh Shechter Company since 2010. He was an Associate Lecturer in Theatre Improv at University of Winchester for 8 years and has also taught Repertoire at Trinity College of Music, Masterclass at University of Salford and Physical Theatre at Plymouth University.

Orchestrations include work for Murray Gold (BBC, C4 & films), John Browne (ROH), Paul Clark (Katie Mitchell), Steve Blake (Cholmondeleys and Featherstonehaughs), WNO Chorus and for Akram Khan's new English National Ballet piece Creature for composer Vincenzo Lamagna.

He has composed for Charles Linehan, Lost Dog, Youth Music Theatre UK, Mathieu Geffré/Rendezvous Dance, Trinity String Ensemble, Charlotte Spencer Projects, Struan Leslie, Flexer & Sandiland, Doko Films, Rachel Birch-Lawson, The Natasha's Project, Sofia Nappi, Summit Theatre, Graeae Theatre, Circus Space, Lizzi Kew Ross, and Joss Arnott Dance - including a piece with Dame Evelyn Glennie DBE which she now performs in recitals.

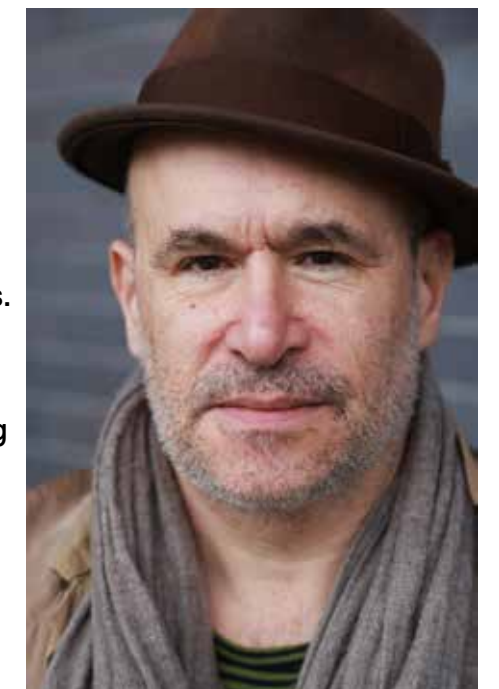
Recently he composed the score for the award-winning short film 'Becoming Everything' directed by Dan Löwenstein.

He also works regularly with Theo Clinkard, writing and performing in company works - 'Of Land And Tongue' and 'This Bright Field' (Brighton Festival Commission) and for his piece 'somewhat still when seen from above' for Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch.

[jameskeane.net](https://www.jameskeane.net)

[soundcloud.com/jameskeane](https://soundcloud.com/jameskeane)

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





## EMERGENCE TEAM AND COLLABORATORS



### Rebecca Coleman—HEAD OF COSTUME

Rebecca's professional costume experience of over twenty years has been multifaceted, working in both classical and contemporary dance, musical and applied theatre. Her skills and passion for costume gave her the opportunity to work all over the USA and back to the North West of England, Salford. Rebecca heads up the Wardrobe department team and is a part-time lecturer for costume and technical theatre, where she aspires to keep high standards, encourage innovation and creative thinking throughout her work.

### Josh Hawkins—PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILM

Josh Hawkins is a director, choreographer and dancer currently based in Manchester. After founding Hawk Dance Theatre in 2015, Josh has produced and created his own projects, receiving several funding awards from Arts Council England. Josh has produced works for various platforms (stage, screen and festivals) which have been showcased throughout the UK. Excited about collaboration, Josh's interests lie in creating dynamic movement work, connecting multiple art forms and reaching diverse audiences.

As well as his work with Hawk Dance Theatre, Josh works independently as a photographer and filmmaker within the arts industry. Josh has worked for leading artists and organisations, such as; Dance4, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Yorkshire Dance, Gary Clarke and Joss Arnott Dance to create a range of promotional materials. Josh was commissioned to create a Random Acts film by Tyneside Cinema, which was broadcast on Channel 4's TV platform in November 2015. His film, 'The Blackest Day' won an award for the Best Experimental Short Film at the London City Film Awards 2017.

Josh graduated from Northern School of Contemporary Dance with a first class honours degree in 2013 and later completed a postgraduate course touring with VERVE.

Photo credit – Chloe Maylor  
[www.hawkdancetheatre.com](http://www.hawkdancetheatre.com)

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

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





## EMERGENCE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

As part of their postgraduate studies, Emergence dancers grow their knowledge and experience in designing and delivering accessible, unique and high-quality workshops to participants of diverse ages and abilities. As part of the 2025 tour, our education and outreach workshops are tailor-made to meet each individual's needs, creating a positive and safe environment for all participants. All workshops are taught by the company dancers, who have experience teaching individuals from various backgrounds and age groups. Our educational work supports and enhances national curriculum examination criteria, prioritising talent development in dance.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To deliver all classes and workshops to a level of excellence.
- To inspire and excite all participants regardless of their dance knowledge or experience.
- To create an overall sense of encouragement for participants self-development whilst working in a safe and supportive working environment.
- To identify and develop strengths and the potential of individuals and the whole group.
- Create, develop and sustain strong working relationships with community groups, schools, colleges and higher education establishments.
- To liaise with teachers and leaders prior to the workshop date to discuss the requirements, needs and individual preferences.
- To develop secondary skills such as self-motivation, confidence, team building, social skills.

Workshops give participants the opportunity to engage with members of Emergence directly and include a contemporary dance technique class, the learning of repertoire and participating in creative process used in the company's productions.

For more information please contact

Debbie Milner, Programme Leader

D.L.M.Milner@salford.ac.uk



## MA DANCE SUITE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

**Join us to expand yourself as a performer, artist, collaborator, facilitator, entrepreneur and well-rounded dance professional in the thriving cultural scene in Salford and Manchester.** Our MA Dance courses are written and delivered in collaboration with industry partners and offer opportunities for you to pursue your unique creative ambitions as sustainable careers.

### MA Dance Performance and Professional Practices: Emergence

This programme is a professionally focused course, co-designed and co-delivered with our industry partner, **Joss Arnott Dance (JAD)**. In this intensive course, you will focus on an eclectic mix of contemporary dance styles and contemporary dance performance at the highest level. You will become part of **Emergence** postgraduate dance company, working with internationally acclaimed choreographers to produce new performance work each year.

This prestigious and highly selective programme has industry collaboration at its heart and mirrors working environments in the creative industries. The programme also addresses the wider needs of the dance professional, including modules on producing, teaching, and workshop design/delivery, allowing you to develop skills, knowledge, and experience to expand your professional opportunities upon graduation.

### MA Dance and Professional Practices

This programme is a gateway to a sustainable career as a freelance dance artist and entrepreneur. This new MA Dance programme offers a unique blend of creative and professional development tailored for portfolio dance artists. Whether you choose the **one-year full-time** or **two-year part-time** option, you'll enhance your skills in teaching, choreographing, performing, and producing. This course is designed to help you develop your artistic identity across various disciplines.

You'll receive guidance from industry professionals and academics, engage in collaborative projects, and projects that foster teamwork and creativity, and present your work to a broader audience, building your reputation and network. **Establish connections in Manchester and the North West**, whilst expanding your professional circle. **Develop skills in small-scale devising and project development**, and gain real-world experience through an **industry placement**, suitable for both newly graduated and experienced practitioners.

For more information on these courses, please visit **salford.ac.uk** or email Debbie Milner at D.L.M.Milner@salford.ac.uk












JOSS  
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EMERGENCE



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