

# NEW/ADVENTURES

## OVERTURE COHORT 2019/20



### **Ione Barton**

Ione is from Leeds and trained as an associate with Northern Ballet for 6 years before studying at Tring Park School for the Performing Arts where she worked with choreographers such as Douglas Thorpe and Chris Tundo. After graduating, she spent 3 years performing in Europe with companies such as Compagnia Opus Ballet, Budapest Dance Theatre and TENAX Teatro Studio Krypton and choreographers including Paul Dennis and Samuele Cardini.

Returning to the UK in 2018, she joined the Yorkshire Dance's Youth and Community Dance Team assisting a number of community programmes with children, adults with learning disabilities and older adults.



### **Laura Bryars**

Laura began her dance training on the CAT scheme at Northern School of Contemporary Dance. After three years, she moved to London to continue her dance and musical theatre training at the Urdang Academy. She graduated in 2012 and has since worked professionally across the country with dance companies (Rambert and Phoenix Dance Theatre) and in musicals (The Fix, Billy Liar). She also went on a UK tour with the John Godber Theatre Company with 'Teachers'.

Laura currently teaches at Dance East, teaches adult ballet classes and runs a buggy bootcamp for mums in her local area.



### **Amber Calland**

Amber trained at London Studio Centre in contemporary dance and has since completed her PGCE in FE Education. Amber works as a freelance artist in Manchester and Company Chameleon as a Dance Development Artist, predominately working with young people and those from vulnerable backgrounds. Alongside this, Amber is an Outreach Facilitator for the North West Centre for Advanced Training.

She is an emerging artist with a strong interest in dance development and project management and is passionate about developing young people into high quality performers.



### **Jane Chan**

Jane is a Dance Artist who is trained in contemporary, ballet, kathak, Chinese classical and Chinese folk dance. Storytelling is at the heart of Jane's practice and she tells stories inspired by communities around her. She performs regularly with Amina Khayyam Dance Company and is the London Correspondent for [dancejournal/hk](#) as well as a mentor for Arts Emergency.

Jane's objective is to tell stories of our time. She has worked with artists such as Seetal Kaur, Gigi Giannella and Enrique Vargas Gutierrez (Teatro de los Sentidos).



### **Toni-Michelle Dent**

Toni-Michelle is a dancer and teacher from Saltash, Cornwall. She trained as an associate with the Royal Ballet dance programme in Bath and London for 7 years. Following this she trained at Central School of Ballet in London graduating with a First Class degree in Dance in 2011.

She joined the Northern Ballet in 2011 and then freelanced for 2 years performing in an opera at the Royal Opera House before becoming Head of Dance at Harris Girls' Academy in Bromley in 2015.



### **James Golds**

James is a Dance Teacher, performer and most recently became a dad! He began dancing at 16 in Cirencester and went on to train professionally at Stella Mann College.

After performing abroad, he trained as a dance teacher and gained a PGCE at Brighton University. He is currently Head of Performing Arts and dance teacher at Elstree University Technical College. James began at the school in 2014, set up the Dance Department and furthered his teaching knowledge by completing Senior Leadership training. Additionally, James has been a moderator and examiner for Dance Level 2 and 3 Qualification. As a performer, James has performed with Scatter Dance Company and Alpha Dance Company.



### **Jasmine Hall**

Jasmine Hall is a Community Artist, previously working with the Dance Network Association as their lead Dance Development Artist and now delivering a range of projects independently as Jasmine Hall Dance.

She has supported Green Candle Dance Company's older people and those living with Dementia programmes, led her own classes of Dancing with Parkinson's and worked closely as a mentee of Danielle Teale Dance, leading the early years dance classes of Bam Bam Boogies. Jasmine performs with Flux Dance Collective and has created dance films such as 'RECLAIM'.



### **Hayley Lemon**

Haley Lemon is a Dance Artist based in Essex. She graduated from University of Bedfordshire with a Distinction MA degree in Performance and Choreography. Hayley was an Artist in Residence at Colchester Sixth Form and choreographed a piece for A-Level Dance students which was selected to represent the East Region at the U.Dance National platform in 2019. She has worked in community settings including a SEN school in Essex and teaching dance in secondary schools and leisure centres.

Haley is starting her own local youth dance company and is keen to engage young dancers from various backgrounds to think about creative careers.



### **Alyssa Lisle**

Alyssa began her dance training on the Dance City CAT scheme in Newcastle. At 16 she joined the BTEC course at Dance City before progressing onto their BA (Hons) Dance Professional Practice. Whilst studying she worked with choreographers such as Kerry Nicholls. Alyssa was a company dancer with Elliot Smith Dance during her studies. After graduating, Alyssa became a freelance dance practitioner based in the North East. She has performed with Abbott Dance Theatre and was part of the 2018 Fertile aground cohort.

Alyssa is a passionate teacher and delivers dance to all ages across various dance agencies, schools and her local council.



### **Karen Parkinson**

Karen trained in Dance and Physical Theatre in Salford and moved into a career within health and wellbeing for many years specialising in working with people with disabilities and long-term health conditions. Karen moved to Devon three years ago and used her relocation as an opportunity to concentrate on dance. Her passion is working with community groups, promoting movement, health and wellbeing in a social and fun environment.

Karen hopes to incorporate new teaching and bring fresh ideas to her local area. She wants to share her passion and core belief that dance, and movement can benefit all.



### **Brittany Roberts**

Brittany made her transition into community dance several years ago when she discovered the dance for health initiative. She has since run various projects for people with conditions such as Dementia and Parkinson's. She completed a foundation course in Dance Movement Psychotherapy and worked with young dancers with additional needs. Brittany is passionate about improving representation, inclusion and accessibility in the arts.

Brittany is currently on an Independent Study Programme at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and will be on their Postgraduate Diploma in Community Dance in the next academic year.



### **Caroline Rowland**

Caroline Rowland is a Midlands based Inclusive Dance Artist who specialises in teaching dance to adults and children with disabilities. Caroline worked as a Dance and Drama Teacher for two years at Epic Arts, an inclusive organisation in Cambodia. She was also the Rehearsal Director and Guest Choreographer for Epic Encounters.



### **Chloe Senior**

Chloe graduated from the Urdang Academy with a First Class in Professional Dance and Musical Theatre. She worked as a Facilitator, volunteering at Chickenshed Theatre Company. She then became a graduate dance artist for SLiDE) working on their community dance projects. Chloe taught dance in primary schools, using dance as a tool to explore the National Curriculum and started developing her own creative dance curriculum for Early Years and provides classes for 2-5 year olds.

In 2019 she founded Kinetic Arts; a community-based company providing dance training for all ages across Manchester and Cheshire.



### **Lauren Smith**

Lauren trained at Middlesex University and received a First Class (BA Hons) degree in Dance Performance in 2016. She has continued to train and work both nationally and internationally within dance, yoga and martial arts. Lauren studied yoga in Rishikesh, India which continues to influence her dance practice. Lauren tailor's yoga and fitness classes to people with disabilities in the community.

Alongside performing, choreographing and writing, Lauren currently works in the South West with inclusive dance companies: SculptMotion Dance Company and Wheelfever Projects.



### **Becky Smithson**

Becky studied BA (Hons) Dance at University of Leeds and is now a freelance Dance Artist and Dance and Drama Teacher. Becky specialises in teaching A Level Dance, GCSE Dance and cross-curricular creative projects for KS2 and KS3. Becky is highly skilled in contemporary dance with additional strengths in ballet, jazz, street, Bollywood, capoeira and physical theatre. Becky mentors Initial Teacher Training students and choreographs for school productions.

She works as an event coordinator, organises educational visits and co-founded the South Yorkshire Dance Hub Education Group. In 2018, Becky went part-time at school to pursue a vocation that crosses both community and educational dance settings.