



**Annual Report 2023/24**

# THE COMPANY

DU Dance (NI) is a vibrant, progressive dance company, highly regarded for its work at the cutting edge of dance 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.

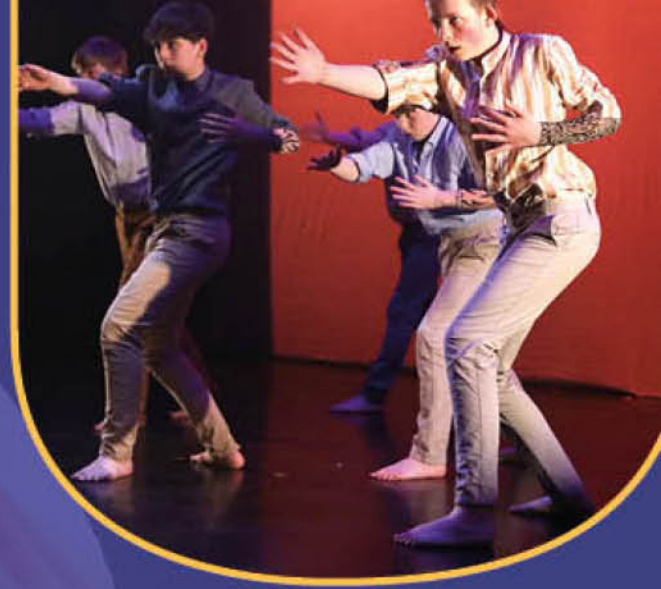
Through dance, the company aims to inspire people and communities to realise their full potential and is committed to building new audiences and to training and sharing skills.

**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

- Barnado's NI
- Belfast City Council
- Belvoir Studio Theatre
- Beyond Skin
- Blessed Trinity College
- Brian Friel Theatre, QUB
- Causeway Coast & Glens BC
- Craic Theatre & Arts
- Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich
- Dar Al-Kalima University, Bethlehem
- Diyar Arts Theatre
- Dungannon Youth Resource Centre
- Education Authority NI
- Leabank Nursing Home
- Mid Ulster DC
- Newington Day Centre
- One Dance UK
- Queens University, Belfast
- STEP Language School
- The MAC, Belfast
- VILLA, Leipzig
- Whiterock Children's Centre
- Y dance, Scotland
- Youth Arts Wales

# PROGRAMMES OF WORK

DU Dance (NI) 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 differences 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

**Les McLean (Treasurer until Dec 2023)** - Project Manager, Business Services Organisation

**Tom Hughes (Treasurer from Jan 2024)** - Online Visual Content Producer, BBC Northern Ireland

**Claire Flynn** - Policy and Public affairs manager for NI – Heritage Fund

**Marie O'Donoghue** - Manager of Creative Schools/Schools Improvement – EANI

## Youth Steering Group

**Rebecca Wallace** (Young Ambassador)

**Amelie Corr • Oisin Gordon • Paulina Kadlof • Leo Keery • Molly Kelly**

**Noah Kerloch • Kittl Lasyk • Oresta Pilsudskaite • Rory Press Worth**

**Noah Preston • Saoirse Ryan-Lunn • Tiarna Ryan-Lunn**

## Company Staff

**Mags Byrne** - Artistic Director

**Gina Donnelly** - Creative Producer

**Kate Guelke** - Creative Producer

**Morag Stuart** - Marketing Co-ordinator

**Deborah Hamilton** - Youth Engagement Project Director

**Sheena Kelly** - Community Development Artist

Core Youth Engagement Dance Artists:

**Christine O'Neill • Michaela Elliot • Philip Johnston • Sean O'Neill • Rebecca Wallace**

### PRINCIPAL FUNDERS:



### SUPPORT & FUNDING



### IN KIND SUPPORT FROM:



### CONTACT US

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[du.dance.ni](https://www.instagram.com/du.dance.ni)

Charity No. NIC102765 Company No. NI063813

Graphics, Design & Print – Media Design & Print. Belfast



# ANNUAL REPORT

April 2023 - March 2024



2 INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS



6 FILM SCREENINGS



5 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS



3 SUMMER SCHOOLS



15,076 AUDIENCE MEMBERS  
999 PARTICIPANTS  
356 WORKSHOP SESSIONS  
24 PROJECT PARTNERS  
81 PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTS  
389 VOLUNTEER HOURS



31 PERFORMANCE EVENTS

## CROSSING THE DIVIDE

### Belfast Boys Youth Engagement Project:

☀️ 1 🗣️ 70  
🌐 5 🦶 24  
👤 1 🐾 11,450

### Primary School Dance Festival:

🌐 2 🗣️ 2  
🦶 218 🦶 197

### Workshops:

Black Mountain PS.  
🗣️ 2 🦶 100  
Venture Kids Summer School  
☀️ 1 🗣️ 70  
🦶 57

## CLOSING THE GAP

### Alternative Energies:

🗣️ 35 🦶 25  
🌐 3 🐾 177  
👤 1

### Film Night:

🎬 5 🐾 56

### Workshops:

Creative Schools workshops  
🗣️ 8 🦶 36  
Newington workshops  
🗣️ 15 🦶 30

## BUILDING BRIDGES

### Sutemos & Suteinis Youth Engagement Projects:

☀️ 1 🗣️ 70  
🦶 23 🦶 5  
🐾 1,175 🗣️ 1 🗣️ 1

### Care:

🗣️ 14 🦶 111  
🌐 3 🐾 105 🗣️ 1

### Workshops:

Fermanagh & Omagh DC  
🗣️ 6 🦶 25  
Ballymoney  
🗣️ 2 🦶 16  
Whiterock Children's Centre  
🗣️ 7 🦶 32

## OPENING THE SPECTRUM

Artists Training Programme:  
🌐 3 🗣️ 11 🦶 45

Unanimous Platform:  
🗣️ 5 🌐 1 🦶 109  
🐾 260

Day of Dance:  
🗣️ 2 🌐 1 🦶 30  
🐾 130

Cultural Bridge:  
🗣️ 54 🦶 11 🌐 7  
Online film screenings  
🐾 1500  
🗣️ 2 social media campaigns

Youth Steering Group:  
🗣️ 7 🦶 13 🗣️ 1  
🗣️ 1 social media campaign

International Projects:  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
2 companies & 1 artist ongoing mentoring  
Bethlehem, Palestine  
2 Artists Training programmes  
5 dance artists from Belfast training  
🗣️ 44 🦶 115