

## SADLER'S WELLS SUMMER UNIVERSITY

### Year One

Monday 15 . Friday 26 August 2011

The first of its kind in the UK, **Sadler's Wells Summer University** is a four year open programme studying the art and craft of choreography. Following the announcement of the initiative in October last year, Sadler's Wells is delighted to announce the students attending for the inaugural programme.

Directed by one of the most respected choreographers working in Europe today, **Jonathan Burrows**, the *Sadler's Wells Summer University* is open to aspiring choreographers from a wide range of dance styles, offering free places to up to 15 students through open applications. Aimed specifically at choreographers with up to 5 years professional experience, the four-year programme features a two-week intensive period every summer starting this August.

From **15 – 26 August 2011**, the 15 young professionals ranging in age from 24 to 36 will be given the opportunity to work with award-winning choreographer and author **Jonathan Burrows** for a fortnight of intensive talks, lectures, discussions and workshops. With additional input from guest artists and speakers the course will focus on compositional and choreographic processes, performance and philosophies. It will also encourage participants to question how dance can be made and what it might communicate to somebody watching.

The 15 students who embark on the first of their four year course this August are: **Amy Bell, Cameron McMillan, Efrosini Protopapa, Gillie Kleiman, Danya Hammoud, Valentina Golfieri, Vicki Igbokwe, Alexander Whitley, Jamila Johnson Small, Melanie Teall, Wilkie Branson, Hemabharathy Palani, Hetain Patel, Matthias Sperling** and **Lorena Randi**. Full biographies of the students and speakers can be found in notes to editors.

**Jonathan Burrows comments:** *"In an intensive two weeks the 15 choreographers will be encouraged to listen, look, study, discuss and reflect upon their own practice and on that of other dance artists, not in an academic way but as a preparation for the making of new work. Rather than experiment, the idea is to clarify what has been done and push that towards what might also be possible. The impact of this work when repeated over a number of years has a greater chance of spreading beyond the initial group of participating artists, and slowly shift approaches to choreography."*

The programme is an ambitious next stage in the range of initiatives Sadler's Wells offers to support and develop choreographers. The Jerwood Charitable Foundation is supporting the programme as part of the ongoing **Jerwood Studio at Sadler's Wells** which began in 2006, to develop creative opportunities for dancers and choreographers to experiment and take risks. It has enabled artists to develop new avenues of exploration with people or ideas through a variety of means, including studio time, professional development courses, networking meals, and public talks.

To date, 24 projects have been supported through the *Jerwood Studio*, and while the emphasis has been on research and development, allowing emerging and established

artists the rare freedom to explore an idea with collaborators and dancers before any rehearsal period begins, of these, 75% have been produced, either by Sadler's Wells or through other commissioners. Artists who have benefitted from the programme include; Russell Maliphant, Es Devlin, Jasmin Vardimon, Matthew Bourne, Thea Sharrock and Fin Walker, Liv Lorent, Frauke Requardt and David Rosenberg.

The *Sadler's Wells Summer University* is a longer-term approach to choreographic study, designed for artists after their initial training, in the early stages of their careers.

**Alistair Spalding, Sadler's Wells Chief Executive and Artist Director says:** " *While we have been fortunate to support and present the work of dance makers at the peaks of their career, it's extremely important that we continue to feed the pool of talent and support the next generation of choreographers. I'm very excited to be doing so through the Sadler's Wells Summer University which offers an important development in the understanding and teaching of choreography.*"

**For further information or to arrange interviews please contact Abigail Desch, Press Manager, Sadler's Wells on 020 7863 8119 or via [abigail.desch@sadlerswells.com](mailto:abigail.desch@sadlerswells.com)**

## Notes to Editors

### About Sadler's Wells

Sadler's Wells is the UK's leading dance house, committed to producing, commissioning and presenting new works and to bringing the very best international and UK dance to London audiences. Under the Artistic Directorship of Alistair Spalding the theatre's cutting edge programme spans dance in all its forms, from cutting-edge contemporary to flamenco, Bollywood to ballet, salsa to street dance and tango to tap. Its international award-winning collaborative productions and commissions include *Sutra*, *zero degrees*, and *PUSH*. Sadler's Wells also provides a home to world class Associate Artists and Resident Companies including Sylvie Guillem, Akram Khan, Hofesh Shechter, Wayne McGregor | Random Dance, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures and ZooNation.

### About Jerwood Charitable Foundation

The Jerwood Charitable Foundation is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting emerging artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim for their funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. They work with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. For more information visit [www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org](http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org).

## Student Biographies

London-based dancer and choreographer **Amy Bell (29)** trained at London Contemporary Dance School and in 2007 joined Maresa von Stockert's Tilted Productions. She choreographed chamber opera *Crossing the Sea* commissioned by Wilton's Music Hall, *Perlas a los Puercos* and *That Was the Time I Stopped* which has been presented at ROH2, The Place 40th Anniversary and London Graduate Fashion Week. Amy is a lecturer in Critical Studies at Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance.

New Zealand born freelance dancer and choreographer **Cameron McMillan (34)** first began creating work in workshop seasons for the companies he danced with, most notably Rambert Dance Company for whom he made four works. In 2006 he had his work elevated into the main stage repertoire of RAD's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programme at Sadler's Wells. In 2007 he received his first major commission for the Royal New Zealand Ballet and took part in the Dancelines Choreographic Programme at the Royal Opera House. Now an Associate Artist of Dance East, he has just premiered a new commission for The Royal New Zealand Ballet.

**Efrosini Protopapa (32)** is a Greek choreographer and researcher based in London since 2002. She is the artistic director of the performance group Lapsus Corpi, and has presented work in theatres and non-traditional performance spaces in various cities in the UK, as well as in Athens, Utrecht and Berlin. Efrosini has been Resident Artist at Dance4, Nottingham, and was awarded the Bonnie Bird New Choreography Award 2008. She has also collaborated as a research assistant, scenographer and performer with artists such as Gill Clarke, Carol Brown and Ivana Müller.

**Gillie Kleiman (26)**, based in Newcastle upon Tyne and London, received a first class BA (Hons) in Dance and Culture with Professional Training from the University of Surrey in 2008 and was a recipient of the danceWEB scholarship in the same year. Her solo and collaboratively-made performances have been presented throughout the UK and in Austria, France, Germany, Poland, Portugal and Serbia. More recently, she has begun to develop a curatorial practice, presenting the work of international artists in London and the Northeast of England. She is currently an AHRC-funded MA student in Performance and Creative Research at Roehampton University as well as serving as an Artistic Assessor for Arts Council England.

Lebanese **Danya Hammoud (30)** is the co-founder of Zoukak Theatre Company and cultural association in Lebanon. She received a B.A. in Theatre, from the Fine Arts Institute, at Lebanese University, Beirut 2003. She has participated as an actress and dancer with several Lebanese directors. In 2005 she followed the CNDC, the Superior School of contemporary Dance, (directed by Emmanuelle Hyunh) Angers-France, where she started developing short performances and performed in *My country music* a dance piece by the American choreographer Deborah Hay. She also received a Masters degree in dance research and studies from the Paris8 University, France 2010. Her work has been presented in Lebanon, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Morocco and France.

**Valentina Golfieri (28)** moved to the UK from Rimini to train at London Contemporary Dance School. Her performances include; *Electric Hotel* and *Pictures from an Exhibition* for Frauke Requardt, *Macbeth* (ROH) originally choreographed by Michael Keegan-Dolan, Theatre-Ritesq *Mischief*, Arthur Pitaq *God's Garden*, Will Tuckettq *Thief Of Baghdad* for ROH2 and *DanceLines* directed by Wayne McGregor. With Amy Bell she has choreographed *That Was the Time I Stopped* which has been presented at ROH2 Firsts, The Place 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and The Junction: Sampled, *Crossing The Sea*, a new chamber opera commissioned by Wiltonq Music Hall, and *Pelras a Los Puercos*. Following a residency in St Petersburg, Valentina and Amy are currently embarking on a new project to be developed during Choreodrome 2011 at The Place.

**Vicki Igbokwe (30)** is a choreographer, teacher, dance manager and lecturer. She is the Creative Director of Uchenna Dance, which offers services in education, community and management and produces events and projects, and runs an International Dance Artist programme. Her practice based research for Uchenna Dance, developing her vocabulary Urban Contemporaryq fuses Contemporary, Waacking, Vogueing, African and House Dance. Vicki is a visiting lecturer at the University of East London, Module Leader (Jazz Dance) at Middlesex University and a teacher at Kensington and Chelsea College delivering Urban Contemporary on the BTEC National Diploma courses. She is an ADAD Trailblazer Fellow (07-08) a Lisa Ullman Travel Scholarship recipient (08-09), a member of the Independent Dance Management Network (IDMN) and one half of the ADiaspora Collective.

UK born **Alexander Whitley (30)** trained at the Royal Ballet School, joining Birmingham Royal Ballet in 2000 where he choreographed for two workshop seasons. Joining Rambert Dance Company in 2004 he choreographed five pieces for Rambert Seasons of New Choreography; *From Two to Two Ones* (2005), *Tipping Point* (2006), *Solo?* (2007), an extended version of *Solo?* (2008) and *Iatrogenesis* (2009). In 2008 *Solo?* was taken into Rambert's repertoire. Nominated for the 2008 Critics' Circle Awards Spotlight Award, he joined Wayne McGregor | Random Dance in September 2010. He has also shown work at the Royal Opera Houseq Summer Collection programme (2009) and has recently made his first work for The Royal Ballet as part of their 2011 Draft Works programme. He has also choreographed for a Discovery Channel film, directed by Tim Meara and a short film made with London film collective DuckEye.

**Jamila Johnson Small (24)** is a collaborative dance artist who trained at London Contemporary Dance School. Since leaving full-time training she has performed in Finland and Sardinia and spent time in residence at Chisenhale Dance Space. She will soon begin work on a new piece *William William* at Yorkshire Dance and then at the Firkin Crane. She is constantly adding to her ongoing series of short, site-responsive dances titled *Lost Dances*. She is a founding member of Hiru Dance, part of the BELLYFLOP Magazine executive team, performs with improvisation ensemble Trumpet Creepers and regularly makes work with a group of female performers called immigrants and animalsq

Nairobi born **Melanie Teall (36)** trained at Central School of Ballet, London. She choreographed *The Invitation* at The Place in 2003 and *Common Factors* for Resolution! at The Place in 2007. Joining Rambert from 2003. 2007 she choreographed two works for the Rambert Workshop Seasons. *Transit*, which later appear in Rambert's 2006 repertoire and *L'aveil*, which featured in 2007. She has since choreographed for Scapino Ballet, Rotterdam, creating *Abstract Human* for their 2008 Twoools festival, Xenomania Records, Intoto Dance Company and for ENB's *Swanning Around* project at the Royal Albert Hall 2010. Also in 2010 Melanie worked for Sadler's Wells Connect, contributing to the performance of *Maquette* and most recently made *Left to Write* for Transitions Dance Company. Teaching includes London School of Contemporary Dance, Rambert School and the Rambert Dance Company education department.

Self-trained bboy **Wilkie Branson (27)** began dancing in 2001 and has worked extensively with film, text and the expressive paradigm of the bboy form. He battled in the UK, Europe and US 2003-2007, and represented with the UK crew at Freestyle Session 09 in LA. Much of the work he has done since has been theatre-based with Champloo Dance Company, exploring bboying predominantly through site-specific film works. Most recently he was commissioned to produce *White Caps*, a full length live/film expressive bboying work for the Bristol Old Vic which performs at Sadler's Wells's Lilian Baylis Studio in October. His latest film *Stronger* has screened at festivals in the US, Chile, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the UK.

**Hemabharathy Palani (30)** is a prominent figure among the emerging new choreographers of contemporary India. The winner of the 2009 Robert Bosch Young Choreographer's Award, she created her second solo *Uruvam (Form)* dealing with issues of gender and transformation. Her earlier work *Chaaya (Shadows)* premiered at the Attakkalari India Biennial Festival of Contemporary Dance and Digital Arts in February, 2009. The work done in collaboration with a team of reputed Indian and international artists, dealt with the difficult issue of child sexual abuse. She has participated in several national and international projects and performed at many major European festivals. Her movement style which blends the distilled vocabularies of classical Indian dance forms such as Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi (in which she has trained for 13 years and performed extensively) with contemporary dance, is also informed by her training in Kalarippayattu, yoga, contact improvisation and classical ballet.

**Hetaim Patel (30)** is an interdisciplinary artist from a visual arts background. His award winning work spans photography, video and live performance. Having presented works worldwide in galleries, film festivals and more recently in theatres, his practice interrogates various sensory forms of language, communication and cultural identity, explored through linguistics, rituals and the body. His first piece for the theatre, *TEN*, produced by Dance4 Nottingham, toured nationally and featured at 2011's Sydney Festival, Australia. *TEN* has been selected for the British Council's Edinburgh Showcase 2011. A visiting lecturer at Nottingham Trent University in Fine Art, Hetaim serves as a board member at Déda, Derby's dance centre and as a member of Regional Council for Arts Council England, East Midlands. Substantial residences over the past five years include a summer at 501 Arts Space in Chongqing, China (2009), where he collaborated with visual artists, choreographers and musicians.

London-based choreographer and dancer **Matthias Sperling (36)** is an Associate Artist with Dance4 and winner of a Bonnie Bird New Choreography Award. Originally from Canada, Matthias has been based in the UK since 1997, where he has collaborated and performed with companies including Wayne McGregor | Random Dance and Siobhan Davies Dance. His recent works have included commissions for Candoco Dance Company, Southbank Centre and Dance Umbrella London, and have been presented at international festivals including Springdance (Netherlands), Nottdance (UK), Les Repérages (France) and ROH2 Firsts. Do

*Not Be Afraid* (2011), a duet with dance artist Rachel Krische, humorously explores the relationship between body and mind in dance and his interactive installation, *Thought Dance* (2011), investigates related territory by using EEG brain scanning technology to explore the notion of thought as a physical movement.

Following her classical ballet training **Lorena Randi** gained a BA honours in contemporary dance and choreography at London Contemporary Dance School. Her extensive career includes dancing for Charles Linehan (1995 - 1997), Michael Clark Company (1998-2006), Mark Morris, The Cholmondeleys, Aletta Collins, Arthur Pita, Tom Sapsford and Bock and Vincenzi. She has also worked in opera, theatre and choreographed pop videos and 'shorts' for fashion and the visual arts. Her choreographic experience includes two graduation pieces for London Contemporary Dance School (2007 & 2009), and in 2008 she collaborated with photographer Nick Knight and Maison Margiela on a film for 'showstudio'. She has worked with visual artists such as film maker Daria Martin, Cerith Gwyn-Evans, Sarah Lucas, and Martin Creed. Her extensive opera work includes at the Royal Opera House and across Europe and the US with choreographer Michael Keegan Dolan, and with Robert LePage in *1984* and *Rake's Progress* at the ROH. Earlier this year she choreographed *Sweeney Todd* for the Theatre du Chatelet, Paris.

## Speakers' biographies

### Jonathan Burrows

Born in 1960, Jonathan Burrows danced with the Royal Ballet for 13 years before forming his own company in 1992. Since 2001 he has concentrated on one to one collaborations with other artists, including five duets to date with the composer Matteo Fargion which has resulted in Burrows and Fargion giving 200 performances across 28 countries to date. *Both Sitting Duet* won a 2004 New York Dance and Performance Bessie Award, and *Cheap Lecture* was chosen for the 2009 Het Theaterfestival in Belgium.

Other high profile commissions include Sylvie Guillem, and William Forsythe's Ballet Frankfurt, and in 2008 Jonathan was Associate Director for Peter Handke's *The Hour We Knew Nothing Of Each Other* at the National Theatre, London. In 2002 he received an award from the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts In New York, in recognition for his ongoing contributions to contemporary dance. He is a Guest Professor at Hamburg University, Berlin Free University and Royal Holloway, University of London. His *A Choreographer's Handbook* was published by Routledge this year.

### David Hinton

David Hinton worked for ten years on the TV arts programme *The South Bank Show*, where he made documentaries about artists of all kinds, including Francis Bacon, Alan Bennett, Bernardo Bertolucci, John Cleese, Little Richard and Siobhan Davies. He has also made films about Dostoyevsky, visual comedy, climate change, and the Cultural Revolution in China. His work with dance includes making films with Adventures in Motion Pictures, Russell Maliphant, the Alvin Ailey Company and the Royal Swedish Ballet, and he has collaborated with several choreographers to create original dance works for the screen. He is particularly well known for his film versions of stage shows by DV8 Physical Theatre. *Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men* and *Strange Fish*. He has twice won BAFTA awards for his documentaries, and his dance films have won many prizes, including a Prix Italia and an Emmy. He has won the IMZ Dance Screen Award three times. Most recently in 2010 for the film *Nora*, made in collaboration with Alla Kovgan. He set up the MA course in Dance For The Screen at London Contemporary Dance School, and has led dance film workshops all over the world.

### Rudi Lermans

Rudi Lermans is professor of social theory at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Leuven (Belgium). He has published widely within the areas of contemporary social theory, particularly social systems theory and critical theory, sociology of culture, and sociology of the arts. He researched and directed numerous PhDs on theoretical as well as cultural themes, ranging from Flemish cultural policy over contemporary religious pluralism and globalization to love as a social system. Since its foundation in 1995, he is also a guest teacher in the theory program of PARTS, the Brussels based dance school directed by Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker. Besides being an academic, Lermans is also active as an essayist and dance

critic. He regularly contributes to *Etcetera*, the Flemish journal for the performing arts, the international journal *Performance Research*, and various book publications on dance and the performing arts. In 2010 he held the Valeska Gert guest professorship on dance at the Institute for Theatre Sciences of the Free University of Berlin. He is currently finishing a book on contemporary dance - *Moving Together*, which will be published in 2011 by Valiz.

### **Matteo Fargion**

Matteo Fargion was born in Milan in 1961. He studied composition with Kevin Volans and Howard Skempton. His interest in contemporary dance began after seeing the Merce Cunningham Dance Company perform at the Sadler's Wells Theatre. This experience encouraged him to apply for the International Course for Choreographers and Composers in 1989, where he first wrote music for dance, and through which he met the choreographer Jonathan Burrows with whom he has collaborated since. Burrows and Fargion have made a series of six duets conceived, choreographed, composed, administrated and performed together. They have given over 200 performances across 28 countries. They have recently made a piece for teenagers for the Krokus Festival in Belgium. Matteo has worked with other choreographers including Lynda Gaudreau, Jeremy James and Russell Maliphant. Over the past 15 years he has developed a strong collaboration with Siobhan Davies, writing music for and performing in some of her most significant recent work. He also writes for theatre, particularly in Germany, where he has worked at the Residenz Theater Munich, and at the Berlin Schaubühne under the direction of Thomas Ostermeier. He is also active as a teacher, giving workshops and lectures internationally, and is a visiting lecturer at PARTS in Brussels.

### **Kingsley Jayasekera**

Director of Communications & Digital Strategy at Sadler's Wells, Kingsley is responsible for managing the marketing, press, ticket office and multimedia functions at the theatre. He began his career working on Carnival arts projects before moving onto Rambert Dance Company, London Bubble Theatre, Digital Classics (one of the first companies offering online streamed arts content) and the West End theatrical marketing agencies Dewynters, McCabe's and M&H Communications. In addition he is on the board of Audiences London - the arts audience development agency for the London region, Dance East, East London Dance and the Gate Theatre.

### **Liz Lerman**

Liz is a choreographer, performer, writer, educator and speaker. Described by the Washington Post as "the source of an epochal revolution in the scope and purposes of dance art, her dance/theatre works have been seen throughout the United States and abroad. Her aesthetic approach spans the range from abstract to personal to political. She founded Liz Lerman Dance Exchange in 1976 and has cultivated the company's unique multi-generational ensemble into a leading force in contemporary dance. Liz has been the recipient of numerous honours, including a 2002 MacArthur *Genius Grant* Fellowship. Liz's work has been commissioned by Lincoln Center, American Dance Festival, and the Kennedy Center among many others. Her newest work, *The Matter of Origins*, examines the question of beginnings through dance, media and innovative formats for conversation. Her collection of essays, titled *Hiking the Horizontal: Field Notes from a Choreographer*, is due out from Wesleyan University Press in spring of 2011. Born in Los Angeles and raised in Milwaukee, Liz attended Bennington College and Brandeis University, received her BA in dance from the University of Maryland, and an MA in dance from George Washington University.

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