

Celebrating Thirty Years

DANCECITY

Dance for the North East

30



ANNUAL REVIEW

dancecity.co.uk

2015—2016

Welcome



Dance City is the North East's leading development organisation for dance, which exists to lead and

support a thriving dance ecology in the region.

This has been another incredible year on our mission to take dance to everyone in the North East. The organisation is driven by the talent, determination and pleasure all of our users express through dance and I'd like to thank everyone who has made 2015-16 a year to remember; the staff, class attenders, audiences and dance artists.

It is with pleasure that we look back and share with you our highlights whilst always looking forward to more great achievements to come.

Anthony Baker
Artistic Director & joint CEO
anthony.baker@dancecity.co.uk



Art and culture make a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of individuals, communities,

and the economy. Dance City is privileged to be at the heart of a thriving cultural scene in the North East, a region rich in talent, passion and energy. We welcome the responsibility that comes with being the regions' lead dance organisation, and have ambitious plans for further developing the infrastructure of facilities, education, and opportunity that have become features of Dance City's 30 year history. We recognise we are only part of the broader arts ecology, and offer our congratulations and best wishes to everyone involved across the region in a successful 2015/16.

Jeff Dean,
Chair, Dance City Board

Major funders



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



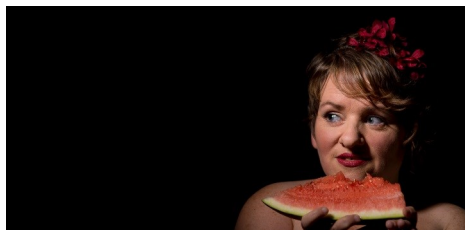
**Community
Foundation**
Newcastle Culture Investment Fund
Supported by
Newcastle
City Council

Supported by



**Department
for Education**

2015-16 at a glance



Performances

38% more performances
64% more tickets sold

Find out more: p 4-5

Classes

15% more attendances
97% of first timers rate us
Good or Excellent

Find out more: p 6-7



Engagement

9,099 people engaged
Wider range of styles

Find out more: p 8-9

Learning

BBC Young Dancer winner
100% BA graduates working
in dance or post-grad study

Find out more: p 10-11



Professional

3,031 attendances
2,359 hours of studio time

Find out more: p 12-13

Performances

The Dance City Theatre has quickly established itself as the place to see the best touring and regional dance companies in the North East. Our 254 seat theatre is the perfect space to see dance and we're proud to be growing our audience and their experience of award-winning companies and leading choreographers.

We pride ourselves on being a welcoming venue where you can get up close with dance and have the opportunity to hear more from the choreographers and dancers with our bite-sized post-show talks.

Our Dance Edits platform event of North East work sold out for the first time in 2015.



“National Dance Company Wales enjoys its visits to Dance City enormously: the audience is always engaged, curious and responsive; our dancers enjoy using the fabulous facilities, and the post-show talk audiences are amongst the most inquisitive and informed of any we meet. We can't wait to come back next year.

Paul Kaynes

Chief Executive, National Dance Company Wales



“ Consistently high quality shows, unpretentious atmosphere, welcoming building, friendly staff, good value ticket prices.

I've never been disappointed following a visit to DC.

”

“

It was a new venue for us and we really enjoyed the atmosphere and theatre.

Can't wait to come again!

”

“

Great building, welcoming atmosphere and an excellent programme.

Dance City feels more alive than any other arts space in the city.

”

“

A welcoming place where you can see quality dance at a reasonable price.

”

Biggest
programme of dance
outside of London

43

performances

38% more than last year

5630

tickets sold

64% more than last year

72%

of available seats sold

3% more than last year

**Average show review
from our audiences**



36%

new attenders

13% more than last year

Classes & Workshops

We introduced a number of new classes in 15/16 expanding our range and reach, and significantly expanded our offer for people aged 55+.

We supported 34 freelance teachers to deliver our regular classes in 15/16 invested in free intensive training in autism

awareness, inclusivity and first aid. We also introduced a Dance City uniform for teachers.

Improvements were made to our studios' sound systems and aesthetics; we created additional space and installed new studio floors.



“ The range of classes is great. The lady at reception was fab for someone like me who was nervous! And the teacher kept the right pace for the group despite differing abilities and was approachable for personal questions from individuals. The whole experience gave me the confidence to try lots more classes!

”

“ Accessible, friendly,
diverse and welcoming.
Nice atmosphere and
lovely studio and great
teacher. Very
professional but
relaxed.

”

“ Everyone was welcoming
and friendly. The teacher
was fantastic. It was
pitched appropriately and
gave me confidence to
come back.

”

“ I love how fantastic the
facilities are (it's the best
dance studio I've ever
used). I love that
professional standard
facilities are available for
use by members of the
public. The class is a lot
of fun and I think the
instructor is brilliant.

”

“ Dance City is a great
place to start if you have
never danced before. It
does not solely
concentrate on the
provision of classes for
professionals or those
wanting to
be professionals but
provides a range of
classes for a wide
community without
regard to gender,
physical condition or
age.

”

78

classes each week

36,317

attendances at classes

15% more than last year

3,855

**people who booked
classes**

9% more than last year

97%

**of first time attenders
rated their experience as
Good or Excellent**

1,000

**free taster spaces at the
DC30 Open Day**

Engagement

We are seeing a diverse range of people from a wider area in our workshops. Our workshops are more accessible and we are finding that people with a range of learning and emotional differences and physical disabilities are enjoying engaging with Dance City.

We have hosted a range of

festivals in the last year: Pulse Youth dance festival, Boyz Moves Platform and the Freedom Moving inclusive evening of dance. All three engaging over 400 dancers.

We have secured funding from Tyne and Wear Sport to run three satellite groups for the fifth year running.



"

Once in a lifetime opportunity that I will remember for the rest of my life.

Monkseaton Middle School student, Rugby League Cares

"

"

It just makes me feel better, relaxes my muscles.

Care home resident—Care to Dance project

"

"

I feel more confident to do other things in my life.

Sir Charles Parson Student, Sportivate Project

"

"

We deliver high quality dance right in the heart of the community.

Satellite Club

"

More diverse

range of people engaged than ever before

Wider

range of styles delivered

Artists

from all over the world are asking to be part of our delivery team

9,099

people took part in our engagement activity

All over

we've engaged people in Newcastle/Gateshead, South and North Tyneside, Durham, Darlington, Stockton, Washington, Sunderland, Jarrow, Prudhoe & Holy Island.

Learning Academy

Our Learning Academy goes from strength to strength with 2015 seeing our first graduates emerge from the MA Professional Dance Practice.

In May 2015 Dance City Centre for Advanced Training and Gateshead College BTEC student Connor Scott became the first ever BBC Young Dancer in a live TV final at Sadler's Wells.

Our BA (Hons) Dance Professional Practice degree with Gateshead College and Northumbria University saw its first ever third year head towards graduation.

This vital area of Dance City's work aims to train and retain the best dance talent in the North East.

“ We are thrilled by Connor's achievement. He is both an exceptional dancer and a lovely young man who has worked incredibly hard and that dedication has paid off. There is no doubt that a stunning career in dance lies ahead of him. It is fantastic to see such talent emerging from the very unique partnership we have with Dance City.

**Judith Doyle, Principal
and CEO at
Gateshead College**



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
**GATESHEAD
COLLEGE**



**Teesside
University**



"

We are so grateful for all the training, support and opportunities created by CAT that has enabled Rose to get this far in dance, aged only 16.

CAT Parent

"

"

Dance City has opened up so many pathways which I didn't realise were available to me. I feel I have improved both technically and creatively, and my knowledge has advanced since being here.

BA (Hons) Dance Professional Practice 2nd year

"

"

My time on the MA has opened my eyes to not just a deeper understanding of dance practice, facilitation and research methodologies, but also has created the space and support to develop my confidence and expand my professional skills beyond what I believed I could do.

MA Student

"

61

schools/venues visited for CAT talent spotting

109

Centre for Advanced Training students

94%

Level 3 Dance students progressed to Conservatoires, specialist HE courses and work in the industry

53

students enrolled on BA (Hons) Dance Professional Practice

100%

BA graduates working in dance or in post-graduate study

Professionals

Dance City works extensively to support, develop and promote dance artists in the North East of England. We are passionate about the amazing talent we have in the region and provide numerous opportunities for that talent to flourish. We have a free daily class in ballet and contemporary dance and various guest teachers from across the world and in addition deliver a number of specialised workshops



focused on areas such as making promo videos of work and working with producers. We commission up to 8 new pieces of dance work from North East based dance artists each year and provide performance opportunities at our theatre and at partner venues across the whole of the North of England. We support many dance artists in their funding applications to other funders and provide free or subsidised studio space for the making of that work.

We invite dance artists from across the world to our residency programme, where they will create new work. Regional dance artists are invited to watch this process and often attend a sharing of the work at the end of the week.

Additionally we commissioned a full-length performance by regional artist Kristin Kelly-Abbott. Launch Day, bringing to life the paintings of the Wee Gaddies by Alexander Miller, toured to five regional venues and was well received. *To Suit*, a 20 minute performance created by regional artist Lizzie Klotz and commissioned by Dance City toured to Leeds and Manchester, representing Dance City in our Northern Platforms partnership.

We set up a new, two-year professional development initiative, Expanding Horizons, to support dancers, choreographers and producers in the region to enhance their skills and accelerate their development. This project, funded by Esmée Fairbairn Trust and Dance City, has taken ten young professionals through a programme of leadership, management, entrepreneurship and creative intensive sessions, providing mentors, opportunities to travel and to set up new business models.

“ As an emerging dance-maker in the North-East, Dance City's constant support and guidance has been invaluable, enabling me to create work and tour it regionally. Dance City is so supportive and sympathetic to the needs of dance-makers and dancers providing them with countless opportunities for professional development

**Kristin Kelly-Abbott,
Artistic Director,
Kelly-Abbott Dance
Theatre**

”

“ Dance City have supported Southpaw in its inception and development, having worked closely with the company to realise growing ambitions and scales of productions. As always we appreciate the continuing support of our local dance agency and look forward to even more exciting collaborations in the near future.

**Robby Graham, Artistic
Director, Southpaw
Dance Company**

”

Associates

**Kelly-Abbott Dance
Theatre**

**Southpaw Dance
Company**

3,031

**attendances at
professional classes,
workshops and event**

2,359

**hours of free studio time
used by professionals**

305

**hours of free
professional class**

199

**hours of professional
workshops and
development activity**

Celebrating Thirty Years

DANCECITY

30

Dance for the North East

2016 was a special year for Dance City as we celebrate 30 years in the North East and 10 years in our fabulous building.

In January we held a grand gala performance that brought together partners old and new to see the best of Dance City's activity.

In February we invited the public into Dance City for a

special open day for more than 1000 free taster class spaces, the chance to watch professional dancers working in the studio and fun activities for young dancers.

A 30th celebration exhibition opened in January to remember and celebrate 30 years of classes, engagement activity and professional development.



HARLEQUIN
The world dances on Harlequin floors®



The 30th Celebration Gala
was kindly sponsored by
Harlequin Floors

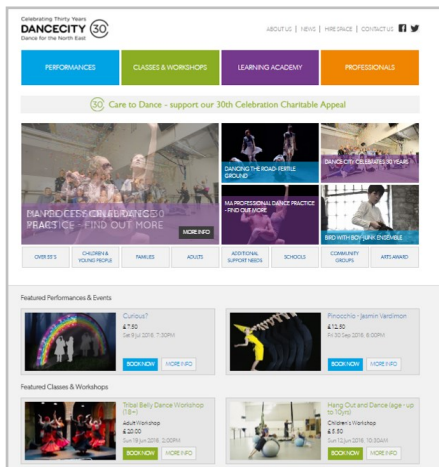
Care to Dance

Care to Dance is Dance City's 30th Celebration Charitable Appeal which launched in January 2016. A major new initiative run in partnership with Equal Arts, Care to Dance will take dance to older people in

care homes around the North East. The project will train and inspire a new generation of dance teachers in the specialist skills and required approach to lead sessions in this unique environment.



Digital Reach



dancecity.co.uk

145,774 visits by 88,379 users
up from 107,025 visits and
66,111 users in 2014-15

Facebook

4,253 likes up from 3,115

Twitter

5,936 followers up from 5,065

Board of Directors

Jeff Dean (Chair)
Sharon Paterson (Vice Chair)
Roshan Israni
Carole Wood
Ann Cooper
Kay Wilson
Mike Cockburn
Ally Robson
Lesley Callaghan
Frank Wilson
Tim Rubidge
Andy Bairstow

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Joint CEO & Artistic Director

Ian McKeown
Joint CEO & Finance & Operations Manager

Alex Anslow
Executive Assistant & Programme Coordinator

Patricia Stead
Creative Producer

Nina Byrne & James Allenby
Communications Manager (job-share)

Kate Newall
Digital Marketing & Communications Assistant

Helen Kumar (on maternity leave)
Holly Irving (maternity cover)

Dance Engagement Coordinator

Mel Cook
Classes & Bookings Coordinator

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Erin McGrath
Ticket Office Assistants

James Froment
Technical Manager

Michael Morgan
Technician

Liza Ryan
Technical Apprentice

Denis English
Caretaker

Neville Campbell
Head of Centre for Advanced Training

Marian Milbourne
Centre for Advanced Training Coordinator

Hannah Marshall
Centre for Advanced Training Administrator & Health & Wellbeing Coordinator



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Department for Education

DANCECITY 
Dance for the North East

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