Dance Scratch Night
Tuesday 21 November 2023
Old Fire Station, Oxford

Oxford Dance Forum are delighted to host an evening of new ideas and invite feedback, comments and discussion from the audience at the OFS. We have three local and one guest regional maker sharing work ranging in styles from Butoh, Bharatanatyam (South Asian classical dance), Contemporary and Freestyle.

1. Helen Edwards & Neo Cartouche - Enchanting Wood, Echoes of Yugen

Through Butoh dance we are investigating a range of Japanese aesthetics. In this piece we explore the essence of Yugen, a sense of mysterious profundity and beauty which may be felt when contemplating the subtleties of life that lie in the spaces between the visible and the invisible.

Helen Edwards *is an artist, arts psychotherapist and wildlife enthusiast, who has studied, performed and taught movement and dance for over 25 years. She trained in Japan, Indonesia, Europe, and the UK exploring Butoh Dance, Amerta Movement, improvised and environmental dance and art. Helen has danced in nature all her life and swims wildly every day. Her interest is in becoming more aware of the ecological body and the dynamic flux of life in creating a sustainable human community in balance in nature.*

Neo Cartouche *is an interdisciplinary contemporary artist who has dedicated her life to the arts. Her journey into the realm of Butoh unfolded while she was studying for her MA in Contemporary Art at Oxford Brookes University in 2015. Neo's work explores the delicate interplay between vulnerability and strength as she endeavours to untangle the intricacies of the human experience. Through her art, she navigates the complex dialogue between our existence and the planet we call home, creating a landscape of forms where each incarnation of her artistic practice informs and enriches the other.*

Instagram @artallotment | www.art-allotment.org.uk | Facebook Neo Cartouche Dance

2. Laura D'Italia - Alexa the robot

The choreography explores the movements of artificial intelligence and robots. I have used an industrial/electronic sound track for the performance as a work in progress. I research the idea of the soloist becoming human at times - I intend also to represent the robot breaking and finally shutting down. In order to represent the transformation and moving from one state of being to the other (robot/human), I explore different qualities of movement and use different types of music:
"Interface" sound effects/futuristic computer Sci fi sound effects HUD and UI sounds; "Atmospheric electro-industrial" mix 1; "Adrastea" - Van Sandano - epidemic; " Broken robot" - free sound effect

I gained a 2 years certificate in contemporary dance and choreography from London Contemporary Dance School in 1994. Since then, I have danced for companies and various choreographers in London and in Italy where I won a prize for best soloist senior choreography. I have also researched, danced, choreographed and produced contemporary dance solo videos. I have taken part in Creative Re-Work, a programme for unemployed contemporary dancers.

Facebook: Laura Ditalia | Instagram: ditalialaura

Interval

3. Chloe Kitching - A Moment In Time

This dance performance is about pausing in a single moment in time to reflect on what one is going to accomplish in the future. But for now it's accepting the moment of uncertainty and self doubt and simply just being and existing in the depth of it all.

It all starts with someone's advice given, switching to their own artist's opinion, to simply a moment in time which I will share with you all this evening. This performance is about showing to everyone that even when life gets busy, chaotic and you want to accomplish everything you have planned, it's also ok to just be and exist with no expectations.

Music: Snow Patrol / Chasing Cars

I've been dancing my whole life and I am finally at a place where I can call myself a real dance artist. I am a dance artist/teacher for Macantyre Charity and intune dance and movement.
In 2023, I became the founder of UKDanceVision community. I believe dance, movement and music are some of the most powerful sources of self expression.

Instagram: @chloe.kitching2 | Instagram: @ukdancevision - dance community and dance visual company

4. Kavya Iyer Ramalingam - (Don't) Tell me what Bharatanatyam is

I've grown up being fed certain ideas about what "Indian classical dance" is…in textbooks, in dance classes, by the Internet, by people. After 25 years of my practice, I no longer feel comfortable sticking to many of these rigid lines - of the body and of the mind. In my piece, I shall delve deeper into what Bharatanatyam has evolved into for me: rooted yet contemporary, local yet global, rigid yet fluid. I will explore what it means to be stuck in these in-between spaces of redefining Bharatanatyam for the world we live in today.

Music: Alex Hume

Originally from Kolkata, India, Kavya Iyer is a dancer, events manager and researcher, currently based in Oxford, UK. Trained primarily in the Indian classical dance form of Bharatanatyam for 25 years, she has also explored other genres such as Kathak, Kuchipudi, Bhangra, Indian Contemporary, and Bollywood. Her yoga practice, along with her love for reading, conversations, travelling, and learning new languages have also deeply influenced her work and ideas.

Kavya envisions dance as a tool to question all things important - social, cultural, artistic, global, shared and personal. Her goal is to make dance that speaks to a wide audience and tackles important topics of our time such as migration, gender, inequality and cultural identity/(ies).

Instagram @kavya.ir

If you have further feedback or comments, please email oxford.dance.forum@gmail.com and we will pass it onto the artists.

Keep in touch with ODF: www.oxforddanceforum.com | Instagram: @oxford.dance.forum

Facebook page: /oxforddanceCPD | Facebook group: ODF - Oxford Dance Forum

Oxford Dance Forum would like to thank the Old Fire Station and all their team for supporting this event.