

New Direction for Dance United's work in Yorkshire

"I'm a changed person. Coming here, it felt like I could start again, like it didn't matter what I done or where I come from."

"The performance ... That's the best memory I think I can ever have ...getting it together and performing what we learnt. It was a hard journey to travel through but we managed to get there."

Bradford Academy Graduates

Dance United's vision is to see young people, who suffer economic, social and educational disadvantage, transform their lives and realise their full potential by experiencing outstanding contemporary dance training and performance projects. To achieve this, Dance United works in collaboration with partners and locations across the UK.

Dance United has been working in Yorkshire for many years in prisons and the community. Projects include the award-winning Academy programme that was piloted in Bradford in 2006 and has been running there for the past five years; it offered hard-to-reach young people (many caught up in the youth justice system or excluded from mainstream education) a demanding, intensive 12-week programme modelled on professional contemporary dance training. Over three quarters of participants went on to further education, training or work and have kept away from crime. This pioneering work has led to the Academy model being successfully replicated in London and Wessex. A significant number progressed to our Yorkshire Performance Company and onwards to specialist dance training at conservatoires and HE institutions.

To build on this legacy, Dance United has evolved a new business model and has established Dance United Yorkshire (DUY) as a Community Interest Company (CIC) and as a founder member of the Dance United Alliance. Helen Linsell and Duncan Bedson are directors with executive responsibility and Carly Annable-Coop, Andrew Coggins and Blair Davies complete the Board of Directors.

"We will no longer be building- based in Bradford; we will have the flexibility to work across the region and respond to new partnership opportunities. We are looking forward to delivering bold new initiatives across Yorkshire and beyond to build on the Bradford Academy's outstanding reputation and results and reach many more young people in need. The Yorkshire Performance Company will continue to perform at key events and presentations. We will also train and develop dance artists in the region to undertake this challenging work and collaborate with leading national and international choreographers to create new pieces to nurture the talent of all our young people."

Dance United Yorkshire

For further information please contact Duncan Bedson, General Manager, Dance United Yorkshire:

Email: duncan@dance-united.com

Phone: +44 (0)1274 649404