

Producer Development,

Specialist in Carnival dance and dance film 2025

Freelance Contract: April to September 2025

Starts: February 10th 2025

Managers: Virginia Wollaston (Director Moving Souls Dance) with Linda Saunders (Business Consultant)

Fee: £4500

Fee: £5000

Shireenah Ingram with Carnival Costume, New Art Gallery 2023

Moving Souls Dance is an independent arts organisation that provides a range of services for artists, arts organisations and agencies, specialising in participatory arts, dance and climate justice arts activism. We produce, we partner with arts organisations and offer professional and personal development to encourage career progression.

MSD will be working with partners ACE dance and music and Newhampton Arts Centre to deliver Carnival dance events and a youth arts festival over the summer 2025. In addition, this year we will be offering a training in how to curate a dance film event with a work placement with Flatpack Festival Screen Dance (<https://flatpackfestival.org.uk/submissions/>). There will also be an opportunity to work on a theatre production with Red Lens Theatre company. All producers will have the opportunity to curate a showcase of emerging work by young artists in the Foyle Studio (Midlands Arts centre) in September 2025 for a live audience.

This will be a freelance paid contract from April to September 2025 for 3 emerging producers and will include 6 days of training and 20 days of work placement with a particular host/ company. Each producer will have a small budget to commission 3 pieces of dance/ dance theatre / dance film work to present in a final showcase, with a technical and dress rehearsal in the Foyle studio. The programme of learning over the training and work placements will identify a mentor to support specific areas of training/ experience and leadership skills for their future careers in arts management. Blogposts for MSD website and a final evaluation report will be required.

The successful candidates will be appointed with a contract and receive a bursary of £4,500 to cover your time attending training, planning sessions with hosts and delivery of specific activities/ events. Additional funding support will be offered for travel and food within the West Midlands.

MSD are committed to placing Climate Justice and sustainability at the heart of what we continue to produce and promote. The use of recycled or re-purposed materials for these events will be part of each programme and it is hoped that producers will use public transport to attend work placements as much as possible.

The project has received grant funding from the Arts Council National Lottery under the title: ***Producing Emerging Producers for diverse dance arts.***

**Background information and application submission:**

MSD co-produced Route 34: Embracing Cultures project with ACE dance and music and North Birmingham Alliance (NBA) for the B2022 Festival as part of the Commonwealth Games. https://www.northbirminghamalliance.com/route34

Over the Summer (June 12th – 14th September 2023), the pilot programme of producer development appointed Shireenah Ingram and Veniece Patel (2 early career diverse producers), to undertake initial training and work placements with ACE dance and music and Newhampton Arts Centre. They participated in 6 events taking the Caribbean Carnival dance costumes and dance processions to events in the West Midlands, which attracted large audiences. To see the producer responses to these events see their blogposts: <https://movingsouls.dance/2023/11/28/windrush-carnival-at-national-arboretum-august-6th/>. The final report can be found here:

<https://movingsouls.dance/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/FINAL-route-34-legacy-report.pdf>

There is a lack of producers and a lack of training to develop skills in this area in the West Midlands, especially in curating outdoor arts, dance carnival and dance film events. All the events plus training listed in the appendix will take place in the West Midlands. These dates are non-negotiable. We actively encourage applications from all backgrounds, genders and ages, and particularly welcome applications from people that are currently under-represented in the arts management sector (Black, Asian, Mixed race or those with lived experience of disability / neurodivergence).

**Submission of application**: **Deadline Friday 17th January 17.00**

Applications to be sent to: [ginnie@movingsouls.dance](mailto:ginnie@movingsouls.dance)

You can apply in any of the following formats:

* CV and letter. The letter should be no more than one side of A4.
* An audio recording of no more than 3 minutes.
* A video recording of no more than 3 minutes.

Whichever way you choose to make your application please tell us: your reasons for applying, your special interests / experiences and highlight any project you led/ been part off.

**The date for the interviews will be 29th January 2025**

**Training Workshop days for 2025: 15th – 16th February; 8th – 9th March; 5th – 6th April and will cover:**

* Legal and administrative requirements for outdoor arts events that are created in Local Authority / City centre venues & locations
* Management, registration and licensing documents for all events
* Requirements for Safeguarding and Health & Safety (including Risk Assessments for each event) when managing participatory events with children, young people and adults
* Setting up and managing media/ social media campaigns to attract audiences to events
* Understanding partnership and stakeholder agreements and managing communication between different stakeholders
* Understanding the context of Dance Film; curation and selection of dance film for an event; understanding distribution and touring dance film; setting up panel discussions
* Understanding how to curate an event targeted and programmed for disabled and neurodiverse participants and how to co-create a youth arts festival event
* Understanding the cultural and historical significance of Carnival traditions of costume and dance from the Caribbean as presented in the specific events (see Appendix)
* Understanding the evaluation methodology and Survey Monkey questionnaires to capture numbers and evaluation of audiences and participants to each of the events

**Programme will involve:**

The Producer will take on key tasks (supervised by partners ACE dance and music, Newhampton Arts, Red Lens, Sima Gonsai and Sampad) to assist the delivery of key events. Dates identified in Appendix are mostly confirmed. Tasks will include:

* Attending all the training events over 6 days
* Attending 20 days minimum on work placements within an agreed timetable
* Commissioning 3 artists and presenting their work in a showcase of emerging artist work in mac Birmingham
* Understanding the budget allocation and management of finances, including management of small budget for final showcase event
* Creation of blogposts with photos, posting social media updates with MSD and partner organisations platforms
* Complete Survey Monkey questionnaires and contribute evaluation data to framework
* Liaise with appointed video/ film maker and photographer (in agreement with MSD) to document the events for the project
* Document the process and the learning outcomes in a final report to MSD

**Work placements with partner hosts will involve:**

Work placements will be 20 days in total with additional opportunities to observe other events, which are not associated with the main work placement. Exact responsibilities will be defined with the partner host and work will be carried out in accordance with their company policies.

* Management of young people, participants and school groups participating in Carnival dance events.
* Supporting the team at ACEDM with costume, make-up, stewarding and health & safety on the delivery day of Carnival events
* Supporting partner host teams with planning events; the preparation of Risk Assessments and Safeguarding guidelines for each event
* Liaise with partner hosts to draw up clear communication of timetables, location, roles and responsibilities to artists, participants and volunteers for each event
* Agree with partner hosts the travel /transport arrangements for groups if attending events
* Work within partner host media guidelines and ensure media consent forms have been signed by participants so that Media coverage on selected social media platforms can promote these events
* Work with partner host community and volunteer engagement guidelines with timetables and location for all chaperones/ adult & YP participants
* Working alongside the Newhampton Arts Centre team to understand the needs of neuro-diverse young people (aged 11 – 25) participating in workshop activities at NAC
* Attend all of 6 events to manage agreed aspects of the delivery of each event (specifically costume procession/ evaluation and artist workshops)
* Support evaluation and audit of participation numbers and audience attendance
* Collate evaluation data and feedback from events with partner host

**Essential skills:**

* 2 years of experience delivering projects, producing or project managing in an arts context, including community and participation
* Experience of working with artists, participants and audiences within a project timetable
* A passion for outdoor arts and carnival dance events, dance film and theatre to provide participants and audiences with high quality experiences
* Excellent planning, organisational and communication skills and the ability to communicate with a number of different stakeholders
* Experience as a team player with a can-do attitude for all those involved
* Numerate and experienced in common office software with good level of administrative skills
* Ability to use and access social media tools and platforms to document and reach audiences for each event
* A high level of self-motivation – ability to work on own initiative
* Ability to think creatively and solve problems

**Desirable skills:**

* Experience of managing outreach and engagement projects
* Experience and understanding of venue management and operations

**APPENDIX 1: DATES FOR PEP 2025 PROGRAMME**

15th - 16th February 2 day workshop training with MSD & LS

8th – 9th March 2 day workshop training with MSD & LS

5th – 6th April 2 day workshop training on Dance Film with MSD & SG

31st March – 4th April Introduction meetings with host partners & producers

9th April – 17th May 10 day work placement with Sima Gonsai for Flatpack Festival

2nd June – 5th July 15 day work placement with Red Lens theatre new production directed by Shireenah Ingram

12th May – 12th July 15 day work placement with ACE dance and music to produce carnival dance events in Walsall Arboretum and regional venues

28th July – 3rd August 5 days work placement for Same Difference Festival based at Newhampton Arts Centre

23rd – 24th August Birmingham Weekender Festival Carnival in the Bullring

30th August Doorstep Carnival around Grosvenor Road Studios, Birmingham

1st – 18th September 5 days Co-curation of Showcase of work in mac Birmingham

30th September Final evaluation report submitted to MSD

**(These events are confirmed but days and dates in work placements are provisional)**

**Partner Organisations:**

**ACE dance and music: Carnival costume and dance events**

Founded in 1996, ACE dance and music is a national and international touring dance company. Although firmly rooted Birmingham, they are recognised leaders in the field of Contemporary African and Caribbean Dance. They aim to promote collaboration and cultural exchange using shared choreographic methods and new technologies. To this end the company has nurtured relationships with a network of international Artistic Associates. Seeking to blend African & Caribbean movement aesthetics with contemporary techniques to create high quality innovative performance – with original music & use of digital media film. The Caribbean Dance Carnival event will culminate in Walsall Arboretum on 4th July. Further Carnival events will take place on 23, 24th and 30th August.

**Newhampton Arts and Wolverhampton CEP: Same Difference Youth Arts Festival**

Newhampton Arts Centre (NAC) will be working with Wolverhampton Cultural Education Partnership (CEP) to programme an inclusive festival for young people, families, and carers of Wolverhampton of music, art and dance in West Park and NAC on 2nd and 3rd August. This accessible event will offer all day arts and crafts, drop-in sessions, live music and workshops for all abilities and ages 11 – 25.

**Sampad: Showcase of emerging artists at mac, Birmingham**

Sampad is a charity founded by Piali Ray OBE in 1990 to promote South Asian arts and culture. They have collaborated with numerous artists to bring their unique voices and talents to audiences across the UK and beyond. Sampad programmes a wide range of art forms, including dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and literature. Based in Midlands Arts Centre, Sampad’s mission is to connect people with South Asian and British Asian Arts and Heritage and to play a cutting-edge role in the creative economy. Sampad will oversee the development of the producer showcase in the Foyle studio at mac on 17th – 18th September.

**Red Lens Theatre (CEO Shireenah Ingram): Theatre production Birmingham**

Red Lens provide a combination of coaching and 1:1 sessions in technical skill, emotional depth, and authenticity, to help actors develop their skills to access the profession. Red Lens will stage their first theatre production False Accounts (written by Lance Nielson) and co-produced by Shireenah Ingram. Shireenah is currently lecturing at BOA on the Acting Course and performers will be drawn from Red Lens and BOA with 2 performance nights in Birmingham in first week of July.

**Sima Gonsai and Flatpack Festival: Curating Screen Dance**

Sima Gonsai is Screen Dance Curator for Flatpack Festival and is an award-winning dance film maker in her own right. She will curate a Screen Dance event as part of the Flatpack Festival 2025 and will design and lead the training for producers to provide skills and experience in this field. Sima continues to be involved in projects and training that bring artists and audiences together. She has a particular interest in creating short films And Breathe and Cultivate about Sustainability and Climate Justice (shown at COP 27 and COP 28). The Screen Dance event will take place on 15th May at Mockingbird Cinema 3pm – 4pm as part of Flatpack Festival, Birmingham.