



**Kent, East
Sussex,
Medway
and
Brighton
and Hove**

MINUTES

27th April 2010, 5.30pm at Hextable Dance
39 Egerton Avenue, Hextable, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7LG

Present:

Nina Atkinson (NA) – Artistic Director of Loop Dance Company
Stephanie Clarke (SC) – Loop Dance Company Apprentice
Alex Grant (AG) – Hastings and St Leonards Excellence Cluster
Luci Napleton (LN) - Medway council
Avril Hitman (AH) – Artistic Director of Magpie Dance Company
Sam Stringell (SS)– Artistic Director of Cascade Dance
Charlotte Greaves (CG) – Dance Teacher - Dover Grammar school for Girls
Hazel Addley (HA) – Freelance Fundraiser
Sandra Pamplin (SP) – Hastings and St Leonards Excellence Cluster

Chair: Nina Atkinson

Minutes: Stephanie Clarke

1 Welcome

Nina Atkinson welcomed everyone

2 Apologies

Apologies received from:

Sue Talbot
Marie Forbes
Lucy Lungley
Ian Fuller
Chris Frances
Marion Dawson

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3 Matters Arising

AG reminded those present about conversations regarding CPD for the Hub and that Sophie Amstell had mentioned money from YDE to support this. It was suggested that the Hub may want to buy-in one of the new one-day U.Dance CPD courses. NA reminded the meeting that Chris Frances had set up a Kent Schools Network Workspace and had asked local teachers to let her know about their CPD needs and preferences. SS asked how she could join the Kent Schools Workspace NA advised her to get in touch with Chris who would send out an e-invite.

AG suggested inviting Lucy Pocknel/Fiona Ross from Brighton University to have another University presence within the Hub.

NA informed the group about a sharing day that Hampshire Dance and South East Dance are hosting on 17th June 2010 to encourage Hub members to get involved in National Takeover Day. AG commented that it is difficult to have volunteers in his workplace due to data protection issues. NA commented that it certainly sounds difficult to manage and that it would be interesting to hear how SED and Hampshire Dance managed the logistics.

ACTION: SC – forward on the sharing day details to HUB members

4 Hampshire Dance/ YDE update for Spring/Summer

U.Dance CPD

Further conversations around the Hub CPD ideas were sparked during the update. NA explained the U.Dance tailor-made CPD and inset training and suggested that Hub members should discuss their training needs.

The U.Dance CPD modules cost £660 each and AG suggested asking Sophie for half of this fee and then asking Hub members to raise the remaining £330. Angela Pickard said that she could host the training day at the university but it was pointed out that additional funds would be needed to cover the costs of catering. AG told the group that the Excellence Cluster would not be able to contribute to the costs of a training course. AG also suggested that the cost would need to be lower for freelancers than those employed in education/local authorities. NA suggested that Hub members might want to agree to a set contribution in order to guarantee free places.

ACTION: SC – to put a template together with a sliding scale of prices including a price for individuals

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AH asked who the U.Dance CPD courses are aimed at. AG responded that the different modules each target different people (e.g. Primary teachers, Secondary teachers, Dance in Education Practitioners etc.)

Further information about the U.Dance CPD courses can be found at:

<http://www.u-dance.org/main.cfm?type=SKILLSTRRAINING>

Other CPD

NA informed the group about Hampshire Dance's one-day CPD course *Managing a Successful Youth Dance Company*. Places are still available on this course on 6th / 11th May 2010.

ACTION: SC to send out information about Hampshire Dance's CPD courses.

SP expressed confusion about the geographical areas covered by Youth Dance England (YDE) and whether the Youth Sports Trust (YST) regional areas are the same. NA explained that the YDE south east region is indeed the same as the YST south east region. The regional boundaries are also the same as those used by Arts Council England and Government Offices. Hampshire Dance is in the process of putting together a regional map in order to clarify the geography for Hub members.

ACTION: NA to chase Sophie for a Hub map.

Funding Update

NA updated the group on the next round of SEYDN Hub funding available. Hub members can apply for grants of between £200 and £2,000. The deadline for applications is 4th June 2010. See Funding Criteria Document for full details.

AG recalled that during the last round of Hub funding allocations there was a short delay in notifying successful applicants. NA suggested that it would be good practice to ensure that any activity for which Hub members are applying for funding has a sensible lead-in time to allow for delays in funding announcements.

NA talked about the possibility of Hub members being on the Funding Awards Panel. The purpose of this would be to ensure transparency in the way that funding decisions are made. Hub members had various questions about how this might work.

NA explained that Hub members would not be able to vote on applications if there was a conflict of interest. Hub members should contact Sophie Amstell if they are interested in volunteering as a panel member.

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YDE Conference Update

NA informed the hub about the next YDE conference and encouraged people to attend. The conference is quite expensive but prices are relative to other similar conferences. Bursaries are available to Hub members from Hampshire Dance – contact Sophie Amstell if interested.

AG informed the group of funding cuts at the Excellence Cluster – these cuts mean that the cluster will no longer pay for conferences. NA expressed concern about the cuts and hoped it would not mean that Alex would not continue with the Hub. AG wasn't sure if Excellence Cluster staff would still be allowed to attend Hub meetings but promised to keep Hub members informed.

AH told the Hub that Magpie Dance is running an inclusive practice session as part of the conference. Magpie Dance was very pleased to be invited to contribute.

Funding for Dance Careers Events

NA informed the group that Hampshire Dance has funding available for Hub members wishing to hold Dance Careers Events. Grants of £750 are on offer with the expectation of £250 in match funding – the deadline for applications is 1 June 2010.

LN told Hub members that she is interested in running a Careers Event in Medway to tie in with the new BA Hons course. She explained that the Senior Lecturer, Peter Hatton, was not yet able to commit but had expressed an interest. LN, NA and SS agreed to discuss this further outside of the Hub meeting..

Dance Links Training

Dance Links training is running again as a two day residential in Winchester. Marie Forbes from Loop attended two years ago and found it very useful as did SS although the course was delivered in a different format at that time. Although the flyer states that the deadline was 30th April 2010 the NDTA is still accepting late applications.

Other Discussion Points

Loop Summer School will take place this year between 13th-16th August at The Brook Theatre. NA encouraged Hub members to consider attending.

NA informed the Hub that Tine Carter will be delivering Adult Aerial classes again which were a previous Professional Summer School hit.

AH informed Hub members about a Magpie Summer Course for young people taking place in Orpington in August. NA asked AH to send flyers so that she can share

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details with the Loop Disability Group. AG also asked for flyers so that he can forward details to schools.

ACTION: Avril to send flyers for Summer Course to Loop

5 Guest Speaker: Lucy Lungley – Dance Links Participant (NDTA Course)

Apologies were received from Lucy Lungley

6 Workshop: How to create meaningful volunteer opportunities and placements for young people in dance – Catherine Gill, South East Dance

Unfortunately, Catherine Gill did not arrive and no apologies had been received so this item was abandoned.

SS informed the group about about the Cascade Elite Academy which was set up September 2009. Cascade creates a professional training environment to help students progress. It is the only academy of its kind in East Kent. Cascade is working on this project with Canterbury Festival and Moving Voices (South East Dance). The elite dancers will take part in professional workshops, a dance leadership course and eventually create a dance and perform at the Opening of Canterbury Festival which is a Parade through the City. NA suggested that perhaps Loop could do something with the LoopEd boys group to contrast with the girls group.

7 Widening Membership

NA suggested Hub members should distribute the Hub flyers as widely as possible in order to encourage new members. NA reminded the group that funding for the Hubs is only guaranteed until March 2011 and after that YDE cannot be sure about future funding with a change in government etc. Hub members should make the most of the remaining time.

AG mentioned that the group talked previously about encouraging those from private dance schools to attend. Sophie mentioned contacting RAD/ISTD central offices to help recruitment. Ian Fuller has contact details that he can pass on to Sophie.

ACTION: NA to Contact Sophie to find out if she has a contact for any private school or syllabus associations i.e. RAD.

AG thinks central offices may say yes, but individual members/teachers may say no. It may be worth inviting someone from each syllabus as a representative from each area/region.

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NA explains that Trudy from Rochester can't come because of the times of the meetings and asks can we move the time of meetings to suit teachers from private dancing schools.

SP thinks Private School teachers need to feel we are not treading on their toes and pinching their students, she is keen to let them know we are only interested in giving students opportunities.

NA suggested that each Hub member could bring a buddy from the private sector to the next meeting.

8 News and Information sharing

Conversations about Big Dance led to the group sharing information:-

AH shared that the following Greenwich Dance Agency Hub events:-

- Orpington Town Centre 3rd / 4th July
- Magpie perform 9th/10th July
- 4th July – Glades – performances opportunities

NA informed the group that the term Hub is being used by Big Dance and that it is not related to the YDE SE Hubs.

9 AOB

None

10 Date and Venues for next meetings

14th July - Canterbury High School - 5.30pm

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