



MAKING

TRACKS

MASTERCLASSES @IRIE!

2020 Programme

IRIE!
dance
theatre



IRIE! dance theatre is pleased to present Making Tracks – a series of free Master Classes on-line as part of the company's professional development training in Diverse Dance Styles. We are thrilled to be partnering with some of the UK's established and emerging dance artists working in Dance of the African Diaspora; many of whom lecture on IRIE!'s BA (Hons) Diverse Dance Styles.

These Making Tracks Masterclasses are ideal for you if you are proficient in learning and performing dance routines; and trained or have experience at intermediate level in the practice of African, Caribbean and western contemporary dance forms.

DATE OF MASTERCLASS	NAME
Thursday July 30	Akeim Toussaint Buck
Friday July 31	Judith Palmer MBE
Thursday August 6	Dr Adesola Akinleye
Friday August 7	Alleyne Dance
Thursday August 13	Nicoletta Bonanni
Friday August 14	Nii Kwartey Owoo
Thursday August 20	Leroy Dias Dos Santos
Friday August 21	Dr H Patten
Thursday August 27	Fubonation
Friday August 28	Heather Star Benson

All sessions are from 10.30am – 12noon

To participate please register at www.riedancetheatre.org/makingtracks



THURS JUL 30

AKEIM TOUSSAINT BUCK

Akeim Toussaint Buck is an interdisciplinary performer, dance theatre maker and facilitator, born in Jamaica and raised in England. Akeim's work aims to reflect on reality, looking at ongoing socio-political issues, with a humanitarian intention. Currently Artists in residence at IRIE! dance theatre.

IRIE! dance theatre former Artist in Residence
(Jun 2018-Jun 2020)

KEY BENEFITS

- Gain better understanding of how to embody versatility and adaptability in the body.
- Insight into moving technically and finding freedom in expression beyond the technique.
- Challenge movement memory, stamina, coordination and strength.
- Physical and mental engagement to perform at a high level.
- Connect deeply to self and dance from your heart.

www.toussainttomove.com

   @Toussainttomove



FRI JUL 31

JUDITH PALMER MBE

Judith is a teacher of African dance traditions. With positions such as Associate Lecturer in dance at the University of Surrey and Course Co-ordinator and Lecturer at IRIE! dance theatre, she is renowned for her ability to translate African dance theory, technique and music for a wide range of abilities.

KEY BENEFITS

Learning repertory from Adzido Pan-African dance ensemble.

- The context of the piece
- The Drum language
- The Dance technique
- Choreography

www.africanheritageuk.com

  @africanheritageuk





THURS AUG 6

DR ADESOLA AKINLEYE

Dr Akinleye is a choreographer, artist-scholar. Her career began dancing with Dance Theatre of Harlem working with UK Companies such as Carol Straker, Union and Green Candle. She is currently co-director of Dancingstrong Movement Lab. She has won awards internationally for her dance works and is published in the areas of dance and cultural studies.

KEY BENEFITS

- Moving beyond movement technique for the sake of unrelatedly 'perfection' to using it as self-expression: speaking with your dance.
- Use of image, music, light, timing to dance not just making shapes (as ballet is often used for).
- Enjoying how dance technique offers the joy of moving through space safely (mentally and physically) with expression.
- Explore strength and grace as a way to reconstruct, reclaim and rediscover.
- Spend time in dancing together.

www.dancingstrong.com

 @Adesola2019 #adesola2019

FRI AUG 7

ALLEYNE DANCE

Alleyne Dance is a UK company with an international reach, whose focus is on two main objectives; performance and education work. Founded in 2014 by sisters Kristina and Sadé Alleyne, their aesthetic reflects their diverse background of athleticism and dance training. AD blends Afro-Caribbean, Hip Hop, Kathak and Circus Skills within a contemporary dance context.

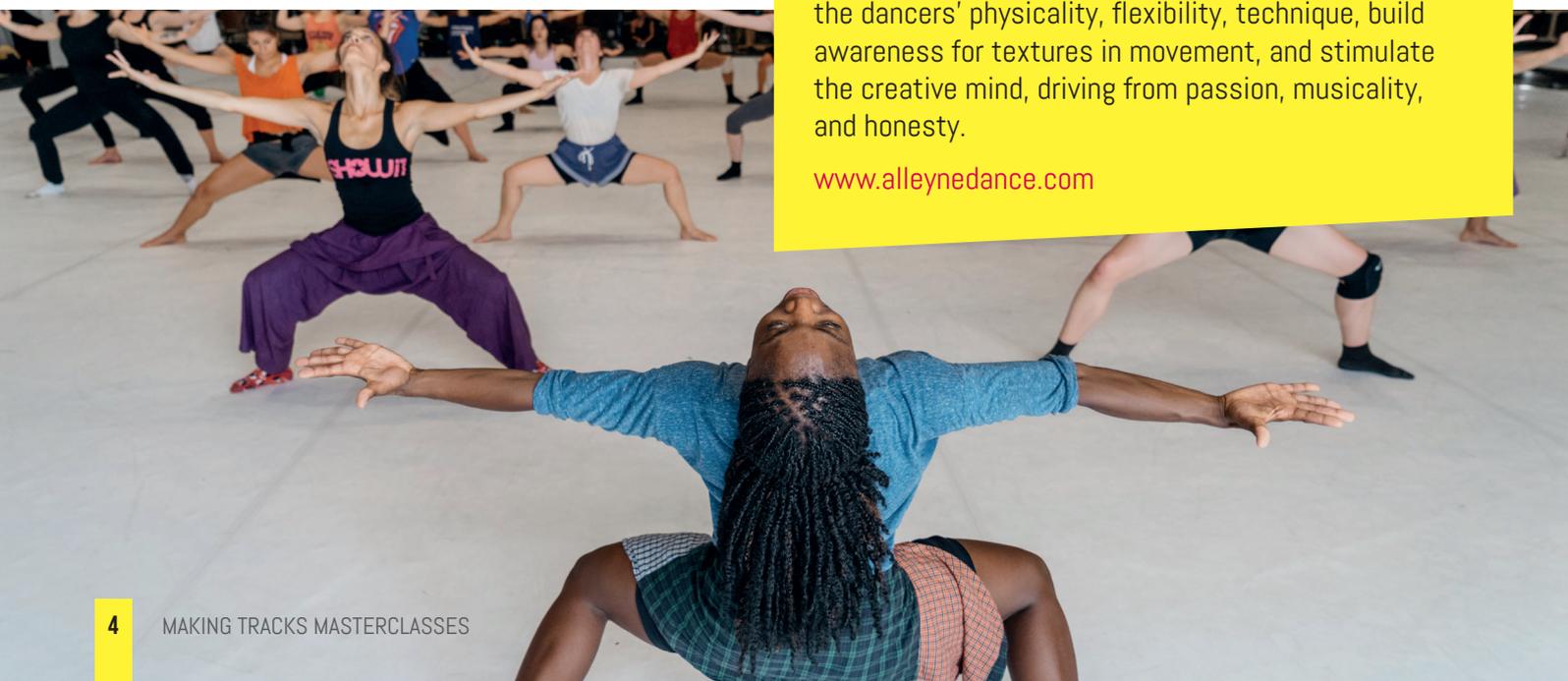
KEY BENEFITS

Dynamics, Rhythm & Texture

This is a physical Contemporary Class, which will involve strong, complex and technical sequences in and out of the floor, focusing on quality, initiation, performance and stamina. Throughout the sessions, improvisation will also be explored as part of self-development, stemming from a physical intention.

The significant factors for the workshop are to develop the dancers' physicality, flexibility, technique, build awareness for textures in movement, and stimulate the creative mind, driving from passion, musicality, and honesty.

www.alleynedance.com



THURS AUG 13

NICOLETTA BONANNI

Nicoletta 'Key' Bonanni is a dance and movement artist born in Rome. She has studied, taught and danced for IRIE! dance theatre, in different stages, throughout the past 9 years. While completing her Master in Movement: directing and teaching, she has started developing her own movement approach as a mixture of dance and movement methodologies centred in Afro Caribbean aesthetics, contemporary dance, movement for actors and personal wellbeing. She is now developing her career as a choreographer and movement coach in a variety of settings.

IRIE! dance theatre former Artist in Residence (Oct 2017 – Oct 2019)

FRI AUG 14

NII KWARTEY OWOO

Nii Kwartey Owoo is a UK based Ghanaian musician, choreographer and African dance and music lecturer. Nii was given the title Custodian of Culture by his elders at the age of 12, a role that he has since carried with him and one that continues to influence his artistic practice. Currently teaching on the BA(Hons) Diverse Dance Styles with IRIE! dance theatre.

KEY BENEFITS

- Combination of movement, breathe and visualisation to gain body awareness, with a sense of openness to self and surrounding space.
- Different methodologies (Acogny technique, Laban system, Afro Caribbean and contemporary), using movement repetitions and guided improvisations as main learning devices.
- Movement as a constant discovery and being challenged to keep committing to the exploration.
- Basic movement pulses, impulses and grooves; challenging levels, dynamics and rhythms; using Afro Caribbean aesthetics as personal expressive choreographic tools.
- Focus on wellbeing, discover, cope, release and integrate body, mind and soul.

www.nicolettekeybonanni.com

KEY BENEFITS

- African dance technique.
- Rhythmic Sensitivity.
- Understand the demands and function of African dance.
- Counter rhythms in the way the body works.
- Polyrhythm and drum language.

www.niikwarteyowoo.com



THURS AUG 20

LEROY DIAS DOS SANTOS

Leroy has worked with artists and entertainers such as Madonna, Kylie Minogue, Leona Lewis, Aston Merrygold (JLS) and choreographers such as Jermaine Brown, Rafael Bonachela, Shobana Jesaysingh and Mavin Khoo. After graduating in 2007, he performed in 'Carmen Jones' and 'La Travaite' the same year and 'Aida' in 2008. He is a member of the street dance sensation Flawless; (Finalists on ITV's Britain's Got Talent 2009) who featured in movies such as 'Street Dance 3D' 1 and 2 by Vertigo films in 2009 and have currently been touring their new production 'Chase the Dream 2' across the UK and internationally. Currently teaching on the BA(Hons) Diverse Dance Styles with IRIE! dance theatre.

KEY BENEFITS

- Foundational Hip Hop grooves and social dances.
- Build your technical ability, performance skills and confidence.
- Develop a greater understanding of musicality, application of dynamics and stylistic elements.
- Add your own vibe, swag and flavour to the steps.
- Fun and enjoyment.

www.leroydias.com

 @leroyfx



FRI AUG 21

DR H PATTEN

Dr 'H' Patten, Artistic Director of Koromanti Arts and 'H' Patten Dance Theatre Company, is an experienced choreographer, performer, filmmaker, storyteller and author. His international reputation in African and Caribbean arts spans 35 years, winning him several awards including the Jamaican High Commission 50th Anniversary Award for services in Arts, Culture and Entertainment (2012). Currently teaching on the BA(Hons) Diverse Dance Styles with RIE! dance theatre.

KEY BENEFITS

- Learn Caribbean movement vocabulary.
- Learn the background context of the Caribbean movement vocabulary taught.
- Gain an insight into how drum and music vocabulary connects with the dance vocabulary.
- Learn how songs are integrated into Caribbean dance and music expression.
- Knowledge of some of the underlying movement techniques that are foundational to Caribbean movement vocabulary.

 @koromantiarts

 uk.linkedin.com/in/dr-h-patten-11326a22

 www.youtube.com/channel/UCkomM4QqzpbC_aw5VRvaDzQ



THURS AUG 27

FUBUNATION

FUBUNATION is a London based collective founded in 2017 by Rhys Dennis and Waddah Sinada with the vision of adding to the black culture by creating more visibility and representation for dancers of colour in contemporary dance. Their objective is to build diversity within theatres and dance platforms.

IRIE! dance theatre Artists in Residence
(Jul 2020 – Jul 2022)

KEY BENEFITS

- A deeper look into Fubunation's movement practice and training methods.
- We will explore fluidity in movement whilst executing dynamics.
- Develop our intuitive response to music through sequences of rhythmical patterns and groove.
- Move through the floor with efficiency to build our relationship with gravity.
- Placing focus on our breathing techniques to bring greater awareness to our body.

www.fubunation.org



FRI AUG 28

HEATHER BENSON

Heather Benson is a dance artist, producer and lecturer that has worked within the USA, UK and beyond. She is a former company member of Dallas Black Dance Theatre II, Urban Bush Women and Philadanco! Now residing in London, Heather serves as a Horton Technique lecturer within various institutions and programmes, including Artistry Youth Dance and University of Roehampton.

KEY BENEFITS

- Maintain core dance technique skills.
- Build strength, stamina and flexibility working within your natural physicality.
- Learn Fortifications, Balances and other centre exercises from the Lester Horton Technique; one of the pioneering American modern dance techniques.
- Explore dynamic and percussive musicality within choreography.
- Discover new ways to move in unique spaces.

www.heatherstarbenson.com

 @dancinstarburst

MUSICIANS

MOHAMMED SHUAIBU (AKA ZOZO SHUAIBU)

Zozo Shuaibu is a singer, multi-instrumentalist, writer, storyteller and music producer, born in Sierra Leone of Nigerian parents. He has worked with bands, theatre and dance companies in Africa and IRIE! dance theatre in the UK, and is much in demand for his experience and expertise in music production, storytelling and drumming workshops in schools. His latest music is on iTunes; 'Lagos to Freetown'.



NII BOYE OWOO

CHARLES JAMES

Charles James is a professional African drummer, with many years' experience of African/Caribbean traditional music and dance. Charles was a former member of Ekome and Adzido dance companies. He performed in a number of theatre productions in England and abroad. Currently Charles works with IRIE! supporting the delivery of educational programmes.



OGINGA OSAZE (HAPPA)

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