

IRIE!
dance
theatre
EST. 1985



IRIE! dance theatre
**SPRING
PROGRAMME**

2026

Photograph: Beth MacInnes

WELCOME!

Welcome to IRIE! dance theatre's Spring 2026 Newsletter with news of programmes designed to engage participants, students, and audiences of all ages. In our last newsletter, I shared a little insight into what the company will be focusing on as we journey through 2026 - building new partnerships, developing training opportunities, and launching initiatives designed to inspire and connect our communities.

Building on decades of practice in Dance of the African Diaspora (DAD), we are always keen to develop our reach and impact on our local community and to the dance landscape as a whole. Central to our work is the development of partnerships and this Spring, we are pleased to be partnering with the Deptford Ragged School Archive on a site-specific performance **'A Light In a Dark Place'** at The Bear Church. The piece has been created by the BA (Hons) Diverse Dance Year 2 students and is inspired by research from the *'Deptford Ragged School and its Place in the Community'* project.

We continue our work with local communities through our programme of popular community classes and our education programme. We have now expanded our partner schools from seven to ten, and we look forward to seeing how these relationships flourish throughout the year. On Friday 27th March, we will be hosting a **Spring fundraising event** to support our work. If you can't make the date, you can still donate via the link [DONATE | IRIE! dance theatre](#).

All donations will help to build our community of supporters and strengthen the legacy we have built over the past four decades.

In April, we showcase **Origen** - independent projects from final year BA (Hons) students and **Not Talking** by Connectingvibes, our third year and alumni performance company at the George Wood Theatre, Goldsmiths University of London.

In April, we are also excited to host the London **launch of Dr Bob Ramdhanie's new book, The Black Dance Movement in England 1940–2000** and launch the first Making Tracks professional development programme in the 2026 series.

This year, we also launch our **Continuing Professional Development** accredited short courses, support creatives, academics, and those wishing to deepen their knowledge of dance and culture. These include Level 1 and Level 2 programmes in African and Caribbean dance, alongside a course in developing teaching skills.

As always, we want to stress that none of this work would be possible without the continued support of our funders, partners and our communities, so thank you!

If you have attended any of our performances, community classes, or workshops and have not yet had the chance to leave feedback, please scan the QR code below to do so. Your feedback is invaluable and helps us continue to create work that is relevant, meaningful, and something that you will love to be part of.

Our dedicated team of trustees, staff, freelancers, and volunteers are ready to welcome you to our events and activities throughout the year.

Beverley Glean MBE

Artistic Director and CEO



Photograph: VizionKraft

COMING UP

A LIGHT IN A DARK PLACE

**Free
Entry**
Donations
welcome

Site Specific Performance at The Bear Church

BA(Hons) Diverse Dance Styles

March 25 2026 14.30 and 18.30

The Bear Church
Frankham St SE8 4RN

Building on themes of community, rescue, light and darkness, nature as respite, resilience, love and compassion, dancers fill the Bear Church, currently empty and in its final stages of construction, we find echoes of the past while embracing the Bear's message of hope for the future.



Photograph:
Beth MacInnes

COMING UP

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

Friday 27th March

Join us for an inspiring evening of rhythm, dance and community at IRIE!'s Spring Fundraiser on Friday 27 March 2026 at Moonshot Centre. This special event will bring together some of IRIE!'s community participants for a celebration of culture, creativity and talent.

Expect an uplifting atmosphere filled with movement, live drumming and dynamic performances as well as opportunities to participate in dancing and drumming workshops as we showcase the work happening within the IRIE! community while raising vital funds to support our programmes.

The evening will feature performances from IRIE! youth dance company and the energetic African Dance Class.



Come along, bring your friends and family, and support the next generation of dancers and musicians. Your support helps IRIE! dance theatre to continue delivering transformative dance training and cultural experiences for young people and the wider community.

Celebrate, support and experience the rhythm with IRIE!

Date:	Friday 27 March 2026
Time:	6:30pm – 9:00pm
Venue:	Moonshot Centre



<https://www.riedancetheatre.org/event-details/join-us-for-irie-s-spring-community-programme-fundraiser>

COMING UP

Year 3 Present

ORIGEN – INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

New and innovative work for year 3 students as they prepare to graduate.



Date: **Wednesday 15 April 7.30pm**
Tickets: **£8.00**
Venue: **George Wood Theatre,
Goldsmiths University of London SE14 6NW**



<https://www.iredancetheatre.org/event-details/join-us-for-irie-s-spring-community-programme-fundraiser>

Connectingvibes perform **NOT TALKING ...**

Connectingvibes is the 3rd year performance company that is open to alumni and young artists.

What does it mean to not be able to talk freely, what leads to this point. Is it that there is too much noise or no room to be heard?

Partnered with 'Shifting Conversations' a new work by MA student and Connectingvibes alumni Aaliyah Dawkins.



<https://www.connectingvibes.com/event-details/not-talking>



Date: **Thursday 16 April 7:30pm**
Tickets: **£10.00**
Venue: **George Wood Theatre,
Goldsmiths University of London SE14 6NW**

COMING UP

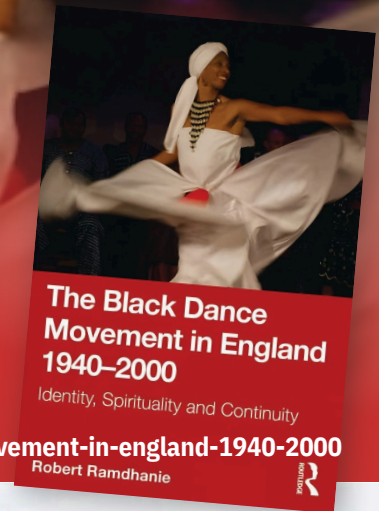
MAKING TRACKS

Join us on **Thursday 23 April at 7 pm** for the official London launch of **Dr Bob Ramdhanie MBE's** new book entitled **The Black Dance Movement in England 1940–2000**



<https://www.riedancetheatre.org/event-details/making-tracks-the-black-dance-movement-in-england-1940-2000>

Entrance:
**Donations
from £5**



SPACE HIRE AT MOONSHOT CENTRE

Professional dance studios, seminar rooms, and networking spaces available at Moonshot Centre.

The home of IRIE! dance theatre. Discover the perfect environment for movement, expression, and artistic development. Our two dedicated dance studios are designed to meet the needs of independent choreographers, established dance companies, and community fitness instructors alike.



We are happy to discuss long-term hire agreements and residencies, offering competitive rates for consistent, multi-week bookings.

**Scan the code for
more information.**



<https://www.riedancetheatre.org/space-hire>

NUNHEAD CEMETARY LATE

IRIE!'s BA (Hons) Diverse Dance Styles and IRIE! youth dance company will be performing at Nunhead Cemetery Late.

A special evening of art, performance, music, and interactive experiences devised by the Goldsmiths community and local partners in response to the history and ecology of the cemetery.

Free event
but booking
is required

SAVE

THE DATE!

Date: **Friday 15 May 6pm – 9pm**

BA (HONS) DIVERSE DANCE STYLES END OF YEAR SHARING

A sharing of BA(Hons) Diverse Dance Styles works, including choreography by BA Lecturer and Founding Artistic Director Beverley Glean, Lecturers Cynthia Casimir, Leroy Dias Dos Santos, and Nii Kwartey Owoo, together with student solo contributions.

The work will be presented alongside the third year Connectingvibes touring piece 'Not Talking...' devised and created by the dancers with Rosie Lehan and Nii Kwartey Owoo, supported by Eszter Ivan.

Dates: **Wednesday 20 May**
Time: **7PM**

£8



SAVE

THE DATE!

<https://www.iredancetheatre.org/event-details/ba-hons-diverse-dance-styles-end-of-year-sharing>

MA 2 WEEK RESIDENCY

The residency brings together a range of artists who will work alongside the MA students in a creative environment.

Each day an open morning class (10am - 11.30am daily) will be delivered with guest artists including Dr H Patten, MBE, Beverley Glean MBE, Nii Kwartey Owoo, Shea Best, Hopal Romans, June Ting Yuen, Dr Adesola Akinleye with more guests to be confirmed.

<https://www.riedancetheatre.org/event-details/ma-2-week-residency-2026-07-06-10-00>

Dates: **Monday 6 July – Friday 10 July**
Monday 13 July – Friday 17 July

£15

**SAVE
THE DATE!**



Bring Energy, Culture & Rhythm to Your Next Event with

IRIE! dance theatre EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Looking for an engaging and inspiring activity for your participants? IRIE! dance theatre offers vibrant, high-energy dance workshops that get everyone moving, learning and connecting through rhythm.

Our 1- hour interactive workshop introduces participants to a dynamic experience in African and Caribbean dance fusion in a fun and inclusive way. Led by a professional team of dance tutors, the sessions are designed to build confidence, creativity and teamwork while celebrating culture through movement. To make the experience even more exciting, the workshop includes live drumming, bringing the rhythms to life and creating an unforgettable atmosphere.

For enquiries or bookings, contact:
rachael@riedancetheatre.org to secure your session.

Workshop Details

Includes:

- **Experienced tutors**
- **Live drummer/percussionist**
- **Learning basic drum language**
- **Interactive and culturally enriching dance and movement experience**

Perfect for schools, community groups, festivals, corporate wellbeing sessions, and cultural events, IRIE! dance theatre workshops inspire participants to express themselves, stay active and experience the joy of dance.

**Book your
workshop today
and let the
rhythm move
you!**

Interviews
currently in
progress

MA DIASPORIC DANCE STYLES

IRIE! dance theatre

Validated by Goldsmiths, University of London

Photograph: Beth MacInnes

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

1 Year Full time:
2 Years Part time:
Fees:

September 2026 – July 2027

September 2026 – July 2028

For home and international students

Full Time: £10,000

Part Time: £5,000 per year

Further Information and an applications form:

www.iredancetheatre.org/ma-diasporic-dance-styles

email: ma@iredancetheatre.org



BA (HONS) DIVERSE DANCE STYLES

Do you want to combine a 3rd year of training with professional experience?

As a 3rd year student, you will work alongside IRIE! dance theatre company, with opportunities to view rehearsals and engage with masterclasses.

You'll also have the opportunity to join Connectingvibes, a third year graduate company focusing on employment through the development of performance/creative skills alongside arts administration and production values.

If you are interested in applying contact:

ba@iredancetheatre.org for further details.

<https://www.iredancetheatre.org/post/return-to-the-south-research-identity-and-carnival-deny-ruge-prado>

In December 2025 Deny Ruge Prado gained funding from the Lisa Ullmann Foundation – In Training Award, together with a Go Fund Me campaign, Deny travelled to Colombia to conduct research for her 3rd year independent project featured in April at the George Wood Theatre, Goldsmiths University of London.

Read the full story in her blog.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMME



AFRICAN DANCE CLASS

with Nii Kwartey Owoo



Dates: **Tuesdays 14 April**
– **Tuesday 16 June**
7:30pm – 9:00pm
10 week course

Cost: **£100 for 10 weeks**
Drop in sessions: **£15 each**

<https://www.riedancetheatre.org/event-details/african-dance-class-with-nii-kwartey-owoo-2026-04-14-19-30>

MOONSHOT LIONS DOMINOES CLUB

FREE

Are you ready to unleash your competitive spirit and join a community of like-minded dominoes enthusiasts?

Join Moonshot Lions for our weekly dominoes sessions.

Date: **Wednesdays**
6:00pm – 9:00pm



COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

IRIE! YOUTH DANCE COMPANY

Dates: **Friday 17 April – Friday 26 June**
(No class during half term Friday 29 May)

Time: **5:00pm – 6:30pm**

Cost: **£50 for 10 weeks**
Drop in sessions: **£6 each**



<https://www.iredancetheatre.org/event-details/irie-youth-dance-company-2026-04-17-17-00>

DRUMOLOGY with Master Drummer Ras Happa

Drumology's 10-week journey into rhythm, culture, and community with Master Drummer Ras Happa, offers an energising, authentic experience rooted in African and Caribbean traditions. Suitable for beginners and those looking to deepen their drumming skills.

10 week course. £80
1st 5 week block **April 18 - May 16. £40**
2nd 5 week block **May 23 - June 20. £40**



IRIE! Drumology with Master Drummer Ras Happa

Saturdays 11am - 1pm
April 18th - June 20th 2026

<https://www.iredancetheatre.org/event-details/drumology-with-master-drummer-ras-happa-2026-04-25-11-00>

IRIE! dance theatre – JOIN OUR BOARD!

<https://www.riedancetheatre.org/board>

IRIE! dance theatre is Britain's leading dance theatre company working in the field of African and Caribbean dance through our pioneering work in:

- **Arts and Culture** - IRIE!'s touring company presents original and challenging work derived and devised from traditional African and Caribbean forms across the UK;
- **Community Engagement and Well-being** - IRIE!'s community programme engages local communities in activities and events celebrating diverse dance styles
- **Education and Training** - IRIE! runs the first BA Diverse Styles and MA Diasporic Dance and engaging education workshops for schools and further education colleges;

We are looking for skilled and committed people to join our Board and support the continuation and development of our work into its next phase. We are especially looking for creative thinkers who reflect our communities and have expertise in the following areas:

- **Finance and Fundraising**
- **Event Management**
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**

We ask that board members:

- **attend a minimum of 4 board meeting and an annual awayday**
- **join a board sub-committee related to their area of expertise**
- **attend a minimum of 2 IRIE! events annually**
- **act as ambassadors for IRIE!**

Board membership is on a voluntary basis with expenses available to cover the cost of attendance at meetings.



If you would like to find out more about what's involved or apply for one of these positions, please contact:

info@riedancetheatre.org



IRIE! dance theatre
Moonshot Centre
Angus Street
New Cross SE14 6LU

T: 020 86916099

 IRIE! dance theatre
 @riedancetheatre

Scan me to book. Or use the link: **www.riedancetheatre.org/what-s-on**