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# ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

## WITH EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL & DANCE BASE SCOTLAND

*SUPPORTED BY BRITISH COUNCIL*



Photo Credit: Dancing in the Streets, Edinburgh International Festival 2021, by Jess Shurte



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**Dance Base Scotland and Edinburgh International Festival are seeking 12 Scotland-based dance artists to take part in a week of artistic development with performers in [The Rite of Spring / common ground\[s\]](#), the first collaboration between the Pina Bausch Foundation (Germany), École des Sables (Senegal) and Sadler's Wells (UK), presented as part of Edinburgh International Festival this August.**

**Interested? Find out more below!**

If you are reading this and wondering if it is for you please do read on - and if you have any questions or need some assistance with your application please just contact [Kirsty.Somerville@dancebase.co.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Somerville@dancebase.co.uk)

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This August, dancers from across Africa will come to Edinburgh to perform Pina Bausch's acclaimed choreography of [The Rite of Spring](#) in a double bill with the duet [common ground\[s\]](#) by Germaine Acogny and Malou Airaud.

The UK premiere of Pina Bausch's *The Rite of Spring* was performed in 1978 at the International Festival and this year it returns with the original choreography and a cast of 34 specially assembled dancers from 14 African countries. In this pioneering work, on an earth-covered stage, dancers clash and engage in a wild and poetic struggle to the music of Igor Stravinsky.

In July 2023, following two successful collaborations in 2021 & 2022, Dance Base and Edinburgh International Festival will present a week of exchange and development for dance artists based in Scotland and 12 performers from the visiting company ahead of their performance in August. [This is supported by British Council.](#)

From the [24 – 28 July 2023](#) the dance artists will come together at Dance Base, Edinburgh, for five days of artistic development and exchange, led by Tony Mills (Artistic Director of Dance Base).

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**The week will consist of:**

- Daily class led by Tony Mills
- Sharings of practice individually led by each artist
- Group reflections and conversations
- Group creation and artistic devising
- A live sharing of group practice on the final day

All attendees will then be invited to attend The Rite of Spring at Edinburgh International Festival on [17 August 2023](#).

**The aim of the Artistic Development Week is for the artists from Scotland and Africa to:**

- connect and share practice with each other, opening themselves to new techniques and creative approaches
- to network with their national and international peers
- to collaborate with international artists and create together

Please note that the focus of this week is not on teaching or learning the choreography of The Rite of Spring

## ***What the Artistic Development Week Will Provide***

As part of the Artistic Development Week each artist will receive:

- A week of artistic development at Dance Base, Edinburgh, Monday 24 – Friday 28 July, 10:00 – 18:00 approx.)
  - A weekly fee of £750
  - Travel and accommodation expenses to travel to Edinburgh for the week of the 24 – 28 July 2023
  - An additional budget to cover any access requirements that you may have to enable you to engage fully with the week, including support towards childcare
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## Who It Is For

The Artistic Development Week is for Artists who:

- See their work as based in physical or choreographic practices
- Are working at a professional level and at any stage of their career
- Have a personal movement practice that they could confidently share with a group of international peers
- Are comfortable and able to work collaboratively with peers who may not have English as their first language
- Are based in Scotland
- Are available for the full week of the 24 – 28 July
- Are available to attend The Rite of Spring premiere at Edinburgh International Festival on 17 August

As part of Edinburgh International Festival's remit, [4 of the 12 places for Scotland-based artists will be reserved for artists based in Edinburgh](#). This is a minimum but not a limit, though the selection process will aim to ensure that the group reflects the geography of Scotland and support will be available for travel and accommodation.

Dance Base is committed to supporting and celebrating the full vibrancy of the dance sector in Scotland. We recognise there are significant barriers to working in dance and that many of these are experienced more acutely by those facing marginalisation and deep-rooted systemic injustice.

As part of our on-going support to artists who experience these barriers, we guarantee that [at least 25%](#) of the places available will be allocated to artists [who identify as Black or POC \(Person of Colour\)](#) and [at least 20%](#) of the places will be allocated to artists [who identify as d/Deaf, Disabled and/or Neurodivergent](#). This is a minimum, but not a limit.

Artists are invited to identify if they are part of these communities in their application form and this will be brought into the decision panel making as the places are allocated.

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## Who Will You Work With

The week will be led by Tony Mills, Artistic Director of Dance Base Scotland:



"My background in dance is in hip hop & breakin' with contemporary training.

Over the course of my career I have developed my practice which is a combination of these styles with aspects of physical theatre, clowning, partnering technique and improvisation.

During this week, I'll be leading class which will always start with a slow and steady warm up mobilising the joints and from there we move into technique phrases and/or improvisational structures. Be on the lookout for a few hip hop/breakin' phrases also.

Outside of class, I'll be there to help guide the week, observe and offer provocations and working with you, we will bring together a presentation at the end of the week. I think this is an incredible opportunity to learn from each other, dance together and create some real heat in the studio. Cannot wait! "

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## *How To Apply*

To apply applicants will be invited to complete and submit the following form:

### [An Online Application Form:](#)

The online application can be completed in a written or video/audio recording format. Visual quality, camera and editing skills will not be taken into consideration for filmed submissions, and spelling and grammar will not form part of the consideration of written applications – we are interested in your ideas! Each question has been allocated a maximum word count or duration but please note that these are a maximum and not a goal or an expectation.

The form will ask:

- What interests you about participating in this Artistic Development Week, and what do you hope to gain from taking part? (400 words / 3 minutes)
- Please describe the movement practice that you would like to share as part of this process, and how you would approach this (400 words / 3 minutes)
- Please also provide a link to more information about your practice. This could be a CV, personal statement or a link to your website.

## *Timeline*

Deadline: Thursday 1 June at 11:00am

Panel meet: Wednesday 7 June

Artists Informed: Friday 9 June

Artistic Development Week: 24 - 28 July

Performance of The Rite of Spring / common ground(s): Thursday 17 August

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## *How We Are Selecting*

The selection panel will be comprised of Tony Mills (Artistic Director, Dance Base), Emma Hay (Programme Manager, Edinburgh International Festival) and a member of the Dance Base Artist Advisory Group.

The panel will base their decision on:

- The information provided in the application and how this gives a sense of artists motivation for being involved in the project
- The diversity of movement practices represented through the selected artists
- The diversity of voices represented through the selected artists
- The distribution of opportunities across the sector

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### **Have any questions or need some assistance with your application? Our Artist Support Programme is here to help!**

Our Artist Support Programme provides [1-1 Producing Surgeries](#) for all artists and our team are here to help with any questions you have about the opportunity and your application. This could range from chatting through your idea to proof reading your application.

Please contact our [Kirsty.Somerville@dancebase.co.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Somerville@dancebase.co.uk) to book in for a session and check out our website for more information.

**Please also contact us if you require this information in an alternative format or have access requirements we need to meet to support you in making an application.**

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