
DANCERS EMERGING BURSARY SCHEME 2023/24

Deadline / Friday 14 July 11:00



Image Credit:

Dance Base are recruiting four emerging dance / movement artists to join the Dancers Emerging Bursary Scheme (DEBS) - a supportive programme of mentoring, guidance and practical support led by Dance Base and our 2023/24 mentor, dance artist Solène Weinachter!

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

The DEBS programme provides creative mentorship and practical support for emerging movement artists as they hone their practice and navigate their route forward into the professional dance sector.

Running from September to June each year, the programme equips artists who have recently completed a period of training, education or practical experience in dance, with the skills, knowledge and confidence to embark on the next stage of their artistic journey, while also providing a strong and supportive relationship with Dance Base, Scotland's National Centre of Dance, as they continue to develop their practice and creative work.

Each year the DEBS programme welcomes an independent dance artist to join the programme as the DEBS mentor, enabling the members to benefit directly from their incredible experience and deep understanding of the dance sector.

This year we are welcoming our Solène Weinachter to the role!

“During DEBS I achieved more than I thought possible. I hit many career milestones. I had many times when I thought that too much was being asked of me and I navigated this with my mentor’s guidance. I also had a team to celebrate the successes and the experiments. Dance Base has been a great place for me to learn all manner of the skills that are part of being a modern day artist”

Past DEBS member

Solène Weinachter

Solène is a choreographer and performer who has created work collaboratively as well as solo pieces. She has deepened her Dance Theatre practice for the last 10 years through her creative relationships with Ben Duke, Joan Clevillé and Oona Doherty as well as through her own work.

Dance, laughter and storytelling are at the heart of her interests, all rooted in the live relationship to the audience. Solène also has experience with producing her own work as well as working in an ensemble company.

Solène's practice is performer centric. She is interested in how we can lead a process for ourselves and/or support others, from our embodied and intuitive knowledge as dancers/performers.

"During this year, I would like to support you in finding out what a sustainable practice as a dance artist means - practically, physically, creatively and politically. As well as being challenged and gaining new knowledge, the aim of this year is to support you in discovering/working with what is alive for you (both as an artist and a human) and make that lead your professional choices.

In the residencies, we will look at different performance and choreographic practices, drawn from what I have been working with over the last 10 years: somatic based practices such as Feldenkrais / body work, improvisation with music and dance; clowning; working with text (existing or self generated). We will design training that sustains us.

We will share reading and video material to have conversations from different perspectives. As an artist who works internationally, we will also explore the different possibility available in the Scottish and International industry.

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What the DEBS programme will provide:

By becoming a DEBS member, you will receive the following from September 2023 to June 2024:

- One to one mentoring from experienced dance artist Solène Weinachter (anticipated as 2 x 2 hour meetings each term = 6 meetings in total across the year)
 - Two week-long group residencies at Dance Base with Solène and the other DEBS members held in the Autumn 2023 (currently planned as Monday 9 - Friday 13 October) and Summer 2024 (dates TBC)
 - A residency fee of £600 per residency week - £1,200 in total
 - Travel expenses to attend in person activity at Dance Base
 - Free weekly professional classes at Dance Base
 - Free termly professional workshops at Dance Base
 - Free community classes at Dance Base subject to availability
 - Free studio space at Dance Base, subject to availability
 - Group conversation and exploration with the other DEBS members and Solène
 - Practical advice and guidance from the Dance Base Head of Professional Programme, Kirsty Somerville, and the wider team on financial support, logistics and administration to support you now, and moving forward
 - Support with access related needs as required (this could include but not limited to BSL interpretation, contributions towards childcare costs, accessible documents etc.)
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This opportunity is for individuals who:

- Are based in Scotland and who see their work as based in physical or choreographic practices.
- Have completed a period of training, education or practical experience in dance or related disciplines within the last two years. This does not need to be academic but you will need to be practicing at an advanced practical level.
- Have a deep interest and desire to develop a career as a professional dance / movement artist.

Dance Base recognise that there are significant barriers to working in the dance sector and that these challenges are experienced more acutely by those facing marginalisation and deep-rooted systemic injustice. This includes people with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010 across age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation alongside those with chronic illness, neurodiversity, parental/caring responsibilities, experience of the immigration system and people from working-class backgrounds.

We are committed to increasing the diversity of artists working in our sector and especially welcome applications from those who identify as having characteristics currently under-represented in our sector.

“One of the most valuable things the DEBS programme has offered me, is a pathway into the professional dance community. It has been somewhat of a stepping stone into taking forward my practice and making and presenting work choreographically as well as connecting with and learning from other early career dance artists, who I carry forward as my peers and friends.”

Past DEBS member

How To Apply

To apply applicants will be invited to complete and submit the following form: [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 for an expression of interest detailing:

- What interests you about the programme and with Solène Weinachter in particular
- Why you think you would benefit from the scheme at this point in your career
- A link to footage of you dancing and / or performing. This does not need to be a professional showreel and visual quality, camera and editing skills will not be taken into consideration – we just want to see your physical dance practice and style.
- A link to more information about your practice - this could be a CV, personal statement or a link to your website.

Timeline

Deadline: Friday 14 July, 11:00am

Interviews: Friday 21 July

Applicants informed: by Monday 24 July

First Residency Week: Monday 9 - Friday 13 October

Second Residency Week: Summer 2024 (dates TBC)

How We Are Selecting

The expressions of interest will be read by mentor Solène Weinachter and Head of Professional Programme at Dance Base, Kirsty Somerville.

Selected applicants will be invited to attend an online interview with Solène and Kirsty.

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 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.
