
PRIME CALL OUT FOR NEW MEMBERS

DEADLINE | 9 NOVEMBER



Image credit: by Amy Sinead, Toeing the Line? by Steinvor Palsson



Dance Base
Scotland's National Centre for Dance
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Dance Base are delighted to announce that we are now recruiting new members to join PRIME, our in-house dance company for those aged over 60 years old!

If you are reading this and wondering if it is for you then please do read on - and if you have any questions, need some assistance with your application, or have any access requirements that we need to meet, then our team are here to help! Please just contact Kirsty Somerville on Kirsty.Somerville@dancebase.co.uk to arrange a time to speak.

PRIME are Dance Base's resident dance performance company for dancers aged over 60 years old.

Created by Morag Deyes in 2015, PRIME was born from a desire to change the under-representation of older dancers on stage and to actively challenge stereotypes around ageing, ability, and who can be a dancer.

Since their creation PRIME have worked with some of the best choreographers in the UK to perform progressive and creative choreography which empowers dancers and audiences alike to explore their full potential in life and dance. They have toured nationally and internationally and participated in many festivals including the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Luminare and Singapore Silver Arts Festival. Most recently the company took part in an international collaboration with the Taiwanese dance company B.DANCE, touring a new performance piece across Scotland in May 2023 and presenting it at a 6-date run as part of the Dance Base Fringe Festival programme where they received reviews from The Guardian and The Scotsman. They were also featured in a short film by [BBC Scotland!](#)

The company are led by their Artistic Director Steinvor Palsson who took over the role from Dance Base's previous Artistic Director Morag Deyes in 2022. Under Steinvor's guidance the company created *Toeing the Line?*, their longest work to date, and have worked with choreographers including Robbie Synge, Sally Potter, Lewis Normand and Aya Kobayashi.

You can find full information on PRIME and the works they have created here: [PRIME Website](#)

The company currently has 13 members aged between 65 and 80 years old, and we are thrilled that we are now able to welcome 2-3 new members to join PRIME and be part of the company's next creative chapter!

WHAT DOES BEING A MEMBER OF PRIME INVOLVE?:

As a member of the company you will:

- Take part in a weekly PRIME Company Class on Tuesday's 14:15 – 15:45. These will run in line with the class terms at Dance Base, Spring (January – April), Summer (April – June) and Autumn (September – December). Attendance at class is a compulsory element of being part of the company and all members are expected to attend these sessions.
- Attend additional residency weeks, rehearsal days or workshop events throughout the year. All dates will be communicated in good time.
- Take part in performances with the Company throughout the year. All dates will be communicated in good time and will usually include a performance in August at the Fringe Festival and in December at the Dance Base Christmas Show as a minimum.
- Agree to abide by the PRIME Code of Conduct which will be developed and refreshed by the Artistic Director and PRIME members through the year.

In order to ensure that PRIME is accessible to all there is no charge to join the company and all classes, residencies and support are provided for free to the company members.

In turn, no performance fees are paid to the members for any events which they are part of, instead any income made from PRIME performances is reinvested back in to the company to support the commissioning of new work and the payments for teachers etc.

WHO CAN APPLY?

In order to join PRIME you must meet the below criteria:

- Be aged 60 or above from the 1 January 2024
- Have a strong dance practice in any dance style. You do not need to have any formal training but you must be confident in the practice of at least one dance style. Please note that while PRIME do work across different dance styles the majority of the company's practice is based in Contemporary technique so some familiarity with this would be useful.
- Be confident and comfortable in working collaboratively with the other PRIME members
- Be confident performing on stage
- Be confident in learning set choreography
- Be comfortable with improvisation practice
- Be based in the Edinburgh City Region. This covers East Lothian, Edinburgh, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian

Dance Base are committed to increasing the diversity of dance artists performing in Scotland and welcome applications from those who identify as having characteristics currently under-represented in dance in Scotland, especially from those who identify as being Black or POC (person of colour).

HOW TO APPLY:

The application process to join PRIME will have two stages.

STAGE ONE: Online Application Form

Firstly we invite you to submit the following:

- An Application Form: The online application can be completed in a written or video/audio recording format. The form details word count and recording duration. The application form will ask:
 - What interests you about joining PRIME?
 - What is your dance background? Please tell us about your previous experience
 - What do you hope to gain from being part of PRIME?
 - What do you feel you will bring to the company?
- If you are able to, a link to a video clip of footage of you dancing. This could be a performance you have been part of or just footage of you dancing at home – we just want to get a feel of your practice and dance style! The link can be to Google Drive or a similar storage platform, or to the video on YouTube etc. If you have any problems with this you can also email it to Kirsty.Somerville@dancebase.co.uk
- An [Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Form](#): This is anonymous and will be used to capture who we are reaching with our call outs.

STAGE TWO: Workshop Audition

Selected applicants will then be invited to join us in person at Dance Base for a Workshop Audition Day on **Sunday 26 November 11:00 – 17:00**. The day will provide a space for applicants to learn more about the company, get a feel for what we do and meet other members, while also allowing Steinvor to work with you.

The day will consist of:

- A 90 minute class with Steinvor Palsson
- A group lunch with the current members of PRIME
- A 2 hour workshop with a guest artist and the current members of PRIME
- A 10 minute conversation with Steinvor to ask any questions

After this Workshop Audition Day Steinvor Palsson will then select 2-3 new members to join the company from January 2024.

TIMELINE:

Deadline for applications: Thursday 9 November at 11:00am

Panel Meeting: Wednesday 15 November

Applicants Informed by: Thursday 16 November

Workshop Audition Day: Sunday 26 November

Applicants Informed by: Friday 1 December

Spring Term of Classes: 9 January – 26 March 2024

Summer Term of Classes: 16 April – 25 June 2024

Autumn Term of Classes: 10 September – 3 December 2024

HOW THE DECISION WILL BE MADE:

Applications will be read and assessed by PRIME's Artistic Directors Steinvor Palsson and the Dance Base Head of Professional Programme, and PRIME Company Manager, Kirsty Somerville.

The decision to of who to invite to attend the Workshop Audition Day, and then to join the Company, will be based on:

- The information provided in the application, and how this gives a sense of the applicants interests and desire to be part of PRIME
 - The level of their dance technique and ability
 - Their ability to work collaboratively and creatively with the other PRIME members
 - The diversity of voices represented through the company
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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 proofreading your application, particularly for those for whom English is a second language.

Please contact Kirsty Somerville, Head of Professional Programme, on Kirsty.Somerville@dancebase.co.uk to book in for a session.

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