

Sadler's Wells
breakin[™]
convention

Open Art Surgery

Saturday 23 September 2023

Featuring:

**Jandira Baptista | Lauren Scott | Livia Kojo Alour
Lyndon JE Dasilva | Olu Alatise | Sasha Shadid
#openartsurgery #breakinconvention**



A close-up portrait of a woman with dark, curly hair, wearing large black over-ear headphones. She has her eyes closed and a serene expression, resting her head on her hands. She is wearing a black top, a silver chain necklace, and several bracelets on her left wrist. The background is softly blurred with warm, golden light.

Jandira Baptista

Jandira Baptista

Choreographer & Performer: Jandira Baptista

Passionate about dance and art from an early age, Jandira Baptista has juggled her education in dance with some of the best dancers and trainers worldwide such as César Nusik, Elite Force Crew, Brian Green, Archie Burnett, Popin' Pete, Thony Maskot, Joseph Go and trained at various dance institutions such as Juste Debout Dance School in France, Advance Street Style Lab (NYC), Peridance and others.

She currently works as hip hop freestyle dance teacher at The Hub Dance Studios and The Royal Academy of Dance.

An Obsidian Black crew member and choreographer, she's considered an 'open minded' artist that believes in making dreams reality, able to dance to any music. First and foremost is her passion for learning, music and art in enabling her to express herself.

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Lauren Scott

Lauren Scott

Choreographer & Performer: Lauren Scott

Lauren is a creative practitioner specialising in dance; her movement language is predominantly street dance forms with contemporary influence.

Having studied at drama school before training at London Contemporary Dance School, Lauren's practice often explores a fluidity between naturalism and surrealism.

This is built through theatrical techniques, composition, form, and structure via street dance elements such as popping, animation and hip hop. Lauren is an active member of the UK street dance scene, continuing to explore her artistry as a battler, performer and choreographer.

Lauren was a grand finalist of BBC Young Dancer 2022 and has since headlined her choreography at Sadler's Wells, The Marlowe and Somerset House. She has worked with brands like RedBull, Formula 1, Nike and Breakin' Convention.

Livia Kojo ALour



Livia Kojo Alour

Performer: Livia Kojo Alour

Livia Kojo Alour is an award-winning vocalist, poet, performer, writer and exhibited artist. With her many talents she creates exciting genre-crossing work that stretches between theatre to live art. Livia is also well known for being one of only four black sword swallows worldwide and has toured many years with high-end circus productions.

In her downtime, Livia enjoys honing her strategic skills on poker sites, where she engages in competitive matches with players from around the world. Although she doesn't publicise her penchant for online poker, her sharp intellect and keen intuition served her well in this arena, allowing her to further expand her repertoire of talents.

Livia, based in London, is currently touring her award-winning debut solo show *Black Sheep* and will take her upcoming poetry collection on a book tour in autumn.

Lyndon J E Dasilva



Lyndon J E Dasilva

Choreography & Performer: Leon Lengakroma, Lyndon J E Dasilva & Seyi Stewart

As a graduate from University of East London, Lyndon, also known as LJ, has been trained in traditional/classical and urban/vernacular dance styles. He has great experience in choreographing projects, teaching a variety of different styles, mentoring/coaching students and facilitating workshops. Along the journey he has also picked up a wide range of skills in different art forms. He has a lot of expertise when it comes to teaching as he has nearly a decade's experience and is still going strong.

Lyndon is currently striving to become a positive role model and household name in the creative industry. Some of his experiences include performing at Sadler's Wells at Breakin Convention, Boomtown festival, Camp Bestival, Margate Winter Gardens and Margate Turner Contemporary, The Place, The Vault festival, Tour De Moon, Folkestone Triennial, Oxford Dance, Rich Mix, also worked with Paco Rabbane, Nike, Ubisoft, Sixthjune, Kuki and much more on music videos and shoots.



Olu Alatise

Olu Alatise

Choreographer: Olu Alatise

Performers: Kikz Katika, Olu Alatise,
Sewit Tekle

Olu Alatise is a dance artist, creative director, choreographer, teacher, mentor, creative representative, agent and female empowerment activist.

With a colourful resume showcasing her versatile creativity, impeccable choreography skills, impressive clientele and passion for mentoring female dancers, Olu is breaking the boundaries of dance with inspiring morals, strong work ethic and a desire to build female bosses across the UK and Europe.

Her versatile body of work has allowed her to work with some of the best choreographers in the UK and choreographing for world renowned Afrobeats and hip hop artists.

Olu is the founder and choreographer of AfroQueens dance group, organiser of AfroQueens International Dance camp, creator of 'AfroTalk with Miss Lulu' and co-founder of talent agency LD CREATIVES.

Sasha Shadid



Sasha Shadid

Performer: Sasha Shadid

Sasha Mahfouz Shadid is a British-Palestinian born in Portsmouth, Southsea.

Presently gravitating towards the title of "Movement Creative, visual speaker and enthusiastic 'doodler,'" he is passionate about street dance and contemporary languages, mainly hip hop, krump and house dance, learning these from artists and renowned dancers from around the world.

In his career he has worked locally and internationally, touring with hip hop theatre shows, experiencing an assistant director role for theatre work and has performed in venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, The Place and Sadler's Wells Theatre.

Aside from theatre, he has worked commercially with professional brands such as ASOS, Adidas, The Voice UK, and So You Think You Can Dance Poland.



Jonzi D - Open Art Surgery Leader

An MC, dancer, spoken word artist and director, he is the foremost advocate for hip hop who has changed the profile and influenced the development of the UK British hip hop dance and theatre scene over the last two decades. Since founding Breakin' Convention in 2004 Jonzi has triumphed in raising the profile and giving a platform to hip hop disciplines, which has gained worldwide recognition as being at the vanguard of the development of the art form. Through professional development projects Open Art Surgery and Back to the Lab, Jonzi has supported hundreds of hip hop dance and rap/poetry artists on their journey to creating theatre. His critically acclaimed works include 1995's Lyrikal Fearta, 1999's Aeroplane Man, 2006's TAG... Just Writing My Name, 2009's Markus the Sadist and 2013's The Letter: To Be Or To MBE? about his choice to decline an MBE. Jonzi has been featured in HBO's Def Poetry Jam, had his short films Silence da Bitchin' & Aeroplane Man screened on Channel 4, toured his work extensively all over the world and delivered a TEDx Talk about the influence and evolution of hip hop culture.

In 2020 Jonzi directed Our Bodies Back which won 'Best Artistic Film' as part of the Detroit Black film festival, followed up by the sequel, AUTOCORRECT in 2022. He also wrote Here/Not Here, a short film directed by Bim Ajadi which won the best film category at Deaffest.

Jane Sekonya-John

Open Art Surgery Mentor

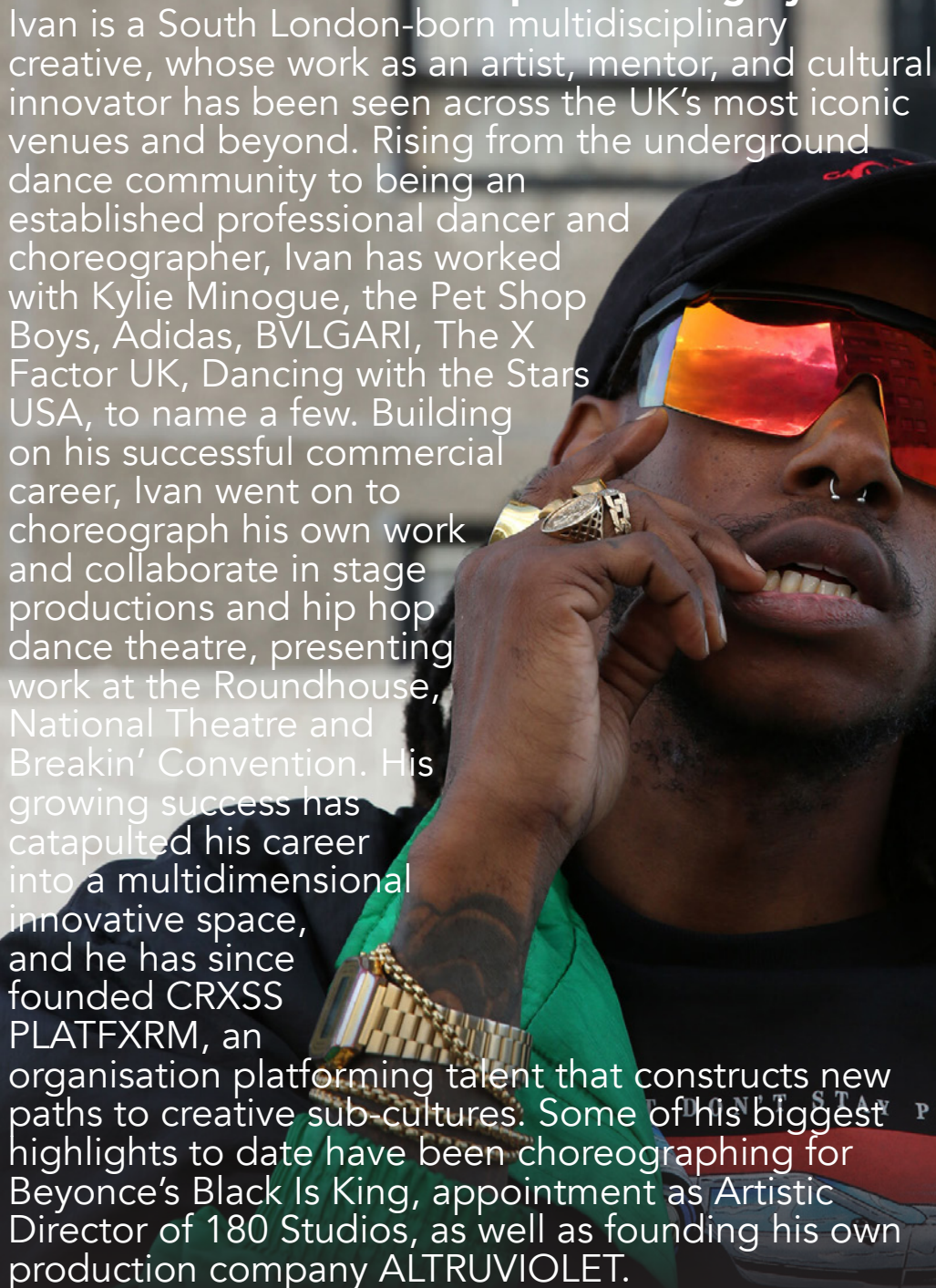
Born and Bred in Katlehong, Johannesburg, Jane's first dance was traditional Sotho and Pedi, followed closely by renditions of early street dance, hip hop and pantsula with her local township crew Bixties Body Rock Club.

Her training includes Johannesburg Dance foundation and Ballet Rambert in London. Jane has performed and toured with Disney's The Lion King, Jonzi D's Aeroplane Man, has worked extensively with traditional South African dance and music group Shikisha.

Jane is among a rare breed of performing artists fusing popular cultures by experimenting with the variables of dance in the genres of ballet, contemporary, Kwaito (house dance), gumboot, krump, traditional African, hip hop and Afro-Caribbean dance styles, to bring her unique craft to the cutting edge of audience, dancers and dance theatres around the world. The unparalleled ability of subtle exploding dynamite' is descriptive of Jane's "AFROFUZE." Jane is also a regular teacher at Artistry Youth Dance Company in London.

Ivan Michael Blackstock - Open Art Surgery Mentor

Ivan is a South London-born multidisciplinary creative, whose work as an artist, mentor, and cultural innovator has been seen across the UK's most iconic venues and beyond. Rising from the underground dance community to being an established professional dancer and choreographer, Ivan has worked with Kylie Minogue, the Pet Shop Boys, Adidas, BVLGARI, The X Factor UK, Dancing with the Stars USA, to name a few. Building on his successful commercial career, Ivan went on to choreograph his own work and collaborate in stage productions and hip hop dance theatre, presenting work at the Roundhouse, National Theatre and Breakin' Convention. His growing success has catapulted his career into a multidimensional innovative space, and he has since founded CRXSS PLATFXRM, an organisation platforming talent that constructs new paths to creative sub-cultures. Some of his biggest highlights to date have been choreographing for Beyonce's Black Is King, appointment as Artistic Director of 180 Studios, as well as founding his own production company ALTRUVIOLET.



Watch Open Art Surgery, the series, online!

Notice this Open Art Surgery being filmed? It's for a second series that takes a peek behind the curtain of the creation process. Watch the first series at [YouTube.com/breakinconvention](https://www.youtube.com/breakinconvention)

Back to the Lab Applications now open

A two week hip hop intensive for experienced hip hop theatre choreographers, 15-27 January 2024. Applications deadline: Monday 2 October 2023. See breakinconvention.com/backtothelab

Apply for Breakin' Convention 2024!

Applications will open soon - keep an eye on our social media for updates.

Enjoy this evening? Would you like to develop work with Breakin' Convention or explore an idea in hip hop theatre? We have spaces for the next Open Art Surgery in March 2024 - email michelle@breakinconvention.com

For updates on our upcoming shows and events, visit breakinconvention.com

Breakin' Convention would like to thank everyone at Sadler's Wells who make Open Art Surgery possible.