

**WILDFIRE RISING**



**ASSOCIATE ARTIST DEVELOPMENT  
YEAR TWO: 2022 - 2023**



**PROGRAMME EVALUATION**

An artist development programme from Cheshire Dance and Movema that aims to remove barriers of inequality by investing in and supporting Global Majority Dance Artists.

**x5**

**ASSOCIATE ARTISTS**

Investing in the development, artistry & leadership of 5 Global Majority Artists



**DORIVALDA  
FI LIPE**

**RUTH  
ASIDI**

**PEI YEE  
TONG**

**SHEETAL  
MARU**

**AKIL  
MORGAN**

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

Year 2 has focused on deepening impact by creating time and space for mental well-being, investing in artist development and creating platforms and events to host and promote the talent and skills in the North West.



**16 Oct 2022 - Oct 2023**  
YR 2 PROGRAMME

plus

**x2** Artist Development DAYS

**x2** World Dance MASTERCLASSES

**x3** Inquiring Bodies EVENTS



**EVENT**

**SPREAD YOUR WINGS**

**60** Audience at Event  
LIVE & ONLINE

**TRAINING**

**EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION**

**6** EDI Conversations  
inc. 4 Anti-Racism sessions with  
**106** participants across sessions

**SUPPORT**

**ARTISTS SURGERIES**

**24** 1:1 sessions  
FOR GLOBAL  
MAJORITY ARTISTS



**6**

**Global Majority  
GUEST ARTISTS**

Sharing practice to support development



**42**

**Global Majority  
ATTENDEE BURSARIES**

Supporting access to training with £100 bursaries for 42 artists



**158 Total**  
Event participants



**PARTICIPANTS**

**56%** Global Majority

**37%** Neurodiverse

**23%** LGBTQIA+

**85%** Female identifying

Event Demographics



Artists told us that 'Wildfire Rising created welcoming, diverse, inclusive and inspiring events'.

**ARTIST**

“ This is a platform that allows space for conversation and gives a voice to artists to communicate and simmer new ideas. ”

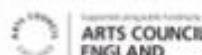
**Regional Venue Partners/Hosts**



Wildfire Rising is that part in the book where something comes into the story, which flips everything and reveals this whole other super exciting part of what might happen next...



Wildfire Rising from Cheshire Dance and Movema has been supported by funding from Arts Council England.



# Wildfire Rising

Year 2 Feedback  
2022-2023

I've realised I am bold and ambitious and want to work choreographically; I want to keep moving and performing and want to work with bodies.

Associate Artist

Before this project I never really had the time to sit down and consider myself as an artist; now I can proudly say I AM an artist.

Associate Artist

I feel like this is a little seed that is going to grow.

Associate Artist

WFR has given me a lot of support and encouragement to go on this journey. These people believe in me and I should BELIEVE in myself.

Associate Artist

I have felt less isolated as an artist and have made significant connections with other local and national dance artists & practitioners.

Associate Artist

The biggest significance in this programme has been to find the seed of what my practice is... I feel like this journey gave me the time to really think about what is valuable for me."

Associate Artist

It has been incredible to be a part of the journey; it felt quite small but it felt quite significant

Associate Artist

It's great that WFR is supporting artists that need it and it's great to connect and network.

Engaging with numerous artists from diverse dance backgrounds and immersing myself in their creative energy throughout the day was truly exceptional.

EQUALITY

Its so important to have safe spaces like this where artists can explore, create and develop without the expectation to create something.

REPRESENTATION

This is a platform that allows space for conversation, and gives a voice to artists to communicate and simmer new ideas.

DIVERSITY

It is powerful to connect with artists from different backgrounds, levels & art forms. It's been valuable & inspiring.

INCLUSION

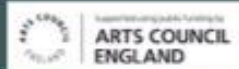
The healing nature of dance - it is not spoken about enough.

It was really refreshing to attend a dance workshop that was also related to human rights and cultural exchange.

It's been so nice exploring different practices with different artists of diverse backgrounds.

It's really important for us to come together as a dance community to share and enjoy/support each other's presence.

If you want to create diverse spaces, you must provide opportunities for diverse artists. When people see themselves in a spaces, they are more likely to participate. Representation matters.



A SAFE AND NURTURING SPACE TO EXPLORE ARTISTICALLY

**BEING HEARD**

IS VERY IMPORTANT. TIME IS NEEDED TO ARTICULATE IDEAS, TO FEEL OUR VOICES AS GLOBAL MAJORITY ARTISTS, TO ENSURE WE ARE NOT TOKENISED

I GRABBED THE OPPORTUNITY TO STEP INTO AN UNKNOWN SPACE

WE NEED TO SOLIDIFY OUR VOICES AND FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO STAND IN SOLIDARITY

MEANINGFUL CHANGE NEEDS A GRASS ROOTS ELEMENT INCLUDE ARTISTS IN THE STRATEGIC PLANNING

**Akil**

THIS IS ONE CHAPTER IN A 55 CHAPTER BOOK!

WHATEVER I CREATE, IT HAS TO COME FROM ME



I'M SAILING IN A NEW DIRECTION

THIS IS A LITTLE SEED THAT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW

IT ALLOWED ME TIME, SPACE AND MONEY TO DELVE INTO MY PRACTICE.

FINE-TUNING THE DESCRIPTION OF MY WORK AND IDENTIFYING WAYS TO

**PROGRESS AS AN ARTIST**  
**ARTICULATION**  
**VISIONING**



**Wildfire Rising**  
2023

I AM MORE RESILIENT

NO AGENDA  
**FREEDOM TO CHOOSE**  
**ARTIST CENTRED**

LONG TO FIND SOMEONE LIKE ME IN THE ART WORLD. A ROLE MODEL TO SHARE WITH MY SON

I LEARNT ABOUT MYSELF, MY PAST, MY HISTORY  
**LISTENING IS POWERFUL,**

WHAT IS THE LEGACY POST PROGRAM?

I AM STILL DOING A LOT OF GROWING. THIS WAS A BIG YEAR TO DO THIS PROJECT BUT IT WAS THE RIGHT TIME  
IT HAS MADE ME ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT MY ROLE AS A FACILITATOR ALONGSIDE MY PERSONAL WORK

**Sheetal**

THIS HAS SHIFTED MY OWN MEASURE OF WHAT IS SUCCESS!

I HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT MY EXTERNAL WORLDS WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY IN THE WORLD STARTS WITHIN

I LONG TO BRANCH OUT INTERNATIONALLY

COMING TOGETHER AT ENQUIRING BODIES WAS A CLEVER WAY TO STRUCTURE THE JOURNEY

**SELF VALUE**  
I'M ON A QUEST TO OVERCOME MY BARRIERS  
**BEING REAL**

MENTORSHIP ISN'T A LUXURY, IT'S A NECESSITY FOR ARTISTS TO REFLECT + RENEW

**Values**



OPENESS  
EQUALITY



RESPECT  
RECOGNISE THE 'CHARGE'

COMPASSION

WIDER AWARENESS  
(knowledge the bigger picture outside this space)  
ACCOUNTABILITY

**Jane**

WHAT DID YOU LOVE? LEARN? LONG FOR? LACK?

**Our space**

**life changing**

THE CONNECTION TO NATURE HAS BEEN

**Dori**

I FOUND NEW WAYS OF DOING THINGS I STEPPED INTO NEW PLACES

I LONG TO SHARE MY PRACTICE MY ROOTS WHERE I COME FROM

I FELT SEEN BEFORE, I WAS DORI, WHO ENJOYED DANCING NOW, I AM AN ARTIST. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCE.

AT FIRST, I WAS CONFUSED + LOST BUT THINGS BECAME CLEARER

**I OVERCAME!**



**movema**



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**  
LOTTERY FUNDED

@gillsmithillustration

Visual Minutes from Associate Artist Reflection, 6th Oct 2023



Supported using public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Visual Minutes from Spread your Wings event, 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022