



# RM DC

# 20 21

Russell  
Maliphant  
Dance  
Company

Annual report 20/21

Summary information and figures



## FOREWORD

It gives us great pleasure to introduce Russell Maliphant Dance Company's first ever Annual Report.

These unprecedented times have created extraordinary challenges for the performing arts and we are proud that we have emerged from it stronger, as you will see from the variety and scope of the content in this report. Our success is down to a number of things: luck, with the timing of our *maliphantworks3* production just before the pandemic began; good management by our wonderful team; and our generous supporters, including the Cultural Recovery Fund.

Although restrictions resulted in us having to postpone national and international tours of new and old productions and the rehearsal periods associated with them, we have used the time forced upon us to think creatively about who we are and what we want to achieve, pivoting the company away from performances to research programmes, teaching, and increasing our digital presence, whilst unable to perform.

We're looking forward to being back in the studio and have begun the research and development phase of our new production, inspired by the works of Jackson Pollock. We are working again with some of the dancers from *Silent Lines*, plus we will bring in some new dancers whom we are currently recruiting. The new show will tour from Autumn 2022 and we look forward to seeing some of you there.

Thank you so much for your continuing support for our work. We look forward enormously to seeing you again soon and welcoming you back to the theatre.

With warm wishes,  
Dr Russell Maliphant and Harry MacAuslan, Chairman

## THE YEAR'S FACTS AND FIGURES

NEW COMMISSIONS

3

EDUCATIONAL  
WORKSHOPS DELIVERED

144

LIVE THEATRE  
AUDIENCE MEMBERS

2,503

EDUCATIONAL  
WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

3,181

LIVE STREAM  
AUDIENCE MEMBERS

90,000+

YOUTUBE VIEWS

25,522

ONLINE TICKETS SOLD

897

ONLINE COMPANY  
CLASSES

103

FREE TICKETS GIVEN

989

COMPANY CLASS  
ATTENDEES

1,988



## • WHAT WE CREATED

One of the artistic aims of RMDC is the exploration of the relationship between movement, light and sound. We have continued to explore this framework throughout the past year:

### Silent Lines

*Silent Lines* draws upon Maliphant's research and explorations in dance and anatomy using a unique mix of movement, animated video projection, and lighting. *Silent Lines* premiered at DanceEast in April 2019 and toured across the UK throughout the rest of the year to great critical acclaim.

In 2020, *Silent Lines* was due to perform at several international venues in the USA, Germany, France and the UK, but due to COVID restrictions we have had to reschedule the tour to 2023.

“Silent lines is a stunning blend of dance and technological innovation and a sharp reminder of the human effort and skill required to produce such a powerful and visually engaging show”

David Cunningham, British Theatre Guide



“★★★★ What hits you between the eyes above all from the very start (...) is how beautiful this piece is”

The Telegraph, Mark Monahan, 19 Oct 2019





## New production

The company's next and newest production is currently in its research and development stage.

It will explore a mix of movement and visually rich language inspired by the abstract expressionist paintings of the American artist Jackson Pollock.

With our performers, light will shape the space and construct environments of mood and contrast through which meanings are engendered, allowing for points of contact, divergence, collision and absorption.

This new production will tour throughout the UK from Autumn 2022.

## maliphantworks3

In February 2020, just before COVID restrictions began, RMDC presented *maliphantworks3* at The Coronet Theatre for 13 nights. The evening included a world premier of *The Space Between*, a duet performed by Dana Fouras and Russell Maliphant; two specially commissioned films; and a revival of 2018's highlight *Duet*.

### "★★★★★ AN UNMISSABLE SHOW"

Teresa Guerreiro, Culture Whisper

### "★★★★★ OVERWHELMING"

Mark Monahan, The Telegraph

### "★★★★★ MESMERISING"

Emma Byrne, Evening Standard

## • HOW WE ENGAGED

### 144 educational workshops delivered

RMDC's planned programme this year spanned working with schools and dancers in training, and involved collaborations with partners to deliver projects and mentoring.

In response to the national lockdown, we adapted our planned programmes to take place online. This enabled us to widen our reach, work with larger groups and deliver internationally and intergenerationally with dancers aged 18 to 85.

### Online Company Classes

#### 1988 company class attendees

Classes are focused on Maliphant's core principles, exploring individual movement potential. This includes increasing body awareness, articulation and strength whilst exploring choices in movement and dynamics within a playful practice. Drawing on anatomical information as a resource for movement and improvisation, classes encourage connection, balance and listening to the body in movement.

"RMDC daily classes came at a time when I was personally feeling low, teaching and meeting online as opposed to being present in person. The classes were the exact tonic I needed to feed myself and to stimulate me physically."

– Company class participant

> *EncoreEast* © Roswitha Chesher

"Russell's Company Class has reawakened in me something that I thought I had lost years ago."

– Company class participant









I thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity and all you have so generously done for us. I haven't done many other placements, but I have a feeling that it's quite rare to have a placement as intimate as this or to give the students time and opportunities to reflect aloud or in a group. I will definitely recommend this placement opportunity to younger students in the future and I look forward to engaging with RMDC further down the road.

## Educating teachers and students

In 2020 RMDC commissioned a beautiful educational tool for teachers to engage students and dancers in training, based on *Silent Lines*. Further to this success the company is now developing a digital education pack based on *Two*. Due to be ready for the academic Autumn term 2021, the pack is being designed to reach GCSE, A level and vocational courses and the company hopes to become part of the AQA Dance specification.

## Mentoring

The company's mentoring programme aims to increase knowledge exchange and skills development within the organisation as well as externally, through mentoring a range of upcoming professionals in the sector. In turn, we will feed back our learning from these activities into our internal discussions and development.

In addition, the company is implementing a new process called 'reverse mentoring' for the board – a programme that enables our apprenticeship colleagues and young dancers to advise and guide the board to facilitate a different understanding.

## Student Placements

For the first time post-restrictions we hosted a diverse group of 30 dancers in training over 3 days for an extensive student placement programme. In addition to taking class with company dancer Grace Jabbari, students attended an outreach workshop, met the company staff to discuss alternative roles in the industry, and observed Maliphant rehearsing for the staging of *maliphantworks3* at The Coronet Theatre, London.



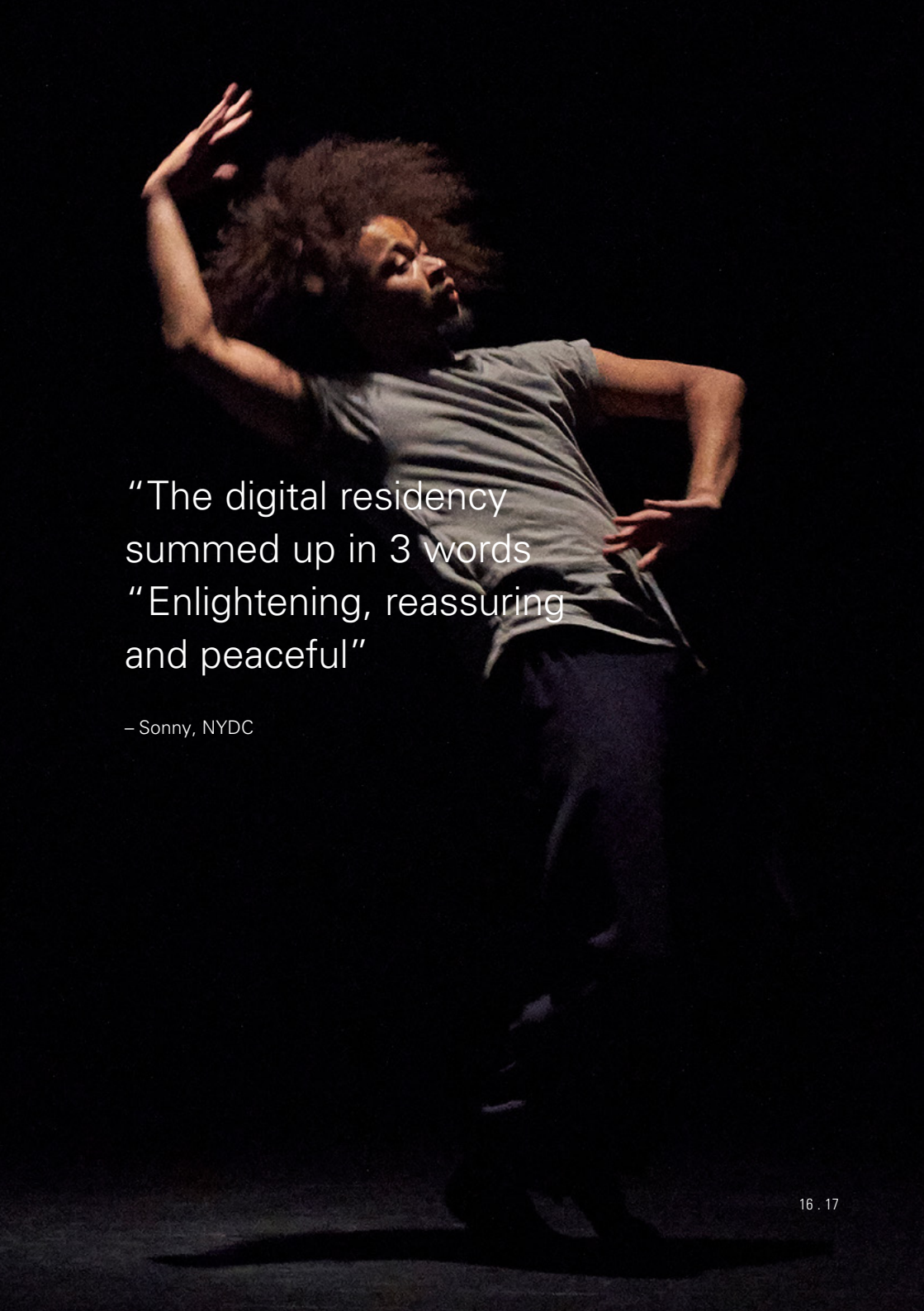
## • WORKING WITH OTHERS

### National Youth Dance Company collaboration

Maliphant was invited to be Guest Director of National Youth Dance Company (NYDC) in 2019/20 which was extended due to the pandemic. Working with the company of 39 dancers over four residencies, Maliphant and his Company dancers created, developed and rehearsed a new commission.

“The virtual residency was just what I needed to restore my motivation and return to a somewhat normal schedule... If this residency has taught me anything, it’s the determination of the dance community to continue working on our craft regardless of the challenges and limitations we’re faced with.”

*Millie, NYDC*



“The digital residency  
summed up in 3 words  
“Enlightening, reassuring  
and peaceful”

– Sonny, NYDC



## RMDC and EncoreEast

RMDC has consistently explored and championed movement potential with bodies of all ages and has been mentoring company dancers Alethia Antonia and Edd Arnold as they create a new piece with EncoreEast – a company of dancers aged 50 to 80. As well as developing the participants' movement practice, this also enables the Company and participants to further examine Maliphant's process and practice.

“Focus has taught us that we can achieve more than we thought we could, and that participating in great art is inspiring, empowering, and life-changing.”



## English National Ballet

Working again with collaborators Dana Fouras, Panagiotis Tomaras and Stevie Stewart, Maliphant was commissioned by ENB to create a piece entitled *Echoes*. The pandemic led to a delay in the live performance, so the first release of this production was as a film directed by Michael Nunn & William Trevitt in November 2020.

*Echoes* was one of five world premieres performed live at a special event at Sadler's Wells which was eventually performed live for a full week in May 2021.

“★★★★★HAUNTING”

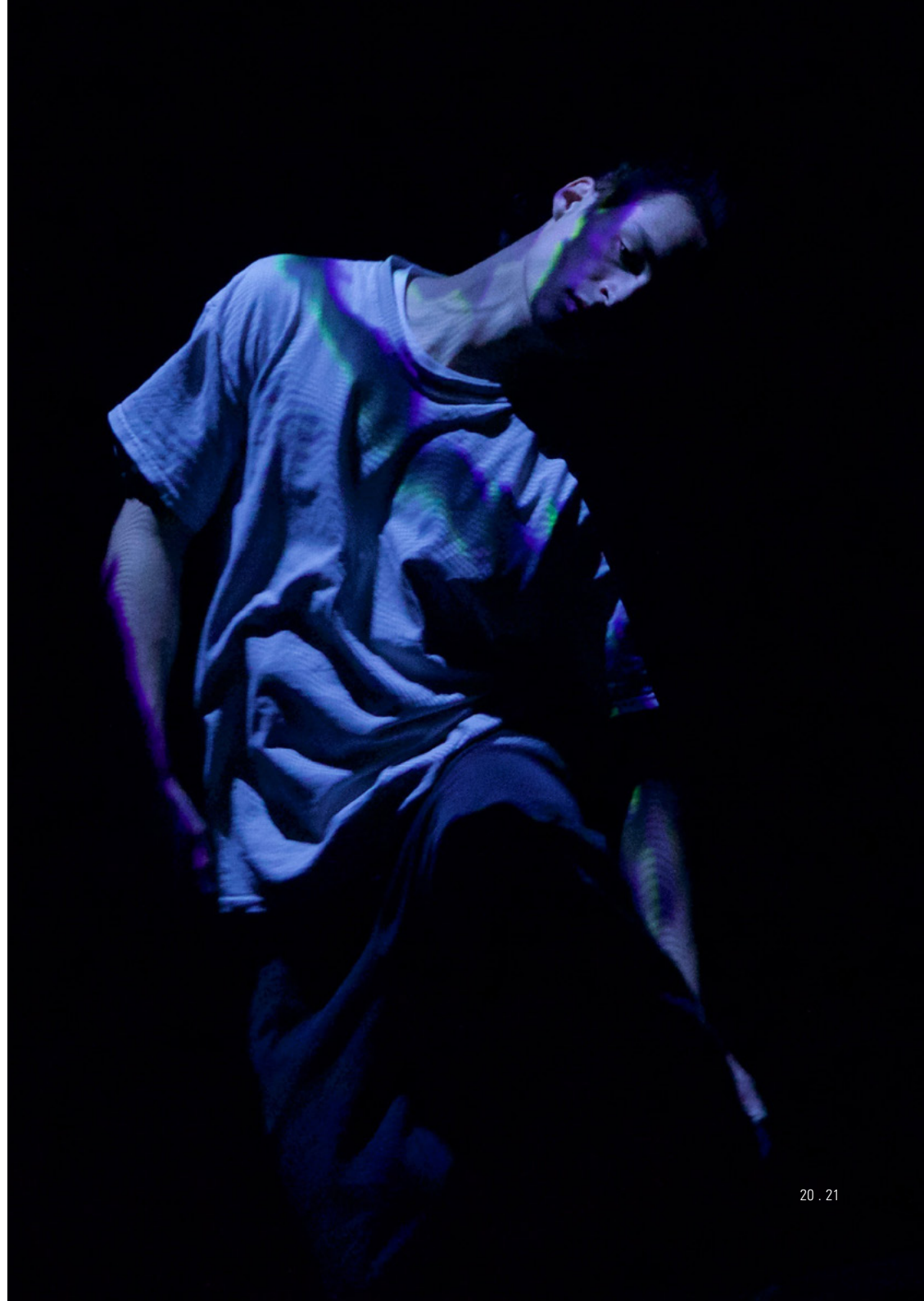
Neil Norman, The Stage

## LEARNING

RMDC has committed to investing further in its research around the exploration of human movement and the relationships between dance, health and aesthetics in performance. The research aims to explore Maliphant's dance and bodywork practice and the influence that it has on dancers' performance potential, career longevity and healthful participation in dance, no matter the context or age. The project is collaborating with researchers who share the company's curiosity and together we hope to contribute new knowledge to the dance sector, as well as the academic and applied fields of dance and dance science.

### Maliphant gains his PhD

The company is delighted to announce that Maliphant has gained his PhD from Canterbury Christ Church University. He is the first choreographer ever to gain a PhD by publication as choreography, and it is this research and constant exploration which is stimulating the company's research programme.





## DIGITAL

### Digital Archive

In response to COVID, the company created a Digital Archive of full performance recordings and short clips from creative productions to enable audiences to access the company's repertoire anywhere, any time, in any place. This treasure trove of material provides insight into the artistic processes of the company and its collaborators.

To date, RMDC's archives have been viewed online **25,522** times



### Live streams

In addition to archived video footage, during lockdowns the Company offered free live streams of recent works, enabling audience members to experience the work from home, and engage in Q&A sessions with Maliphant and his collaborator Dana Fouras. These proved extremely popular with an overall live viewing figure of **90,000**



## PEOPLE

### The Executive Team

Russell Maliphant PhD, Creative Director  
Martin Collins, Executive Director/Producer  
Bella Scarr, General Manager  
Joanna McDwyer, Development Director  
Michelle Bynoe, Education Manager  
Helen Laws, Project Manager, Research

Dana Fouras, Sound Designer  
Panagiotis Tomaras, Projection and  
Lighting Designer  
Stevie Stewart, Costume Designer

### The Dancers

Alethia Antonia  
Edd Arnold  
Grace Jabbari  
Folu Odimayo  
Will Thompson

### The Board

Harry MacAuslan, Chairman  
Louise Shand-Brown  
Pippa Adamson  
Fleur Derbyshire-Fox  
Stuart Griffiths  
Joseph Henry  
Hamble Wallace

### We thank our current supporters...

Arts Council England  
John Ellerman Foundation  
Cockayne – Grants for the Arts  
London Community Foundation  
Victoria Wood Foundation  
Foyle Foundation

< *The Thread* © Yannis Bournias | Back cover: *New Production* © Dana Fouras



**RM**  
**DC** Russell  
Maliphant  
Dance  
Company

Jerwood DanceHouse, 1-3 Foundry Lane, Ipswich IP4 1DW

Registered in England and Wales: 10537823, VAT Reg: 290276689,  
Registered Charity No: 1183150

[russellmaliphantdancecompany.com](http://russellmaliphantdancecompany.com)