

Naughty Corner Productions



Mike Dickinson
& Jemma Lynch
BA (Hons) Drama 2013

After graduating, Mike and Jemma established Naughty Corner Productions, an award-winning independent professional theatre company. Always passionate about the potential of live theatre, they were keen to create dark comedic productions that they felt would speak to a younger demographic. Naughty Corner has performed at the Edinburgh Festival, where they won the Sunday Times National Student Drama Festival first prize award in 2014, as well as in major venues across the North West, garnering an array of four and five-star reviews. At a time when most theatre companies are restricting their numbers, Naughty Corner works with large casts, including fellow Edge Hill alumni and current students where possible.



An incredibly well-acted, free-form play, with punchy and funny dialogue and a great soundtrack and set... A very worthy joint winner of our Edinburgh Award.

Michael Brazier, CEO and Artistic Director, National Student Drama Festival

Professional Edge



Connor Quill

BA (Hons) Dance and Drama
with Aerial Performance, 2012

As a founding member of Edge Hill's successful EdgeFWD dance company, Connor co-created and toured *A Beautiful Hell* culminating in a week-long run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. After graduating with a First Class degree, he went on to train in the founding year of Jasmin Vardimon Company's JV2 Programme. He has since performed with State Of Emergency, Gary Clarke Company, and Italy's Compagnia Arearea, and has toured venues across Europe, Brazil and Asia. Connor is also one half of North West based company Them Two, commissioning and touring new outdoor dance theatre with support from Arts Council England.



I first met Connor with EdgeFWD and his buoyant energy and charisma, along with his undeniable creativity and talent, shone through from the start. From student to professional, I have witnessed him grow into a well-seasoned and mature dance practitioner who has gone from strength to strength. His constant drive, professionalism and approach is a true testament to the excellent training he had at Edge Hill.

Gary Clarke, Independent Dance Artist and Choreographer

Global dance ambassador



Malachi Simmons

BA (Hons) Dance, 2014

Bermuda-born Malachi came to the UK in 2011 to study Dance at Edge Hill. With a passion for choreography and performance, he was an inspirational member of EdgeFWD, Edge Hill's male dance company, and founded the University's first Hip Hop Society. Since graduation, Malachi has built an impressive performance portfolio, working with Boy Blue Productions, Black Gold Arts, Studio 25 and Company Chameleon, and regularly delivers Master Classes at dance training institutions nationally. He has recently created a company, Island Mentality, which aims to advocate for Bermudian artists across the world, and is now continuing his artistic development in Los Angeles while growing his brand on a global scale.



One of Malachi's roles within EdgeFWD was to advocate for the male dancer which he did with passion and pride. He demonstrated, through his quality of performance and public speaking, his belief in Edge Hill and in the value of promoting dance to all males regardless of sexuality, ethnicity, age or experience.

Debbie Milner, Senior Lecturer in Dance, Edge Hill University

Speaking out

James finds his voice with Ariel Trust



James Overend

BA (Hons) Music, Sound and Drama 2015

Music, Sound and Drama graduate James Overend spoke up about online safety by lending his voice to a new online resource created by educational charity Ariel Trust. James worked with the Trust on SafeSkills, a new primary preventative resource about 'grooming' behaviours, developed in consultation with the NSPCC, Liverpool's 'Protect' team, Merseyside Police and primary school teachers. James provided the voiceover for 'Will', who guides pupils and teachers through the interactive resource which will help young people develop their communication skills, increase their resilience and build a network of people that they can turn to for support. With 85 schools and local authorities from across the country already signed up to use the resource, SafeSkills has the potential to impact on thousands of young people in the UK.



Having worked with James in a professional setting, it's clear he has an extremely strong work ethic and is effective both individually and as part of a team. He is a popular and supportive member of the creative team at Ariel Trust, who gives maximum effort to his work at all times, taking each task seriously, and tackling every piece with genuine positivity.

Cheryl Mackie, Project Co-ordinator, Ariel Trust



Rosie Redvers-Jones

BA (Hons) Drama, 2012

MA Making Performance, 2015

Graduate Rosie Redvers-Jones has developed a business training performers in the Scare and Live Horror entertainment industry, a sector which has grown in popularity in recent years. Rosie spotted a need for specific Scare Actor Training and has now performed with or trained the actors for companies across the UK, including London (Unlocked Vision Entertainment), Norfolk (PrimEvil at Dinosaur Adventure Park), York (HallowScream at York Maze), Birmingham (Twisted Attractions), Penkridge (Twisted Attractions at Lower Drayton Farm) and Canterbury (Contagious at Canterbury Tales). She even has her own event, ScreamFest in Burton-on-Trent, which has entertained audiences of 18,000 people over 14 terrifying nights.



The course enabled me to really get to grips with what I wanted to achieve in training Scare performers. I gained a much deeper understanding of how I could work with, and deliver, the performance system I had created when working in the industry, and I was able to develop that in my Masters.

Rosie Redvers-Jones

Exchanging Dances



Inspirational collaboration with Tate Exchange

Tate Exchange is an ambitious open experiment which allows other organisations and the public to participate in a creative process, running events and projects on-site and using art as a way of addressing wider issues in the world around us. As part of this project, final year dancers from Edge Hill University showcased 'Exchanging Dances' in Tate Liverpool, performing three new dances in a cyclical series of choreographies and staged improvisations that explored and celebrated dance as exchange. Taking inspiration from the Tate Exchange 'provocations', the dances included moving exchanges, social networking, touch and interchange. The dancers worked collaboratively to devise complex structures, scores and dance materials, which provoked and offered exchanges between dancers and between dancers and the public.



The Edge Hill dance students really took the idea of Exchange as a live brief to develop their performances. They were extremely professional in their conduct in the gallery and in their interaction with the public. The performances were of a very high standard, evidenced by over 1,000 members of the public being totally engaged.

Lindsey Fryer, Head of Learning, Tate Liverpool

Preparing for Employment



Students go back to school with Theatr Clwyd

Theatr Clwyd is Wales' major drama producer and home to an acclaimed theatre production company. A new partnership with Theatr Clwyd aims to provide high quality opportunities for Edge Hill Drama students to engage with the theatre, prepare graduates for employment and create concrete opportunities for students to move into the theatre industry. Recently, students have been involved in the company's highly successful schools project, Theatr Clwyd@Elfed, which sees a team of performers, musicians, visual artists and dancers conduct a week long 'street festival' in a secondary school, with events happening between lessons, in corridors and recreational areas throughout the site. Artistic Director of Theatre Clwyd, Tamara Harvey, will also visit third year acting and directing students to talk to them about her work and the work of the theatre.



The aim of the partnership is to enhance employment opportunities for students and recent graduates, and enlarge the pool of properly prepared graduates and emerging artists available to creative organisations.

Emma Heron, Senior Lecturer in Drama, Edge Hill University

Reflected Glory



Students deliver cutting edge performance for World of Glass

Musical Theatre's tutor-led vocal student ensemble company, Double Edge, provided a programme of music to commemorate Armistice Day at World of Glass in St Helens. Composer Benjamin Till – who has been working with our Edge Hill Musical Theatre students – gave permission for the emotive 'I Miss the Music' from Brass, his First World War epic musical about members of the Leeds Pals Battalion, to be performed. During their work with the composer, students had the opportunity to ask questions firsthand about the piece. The ensemble also performed 'Flight' by Craig Carnelia and 'Gravity/Run To You', arranged by Jonathan Reid Gealt. These pieces were chosen for their slow, emotional storytelling, featuring a sense of loss and heartache, as well as a sense of hope. Double Edge worked to deliver an emotive site-specific performance, providing the best sound and visual experience possible in The World of Glass public spaces.



The enthusiasm of the students, consideration for our visitors, and respect for the theme of the performance material was equaled by their enormous talent and joy of performing. The team from Edge Hill made the possibility of this taking place in our venue easy to put into practice, being open to our needs and views and, ultimately, giving us a quality performance.

Ron Helsby, Executive Director, The World of Glass

Dance for Parkinsons



Pioneering partnership with English National Ballet

Edge Hill works with English National Ballet (ENB) and Merseyside Dance Initiative (MDI) providing volunteers to assist with its Dance for Parkinson's programme. Classes for people with Parkinson's disease and their families are delivered in London, as well as nationally in collaboration with regional hub partners National Dance Company Wales based in Cardiff, DanceEast in Ipswich, MDI in Liverpool and Oxford City Council. Since 2014, dance artist and Edge Hill Associate Lecturer, Helen Gould, supported by student volunteers, has taught the Liverpool programme, providing a fun and informal way for participants to discover the themes, choreography and music of the ballets.

The programme is proven to support people with Parkinson's to develop confidence and strength, while temporarily relieving some participants of symptoms in everyday life.



The ability and needs of the group varies and can change from week to week. This requires a certain amount of spontaneity in monitoring and adapting the material to the participants' needs. All of our student volunteers have interest, experience and passion for community dance and are actively involved, contributing creatively to tasks and exercises.

Helen Gould, Dance Artist and Edge Hill Associate Lecturer

Towering performances



Students take centre stage at Blackpool's Grand Theatre

A partnership with Blackpool's Grand Theatre is giving Dance students valuable hands-on experience of life as professional dance artists and helping them gain the skills employers are looking for. As well as supporting graduate dance company, Twelve Degrees North, the Blackpool Grand has also offered students work experience in its marketing department. Undergraduates recently worked with the James Wilton Dance company to create a new piece as a curtain raiser to his performance at the theatre, which can also be seen at various public events. The project aimed to engage students in working at a professional level and dealing with new and challenging material. James Wilton continues to act as an artistic mentor to Edge Hill students, and the partnership is organising future projects with The Gary Clark Company and Mark Murphey's VTol.



The Edge Hill dance students were a pleasure to have in the theatre; they conducted themselves professionally at all times as well as performing the curtain raiser to a very high standard... the students were, as ever, a pleasure to work with.

Celine Wyatt, Cultural Engagement and Audience Development Manager, Blackpool Grand Theatre



Astley Illuminated puts employability in the spotlight

Edge Hill alumni and current students have worked with LPM Dance Theatre and Zemap Film Productions on an exciting collaborative dance project. Dance graduates, Malachi Simmons and Jamie Pickles, and current students Bethan Jones and Rocky Serg Widdowson, worked in partnership with theatre professionals and students from Albany Academy to develop a live performance and dance film as part of Astley Illuminated, a community arts event at historic Astley Hall in Lancashire. More than 2,000 people watched the collaboration, which consisted of three historic and contemporary dance pieces imagining the marriages of two 17th and 19th century couples at the Hall.



There was extremely positive feedback from audiences, and all of the partners, about the production values, artistic quality, partnership experience and overall enjoyment of the work.

Karen Jaundrill-Scott, Director of Employability and Senior Lecturer in Dance



Getting inside the outdoor arts industry with Walk the Plank

Walk The Plank (WTP) is one of the UK's leading outdoor arts organisations, with more than two decades' experience of producing high-quality, internationally-significant events that are seen by millions of people across the globe. A long-term partnership between WTP and Edge Hill University included the development of Sowing Seeds, a live processional piece at Burscough community farm, which encompassed mass movement, music and puppetry. Edge Hill students were trained in outdoor/participation arts practice by experienced lead artists from WTP, while graduate mentees worked in key directorial and production roles. The partnership with WTP aims to enhance Edge Hill's capacity to prepare graduates for employment and provide mutually beneficial activities that serve students' needs as well as those of the outdoor arts sector.



We don't have enough properly prepared graduates and emerging artists to service all our projects, so developing a partnership with Edge Hill University is also engaging with the higher education sector as part of long-term sustainability strategy.

Alexis Johnson, Head of Training, Walk the Plank

Success Partnerships

Organisations and industry professionals we work with include

Aberlighting	Levantes
Action Transport Theatre	LPM Theatre
Aerial Trust	Ludus Dance
Altru Theatre	M6 theatre
Arts Council England	Mark Murphy
Artzani	MDI
Artzcentre	Memory Matters
BlackE	Michelle Taylor
Blackpool Grand	Movema
Circus Sensible	Plastercine
Citadel	Rosie Redvers-Jones
Culture Warrington	St Helens MBC
Curious Minds	The Lowry
Dance Manchester	Theatre Clywd
Everyman	Unity Theatre
Garry Clarke	Vocano Theatre
George Mann	Walk the Plank
Heart of Glass	Warrington Wolves Foundation
Hong Kong Youth Theatre	Wired Aerial Theatre
Hope Mill Theatre	Wirral Creative Youth Development Team
Hope-Street	World of Glass
Just So Festival	Z Arts Manchester