

Sadler's Wells  
**breakin'**  
convention



# Back to the Lab 2024



Last updated: December 2023. Running order tbc. Details subject to change.



**GSB**

Image © The Capsule

## **GSB (Gully South Block)**

**Choreographer:** Chaquille Forrester- Osborne

**Performers:** Chaquille Forrester-Osborne,  
Taylor-Kae Knott, Laqwarn  
Robinson & Masaiya Thomas

**Music Producer:** Taylor-Kae Knott

Chaquille attended Italia Conti Academy of the Arts and studied contemporary, ballet, tap and jazz.

Later, he joined Twist and Pulse Dance Company and ended up in the semi finals for Britain's Got Talent. He is now the co-creator and co-founder of south London based krump collective Gully South Block (GSB).

Chaquille's credits include: Breakin' Convention, Sky One's Got To Dance, the London 2012 Olympics, Stormzy, Donae'o, Cascada and Hudson East.

# Hertz Three



**Performer:** Hengzi Jiang

**Music Producer:** MyPandaShallFly

Hertz Three (Jiang Hengzi) is a versatile artist with a strong background in various dance styles, including breaking, contemporary dance, and Chinese-style choreography.

He is currently pursuing a master's degree in dance at the University of Chichester.

Hertz Three has achieved recognition as a choreographer, performer, and battler. Notably, his piece Yan Yong secured the championship and the Best Chinese Style Award at the prestigious TDS Top Dance Competition in China. He has also served as a choreographer on the Tencent S+ Variety Show Young Journey and participated as a contestant in Season 3 and Season 5 of the TV show Street Dance Of China.



# Ibrahim Silas Jackson

Image © Mathieu Di Scala

# **Ibrah Silas Jackson**

## **Performers:**

Ibrah Silas Jackson &  
Angel Gonzalez Felix

## **Music Producer:**

Kenzo Alvares

Ibrah Silas Jackson is a director and choreographer from Rotterdam, Netherlands who has a foundation that lies within the hip hop culture and whose work is based on storytelling through visual art and movements.

He has gained more knowledge by studying and learning about different movement disciplines such as contemporary, funk styles and African cultural styles.

Ibrah is also a member of Netherlands' foremost locking dance crew, Ghetto Funk Collective.

Image © SabrinaLambletin



**Solen-Athanasopoulos**



# **Solen Athanassopoulos – Cie Moakosso**

**Performer:** Solen Athanassopoulos

**Music Producer:** Ffion Campbell-Davies

Solen Athanassopoulos is a French-Greek and Congolese hip hop choreographer, dancer, and visual artist, who, at the age of 18 she founded the dance company Cie Moakosso.

Solen is deeply passionate about interdisciplinary collaboration, fostering a creative dialogue among artists. Her travels to Greece and Congo in 2021 deeply influenced her life, reconnecting her with her roots, traditions, and lost knowledge.

Between France, Greece, and Congo, Solen brings together dancers and artists to explore hip hop culture from a modern and a personal perspective.

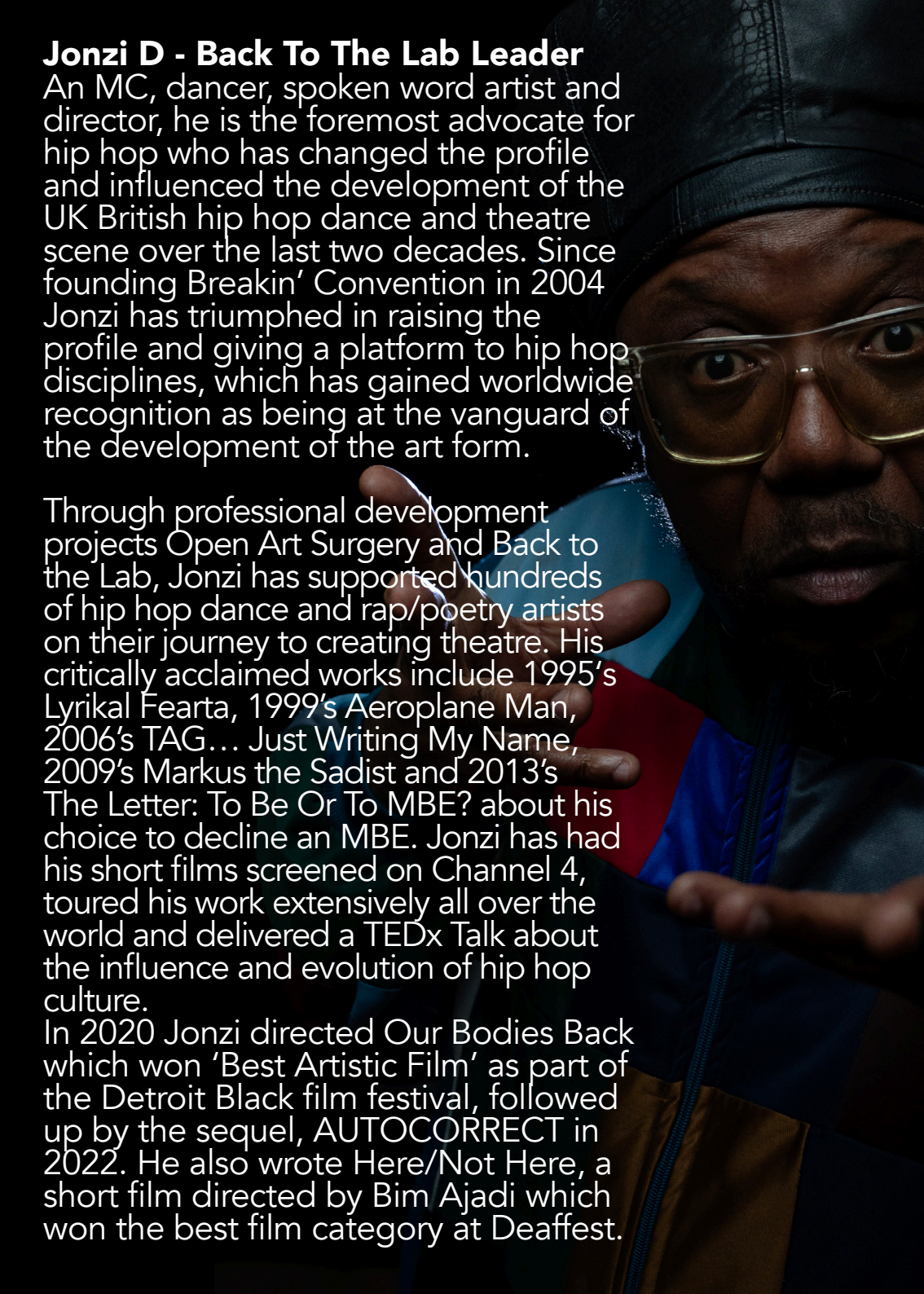
With the Moakosso company, she aims to integrate various artistic disciplines into hip hop culture, traveling the world between Latin America to the Balkans. She collaborates with creative teams to create works with powerful messages, a basis for her company's first work FormLessNess and the development of follow-up work, KnowNess.

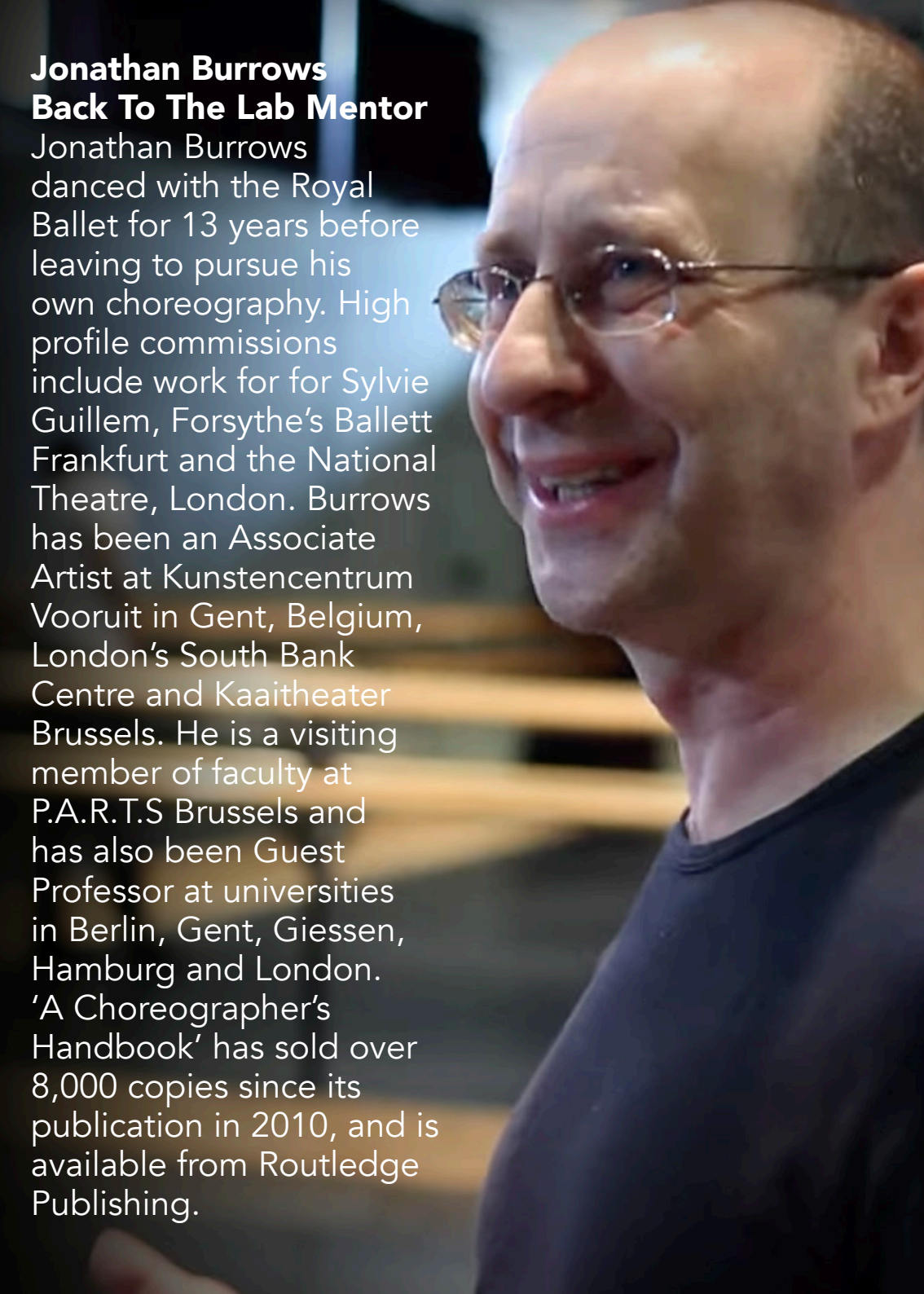
## **Jonzi D - Back To The Lab Leader**

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 had his short films 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.





## **Jonathan Burrows** **Back To The Lab Mentor**

Jonathan Burrows danced with the Royal Ballet for 13 years before leaving to pursue his own choreography. High profile commissions include work for Sylvie Guillem, Forsythe's Ballett Frankfurt and the National Theatre, London. Burrows has been an Associate Artist at Kunstencentrum Vooruit in Gent, Belgium, London's South Bank Centre and Kaaitheater Brussels. He is a visiting member of faculty at P.A.R.T.S Brussels and has also been Guest Professor at universities in Berlin, Gent, Giessen, Hamburg and London. 'A Choreographer's Handbook' has sold over 8,000 copies since its publication in 2010, and is available from Routledge Publishing.

A portrait of Anthony Ekundayo Lennon, a Black man with a shaved head, wearing a dark t-shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

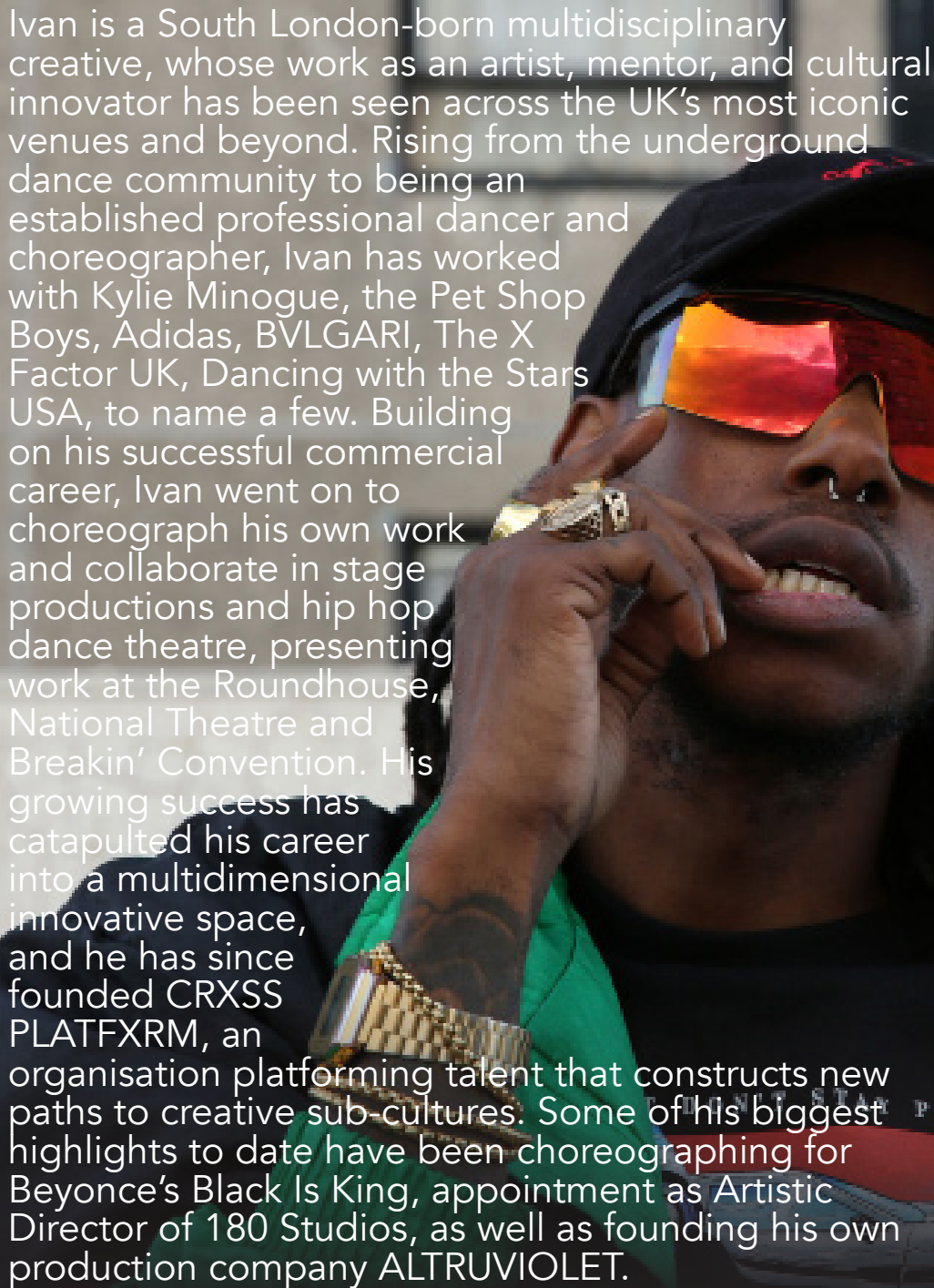
## **Anthony Ekundayo Lennon** **Back To The Lab Mentor**

Anthony's training took place at Weekend Arts College, Old Vic/ Lyric Youth Theatres and Double Edge Theatre. He's been staff director at the National Theatre (Moon on a Rainbow Shawl) and when associate director at Talawa Theatre he successfully completed artistic director training whilst simultaneously being assistant director for Nikolai Foster's musical of An Officer and a Gentleman (Curve, UK tour). Anthony directed the sell-out production of Hatch (Talawa) and his re-visioning of Othello set in a world of 'black ops', eavesdropping and surveillance (Birmingham Hippodrome). He's a leading co-mentor for Open Art Surgery and Back to the Lab (Breakin' Convention) with other career highlights

including being assistant director for the Black cast production of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof directed by Debbie Allen (Broadway to West End transfer) and assisting Iqbal Khan on his historically ground-breaking production of Othello (Royal Shakespeare Company). Anthony's directed Layla's Room, Welcome to Thebes and Contractions (actor training work at St. Mary's University) and is currently in preparation for directing the international cast at East 15. Anthony is a co-founder of the Pathways House Collective alongside Gerrard Martin, Andrea Queens and Louise Katerega.

## Ivan Michael Blackstock - Back to the Lab 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.

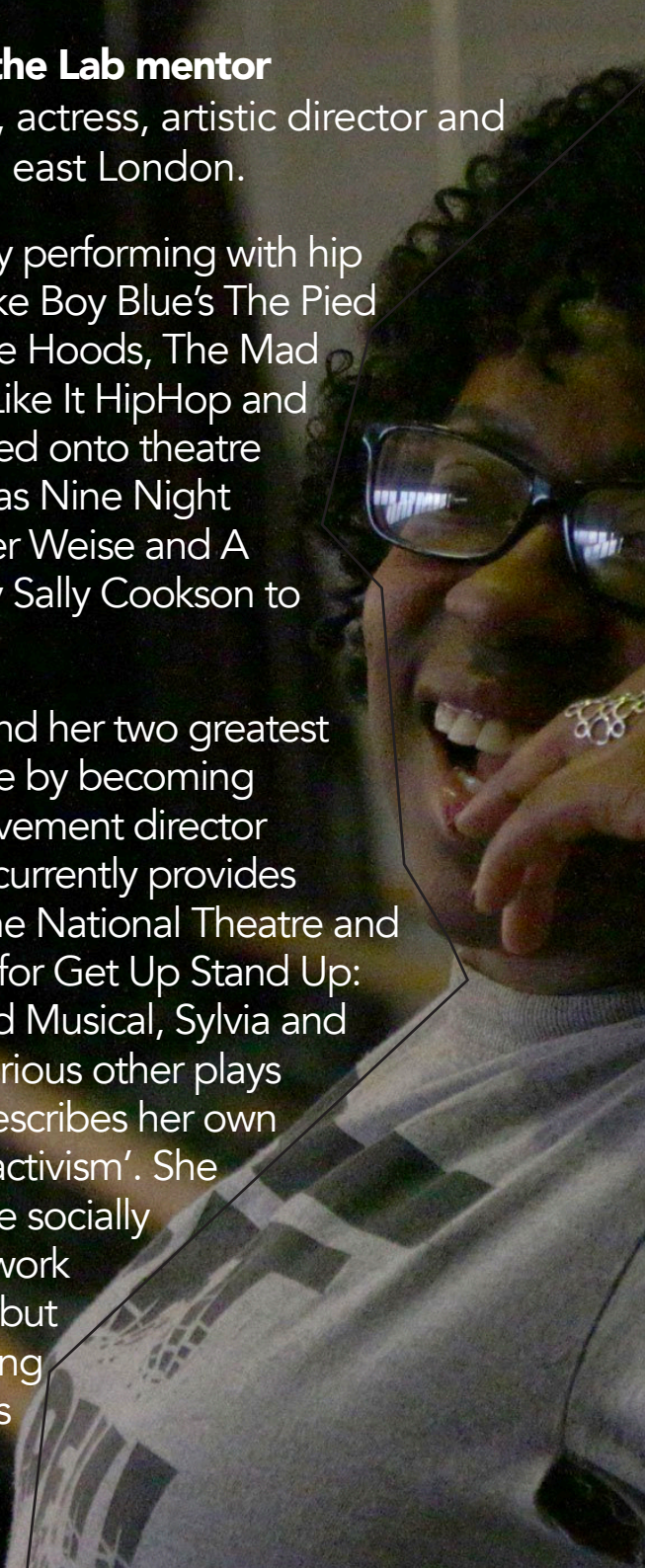


## Jade Hackett - Back to the Lab mentor

Jade is a choreographer, actress, artistic director and movement director from east London.

After having a long history performing with hip hop theatre companies like Boy Blue's The Pied Piper, ZooNation's Into the Hoods, The Mad Hatter's Tea Party, Some Like It HipHop and Sylvia, she gradually moved onto theatre acting in such plays such as Nine Night directed by Roy Alexander Weise and A Monster Calls directed by Sally Cookson to name a few.

She was soon able to blend her two greatest loves in theatre and dance by becoming a choreographer and movement director within these spaces. She currently provides choreography for Hex: The National Theatre and associate choreographer for Get Up Stand Up: The Bob Marley West End Musical, Sylvia and movement direction in various other plays and artistic pieces. She describes her own personal work as 'dance activism'. She finds it important to create socially and politically conscious work about the black diaspora but also simultaneously creating work that also centres around love, joy and healing too.



# THANKS & CREDITS

We would like to thank Back to the Lab leaders, and all the staff at Sadler's Wells Theatre.

## COMING UP

**Academy Breakin' Convention** *Deadline 31 January*

Academy Breakin' Convention applications are open for talented 16-19 year olds and planned to close Wednesday 31 January 2024

[academybreakinconvention.com](https://academybreakinconvention.com)

**Open Art Surgery** *4-9 March*

Did you enjoy this evening? Would you like to develop work with Breakin' Convention or explore an idea for hip hop theatre? We have spaces for the next Open Art Surgery - email [michelle@breakinconvention.com](mailto:michelle@breakinconvention.com)

**Vacancy: Academy Breakin' Convention - Pastoral Lead**

We're looking for an enthusiastic and experienced pastoral care professional who loves dance and wants to help young people thrive in the creative industries. Is this you? This is your opportunity to be part of something groundbreaking. See [academybreakinconvention.com/vacancies](https://academybreakinconvention.com/vacancies). Apply by 4 February.

**Breakin' Convention 2024** *3 - 6 May*

Our international festival returns for our 21st year at Sadler's Wells, with workshops, parties and a line-up not to be missed. Expect this special annual event to be a sell-out! [breakinconvention.com](https://breakinconvention.com)