

Sadler's Wells
breakin[™]
convention

Open Art Surgery

Saturday 15 April 2023

In order of appearance:

**Angela Gayle, Realitie, Natalie James,
Matthew Eudu, Kofi Mingo, Sharifa Butterfly**
#openartsurgery #breakinconvention

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Angelica Gayle

Angelica Gayle

Choreographer & Performer: Angelica Gayle

Angelica has trained with several dance groups and companies throughout her dance career as performer.

She has delved into various hip hop styles and for the last 3 - 4 years and trained with specialist popping collective, A.I.M Collective.

She is an emerging artist embarking on new ventures with her artwork at triplseven studios.

Through her many experiences as a performer, Angelica strives to grow as a choreographer and to continue building up a body of work.



Realitie

Realitie

Spoken word: Realitie

Performers: Versha Grant and Rochea Dyer

Realitie is the founder of All About U.S. (Understanding Society). She is a poet, a 'teacher,' an author, a mentor and above all, a mother. Based in South London, Josephine has been involved in mentoring youth through her poetry in schools, prisons and community centres where she delivers workshops and performs as a spoken word artist.

Her performances have also showcased in a range of venues and events such as the Hackney Empire, Poetry n Motion, City Hall, Vibrations Festival, Great Yarmouth, NHS, Battersea Arts Centre, The Royal Festival Hall, radio shows and DVD magazines to name a few. During this time Realitie has shared the stage with poet greats Jean Binta-Breeze and opened for Jamaica's finest, Muta Baruka.

Natalie James



Natalie James

Choreography & Performer: Natalie James

Natalie James is a teacher, creative movement & circus artist unafraid to produce thought provoking work with excellence and sensitivity. Natalie developed her own creative projects including; stage performances, conceptual ideas and video content for international and national platforms.

Having opportunities of mentorship and collaborative work with industry recognised pioneers, artistic directors and choreographers. Such as Robert Hylton, Benji Reid, Jonzi D, Henri Oguike, Hakeem Onibudo, Kate Lane, Kenrick Sandy, Irvn Lewis and Jasmin Vardimon.

Upon graduating with a BA Honours in Circus Arts with a full scholarship, Natalie secured a lead role as 'Mowgli' in Metta Theatres circus and street dance adaptation of Kipling's 'Jungle Book'. On behalf of Phoenix Associates (I.P.A.T) Natalie led masterclasses alongside the Lead Casting Director of Cirque Du Soleil – Rick Tija.

Matthew Eudu



Matthew Eudu

Choreographer & Performer: Matthew Eudu

Matthew has been dancing for eight years, having self-taught himself before he started learning from AJ Megaman, Castro and Slim boogie.

As a performer he is inspired by the likes of Boppin' Andre, Flattop, Jojo Gomez, Bdash, Jaja Vankova and Kevin Paradox.

Relatively new to stage performance, his main experience comes from street performing consistently for three years and smaller local events over the years.

Kofi Mingo



Kofi Mingo

Performer: Kofi Mingo

Kofi Mingo has been a performer for the best part of two decades as a dancer or on the underground battle circuit.

Within that time he has been a hard-hitter with Boy Blue, a DJ, and still gives props to his original dance family.



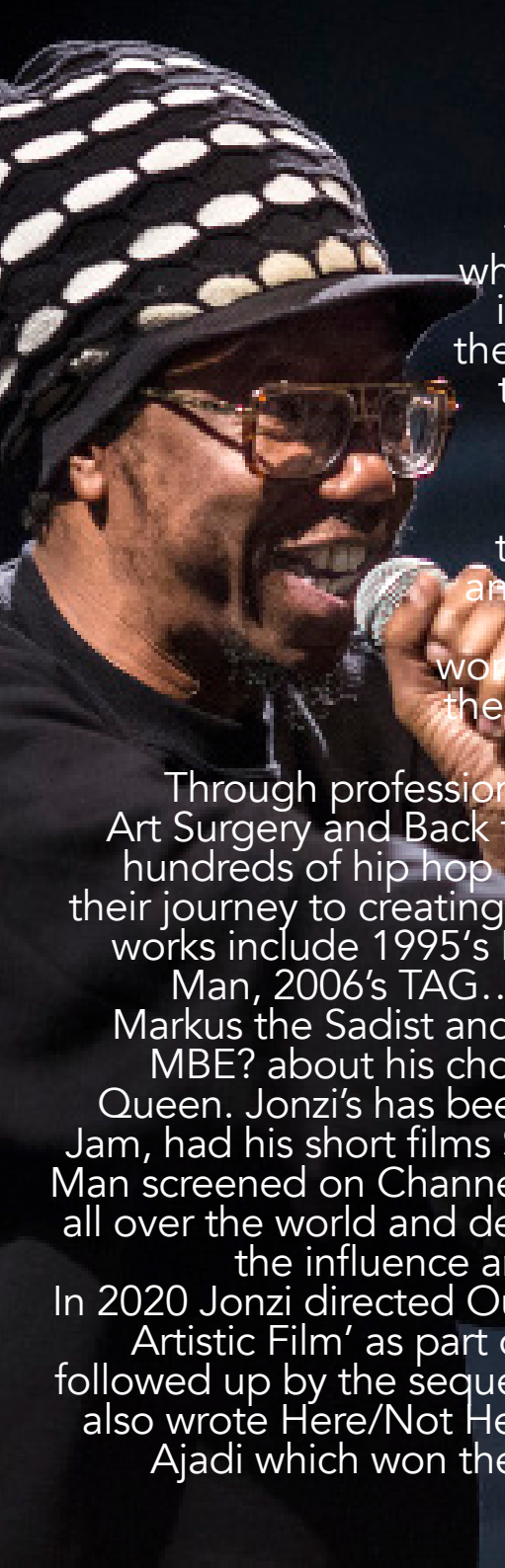
Sharifa Butterfly

Sharifa Butterfly

Performer: Sharifa Butterfly

Sharifa Butterfly is a freestyler dancer, battler and model by profession. A part of Rain Crew, she is from South London and has danced since she was young, but professionally for the last 10 years.

Sharifa has also studied drama which has a great influence on her dancing. She enjoys battling, reading and loves stories, whether they come in the form of a book, film, dance piece or song. Sharifa was a finalist in BBC Young Dancer and recently worked with Gucci, Chaka Khan and many more international campaigns.



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 from the Queen. Jonzi's 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 his own TED 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.

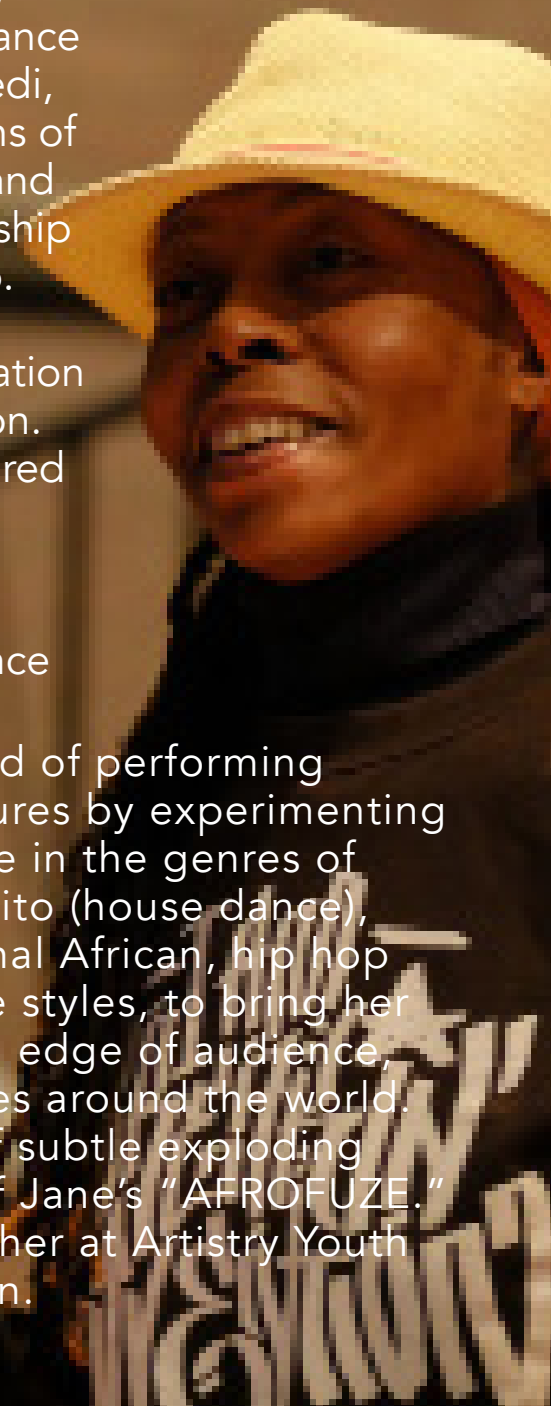
Jane Sekonya-John

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.





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 was recently appointed Associate Director at Lyric Arts.

Breakin' Convention 2023 - 28 Apr - 1 May

Our international festival returns for its 20th year to Sadler's Wells, followed by a national tour.

Join us in celebration, with some of the greatest dance crews from around the world, and around the corner!

Breakin' Convention Presents: The Ruggeds - State Shift - 26 & 27 May

The Ruggeds present a vivid duo of pieces about going with the flow or swimming against the tide.

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

Did you 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 - email michelle@breakinconvention.com

Breakin' Convention would like to thank everyone at Bernie Grant Arts Centre who make Open Art Surgery possible.