International Festival of Learning (IFL) puts the accent on expanded approaches to learning, collaboration, performance and international exchange, with a fortnight of labs, talks and performances by 30+ artists including:

Vida Vojić / Miranda Tufnell / Cai Tomos / Filipa Pereira-Stubbs / Lucinda Jarrett / Galit Criden / Harold Offeh / Shivaangee Agrawal / Mandeep Raikhy / Building Conversation / Nic Conibere / Brian Lobel / Rebecca Swift / Denise Rowe / Mary Pearson / Michael Gagawala Kaddu / pavleheidler / Carolina van Eps / Elvan Tek / Ava Riby-Williams / Aleasha Chaunte / Mira Hirtz / Rosalie Wahlfrid / Teresa Skamletz / Alisa Oleva / Christopher Matthews / Arabella Stanger / Adam Moore / Abby Nocon / Erin Robinsong / Sophie Seita / Florence Uniacke / Flora Wellesley-Wesley / Annie Pui Ling Lok / THE BAND THAT DANCES

Joy Inside My Tears. Installation by Harold Offeh. Konsthall C, Stockholm, Sweden 2022.
Photo: Johan Österholm

Welcome to IFL.2!

Dance, silence, restoration, dismantling, gathering, health, revelry, image-making, ritual and the poetic are all words that swirl in our conversations as we put together this second edition of the festival.

This edition celebrates both the notion of community and Independent Dance's growing community; the curatorial propositions are wide and varied, inviting criss-crossings, alchemical sparks and unlikely leaps, celebrating all that can and might happen through dance.

The idea of ritual, and ways of harnessing a sense of belonging, reverberates across the festival, and is signalled by our opening night with *Timing is Divine*, a solo drumming performance by **Vida Vojić**. Furthering this theme of belonging, we are delighted to be working with Netherlands-based collective **Building Conversation** to explore how the future is based – literally – on how we talk with each other.

With *A Gathering* we get durational, with micro-happenings, conversations and performances across a day and night. Starting with a conversation about belonging is generated through collective action, *A Gathering* includes an installation by **Christopher Matthews** about queerness and aging, **Readings & Rituals** and a 'watch party' of streamed performance created live, remotely, by five improvisers in five countries. Things ramp up a bit after dinner and drinks, with an invocation from **THE BAND THAT DANCES** (the band formerly known as **The Yonis**); it will be nearly Christmas after all.

more

Another thread woven into this edition is *Dance, Intimacy and the Civic*, continuing ID's exploration into how body-based practices meet with and have relevance to wider contexts. Two talks address this in different ways via our partnership with Sadler's Wells and Roehampton University, while a lab led by **Miranda Tufnell**, **Filipa Pereira Stubbs** and **Cai Tomos** holds a space for dance and healthcare practitioners to work together.

Working across a range of media including performance, **Harold Offeh** will be leading a lab in image-making and subverting historical narratives. A sense of history is also at the heart of *Open Desk*, a one-to-one performance encounter with **Galit Criden** at Goldsmiths Women's Art Library which considers their collection through a matriarchal lens. And in *Indian Dance: Articulations/ Tensions/ Negotiations*, a durational practice between **Shivaangee Agrawal**, **Mandeep Raikhy** and guests will be platformed online across continents. This experimental space will invite contributions, provocations and questions about Indian dance in our current worlds and how tradition, politics, artefacts and embodiment intersect.

The festival culminates in a 3-day lab of collectively glorious restorative dancing with **Annie Pui Ling Lok**, co-presented with Siobhan Davies Studios, our base for the festival and ID's ongoing year-round partner.

We can't wait to share all of this with you. Without you it is not a festival! Join us!

Heni Hale & Nikki Tomlinson
Co-directors, Independent Dance

Festival at a glance

Opening Night 3 Dec
Vida Vojić

Meeting Places lab: dance, health, imagination 3–5 Dec
Miranda Tufnell / Cai Tomos / Filipa Pereira-Stubbs

A Quiet Revolution: a talk 4 Dec
Lucinda Jarrett / Miranda Tufnell / Cai Tomos / Filipa Pereira-Stubbs

Open Desk : one to one performance encounter 6 & 8 Dec
Galit Criden

A lab with Harold Offeh 7–9 Dec

A Gathering 10 Dec
Flora Wellesley-Wesley / Nic Conibere / Brian Lobel / Rebecca Swift / Denise Rowe / Mary Pearson / Michael Gagawala Kaddu / pavleheidler / Carolina van Eps / Elvan Tek / Ava Riby-Williams / Aleasha Chaunte / Mira Hirtz / Rosalie Wahlfrid / Teresa Skamletz / Alisa Oleva / Christopher Matthews / Arabella Stanger / Adam Moore / Abby Nocon / Erin Robinsong / Sophie Seita / Florence Uniacke / THE BAND THAT DANCES

Building Conversation : a lab 11–13 Dec
Peter Aers

Indian Dance : Articulations / Tensions / Negotiations 11 Dec
Shivaangee Agrawal / Mandeep Raikhy

Workshop with Annie Pui Ling Lok 14–16 Dec

Tea & Chats 6–15 Dec
SDS & ID staff

Opening Night

3 December
7.30pm
Siobhan Davies Studios

Free

Info + Booking

Vida Vojić in TIMING IS DIVINE, video still by Liset Chavez Prado

The festival opens with a drumming ritual; a performance of loudness, rhythm, and drive by rock star, poet and performance artist **Vida Vojić**. Join us for this and a winter warmer to welcome in the festival fortnight. Tickets are free but booking is advised. Capacity is limited!

In Vida's words, TIMING IS DIVINE is 'inspired by sexy stars = rock stars / celestial deities - this 30min drum / vocal solo recites the gnostic poem "The Thunder, Perfect Mind" (4AD Nag Hammadi, rediscovered in 1945), as well as cheesy love songs and Swedish folk music. By playing with the themes of numerology, holy patterns, chaos / order - the aim is to trigger physical sensation, possibly invoking a hypnotic state in the audience. Sprung from the desire to tell another story, which ultimately may not be comprehended on top of the ambient chaos - but rather felt. Shit is complicated. Let this be an exorcism.'

Meeting Places lab: dance, health, imagination

3–5 December
Siobhan Davies Studios

£75–£150

Info + Booking

Exploring meeting places between dance and healthcare, this lab is intended for both dance and health practitioners. It will be led by dance artists **Miranda Tufnell**, **Cai Tomos** and **Filipa Pereira-Stubbs**, who have extensive experience in navigating the changing landscape of medicine, ecology and society. Together with the lab participants they will chart the practices, principles and challenges of bringing the poetics of dance and the body into healthcare settings.

Meeting Places will offer space to explore how we listen creatively to what another's body is telling us, and how we can calibrate our responses in support of the images and stories that unfold, to awaken a 'medicine' from within. Each day will include extended practical sessions along with a sharing of stories from practice and discussion in small and larger groups.

A Quiet Revolution: a talk

4 December
6.30pm–8pm
Siobhan Davies Studios

£5, £7

Info + Booking

What is needed now in how we view health, illness, the body, and the role of the arts within healthcare?

Miranda Tufnell, **Cai Tomos** and **Filipa Pereira-Stubbs** are joined by **Lucinda Jarrett**, Creative Director of Rosetta Life, for a conversation exploring dance, health and imagination. Sharing some of the experiences they have developed over decades, they will discuss how bridges can effectively be made between these fields, how they can learn from each other, and how the NHS can be supported by dance at a time of depleted resources and pressure.

A Quiet Revolution will invite the audience to share experiences, questions and challenges. It will navigate what it means to be well, and how that includes attending to the presence of the poetic, the imagination and the felt sense in healing.

Co-presented with Sadler's Wells and University of Roehampton as part of our *Dance, Intimacy and the Civic* series.

ACCESS : BSL PROVIDED ON REQUEST

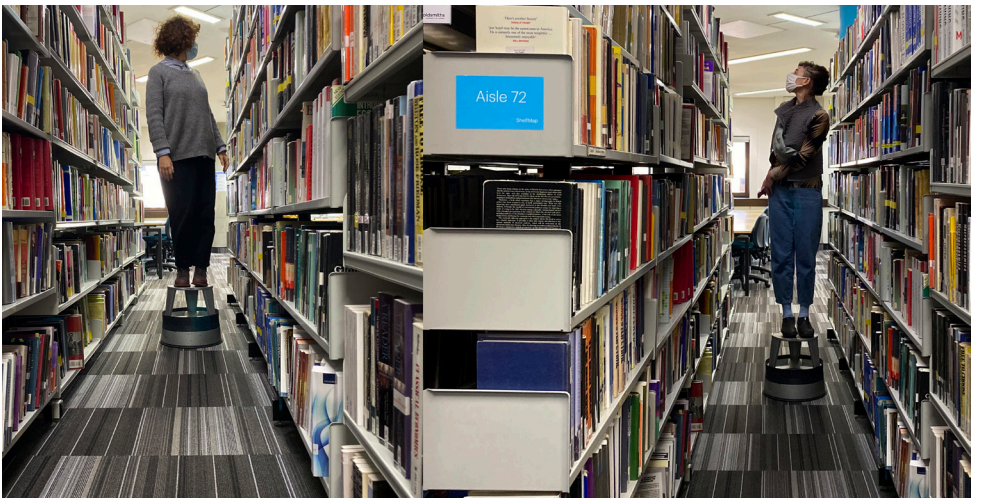
www.mirandatufnell.co.uk
www.caitomos.com
www.fpereirastubbs.co.uk
www.rosettalife.org

Open Desk

6 & 8 December
11am–6pm both days, 50mins
Women's Art Library, Goldsmiths

Free

Info + Booking



Galit Criden at Women's Art Library, Goldsmiths

You are invited for a one-to-one conversation about love, agency, creation, loneliness, body, archives and space-sharing through a matriarchal lens in this performative installation by **Galit Criden**.

With a focus on non-hierarchical learning, Galit has been exploring a matriarchal approach to archival work through the Women's Art Library (WAL), part of Goldsmiths Library Special Collections and Archives. Thousands of artists from around the world are represented in some form in WAL's collection of audio-visual material, artist statements, exhibition ephemera, catalogues, and press releases.

For this iteration of Open Desk, Galit will be joined by **Heni Hale** (co-director, Independent Dance) who will also host one-to-ones, inviting participants to explore how the concept of matriarchy relates to their lives and the collection. Participation is free but advance booking is required.

Co-presented with Women's Art Library, Goldsmiths Library Special Collections and Archives

ACCESS : BSL PROVIDED ON REQUEST

A lab with Harold Offeh

7–9 December
11am–5pm
Siobhan Davies Studios

£75–£125

Info + Booking

Joy Inside My Tears. Installation by Harold Offeh. Konsthall C, Stockholm, Sweden 2022.
Photo: Johan Österholm

Harold Offeh's lab will explore how performance and re-enactment using the body and movement can activate and respond to cultural histories. Drawing on a range of practices from the visual arts, theatre and live art, Offeh will facilitate a space of self-study, where participants are invited to work with their own movement practice and define the subject and content they want to respond to.

Participants of all disciplines are invited to use their own sources and references: archives, collections, images, sounds etc as starting points. Activities and prompts over the three days will include working individually and collectively and games, improvisation and tableaux work will provide a way into thinking about process.

The lab will investigate the potential of the body as a research tool for posing provocations and gathering information and will culminate in an afternoon of sharing and reflective discussion.

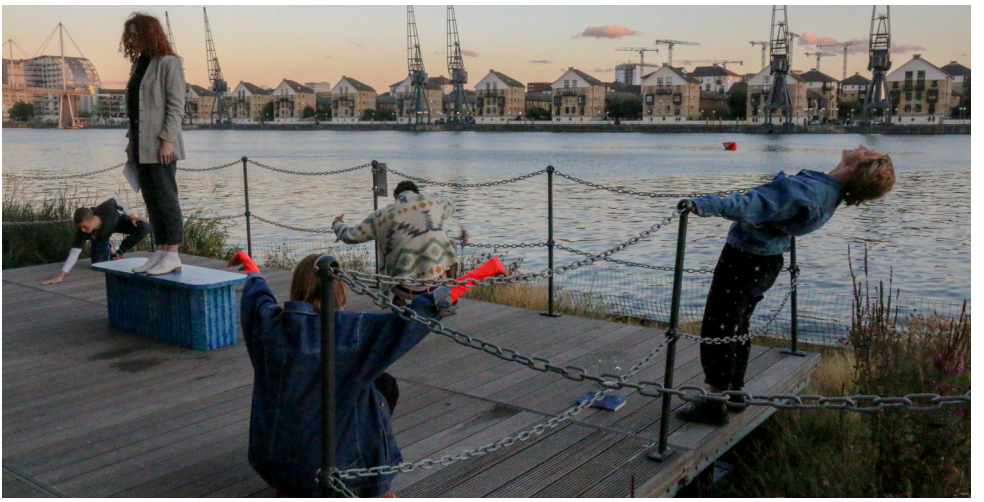
www.haroldoffeh.com

A Gathering

10 December
1pm–10pm
Siobhan Davies Studios

£15 includes vegetarian dinner

Info + Booking



Readings, Rituals, Royal Docks Floating Gardens and Good Hotel London.
Commissioned by Newham London for Newham Word Fest 2022. Photo Laura Cobb

Halfway through the festival, *A Gathering* takes us across Siobhan Davies Studios with talks, installations, performances and movement sessions over a day and night, with offerings from more than 20 artists. Threads weaving through the day include ritual, collectivity, belonging, support, and joy.

Join us for a relaxed and convivial day of meeting, talking, resting, eating, drinking, watching and dancing. Come gather!

ACCESS : BSL PROVIDED ON REQUEST

See the schedule

A Gathering

10 December
1pm–10pm
Siobhan Davies Studios

Info + Booking

1pm–1.30pm Laughter yoga with **Flora Wellesley Wesley**

1.45–3pm Who belongs, where and how; chaired by **Nicola Conibere**, a conversation with **Brian Lobel**, **Denise Rowe** and **Rebecca Swift** about how belonging is generated through collective action

3.10pm–3.40pm Movement session with **Denise Rowe**

4pm–4.45pm A 'watch party' of streamed performance created live, remotely, by five improvisers in five countries. Designed by **Mary Pearson** with **Carolina van Eps**, **pavleheidler**, **Michael Kaddu**, **Elvan Tekkin**, **George Maund**

5pm–5.30pm Post-watch-party discussion facilitated by **Ava Riby-Williams** and **Aleasha Chaunte**

5.45pm–6.30pm A Long Table conversation hosted by ID artist-ambassadors **Mira Hirtz**, **Alisa Oleva**, **Teresa Skamletz** and **Rosalie Wahlfrid** – how do artists survive and help each other in these hard times?

6.30pm–8.30pm Dinner

3.30pm–7.30pm **Chris Matthews** and **Arabella Stanger** want to talk queer dance history with you in Pillow Talk

3pm–8.30pm **Adam Moore**, **Abby Nocon**, **Erin Robinsong**, **Sophie Seita** and **Florence Uniacke** share winter readings & rituals

8.30pm–8.50pm an improvised solo by **Flora Wellesley Wesley**

9pm–10pm **THE BAND THAT DANCES** perform tracks from their album HEADLINER

Building Conversation: a lab

11–13 December
10am–5pm
Siobhan Davies Studios and Roots & Shoots

£95–£145

Info + Booking

Building Conversation, photo Kris Dewitte

Peter Aers of the Netherlands-based collective **Building Conversation** invites you to join a laboratory for conversation. In this 3-day lab they share their artistic practice and, together with you, explore different approaches to interacting with the public.

What is co-creation? What does it mean for the audience to step into a performance in which participants themselves have a say? What is your responsibility as a maker.

Taking place across two spaces - Siobhan Davies Studios and nearby community space Roots & Shoots - this lab starts with the performative conversations *Thinking Together* and *Conversation without Words*, and ends with an experiment that is created together with you for an invited audience.

What does Building Conversation do? It challenges the way we view one another. A sort of practice in how to be human.

www.buildingconversation.nl

Indian Dance: Articulations / Tensions / Negotiations

11 December
11am–3pm
Online via Zoom

Free

Info + Booking

Image credit: Christy Ku and Meera Patel

An online session discussing how classical Indian dance can become a language that allows us to critically engage with the world. **Shivaangee Agrawal** and **Mandeep Raikhy** with guests from across India and the UK will invite a dialogue revolving around the following questions and arriving at no neat conclusions:

How does caste interact with the dynamics of race as Indian dance becomes global? How do we acknowledge the brutal histories in dance forms such as Bharatnatyam? How do we encounter the somatically informed iteration of a form that upholds a nationalist agenda? What exactly is enshrined within a form? Where are the delineations between form and pedagogy? Can these forms exist within a secular framework? How does the question of access negotiate with the notion of specificity? How does the question of access meet the culture of commodification?

CC : CLOSED CAPTIONS

www.shivaangee.com
www.mandeepraikhy.wordpress.com

Workshop with Annie Pui Ling Lok

14–16 December
12pm–6pm
Siobhan Davies Studios

£95–£145

Info + Booking

Annie Pui Ling Lok, photo Rocio Chacon

Why that? And not this?

This workshop investigates the creative choices we make while dancing. It takes as its starting point **Annie**'s experiences of approaching choreographing again after a hiatus that has greatly changed what things mean and what matters. Over the 3 days the aim is to scratch the surface of profound questions around recovering or discovering your creative practice whether as a performer, choreographer or facilitator.

This workshop offers space alongside other doubters, to excavate past and present preoccupations and question how the internal/private relates to a performance/public world. Combining elements of Annie's work – performance, choreography, contemporary improvisation and biodynamic craniosacral therapy – each day will feature guided work in tuning proprioception, observing physical sensations and use of anatomical and physiological information to lead us into dancing and to help us notice choice, agency and desire as we make stuff.

This workshop is suited to all dance artists who have experienced a sense of doubt or time-lag in their practice over the last couple of years or more. There will be lots of dancing/moving, some chatting, and touch will be used in the sessions.

Co-presented with Siobhan Davies Studios

Tea & Chats

ACCESS : BSL PROVIDED ON REQUEST

These informal get-togethers are an opportunity for dance artists and arts workers to meet members of Siobhan Davies Studios and Independent Dance's teams, say hi over a cup of tea or coffee and share experiences and (in)expertise with each other. Each morning will be focused on a particular topic, with opportunities to reflect, share skills and ask questions. Maybe we'll figure some things out together – we don't have all the answers but we do have a big urn!

Free, drop-in to the studios.
Booking required for 15 December session only as it is on Zoom.

6 Dec
10–11.30am

Where am I at, what shall I do now and what do I dedicate time and energy to? Join us to reflect over a cuppa on where you are at with your artistic/creative practice and muse together on what to do first/next to shape your projects and make stuff happen at the pace you need.

8 Dec
10–11.30am

Sharing studio space and sourcing it, how can we do this differently? As affordable and available rehearsal space becomes increasingly hard to find, we invite you to share questions, experiences (good and bad!) and thinking around sourcing space and to consider different models of sharing space with us.

14 Dec
10–11.30am

Do I self-produce or do I find a dance producer? Sustainable ways of working alone or together – is this possible? Calling dance artists and producers! Come share thoughts and quandaries about the support you need to do more of what you want to do and less of what you don't want to do. We'll also try to demystify the kinds of jobs a producer does.

15 Dec
10–11.30am
Online via Zoom

Info + Booking

What is mentoring? Does it have to be hierarchical? Share experiences of different approaches to mentoring, and what it means to be a mentor or mentee. Heni Hale and artists involved in ID's mentoring scheme FLOURISH will be on hand to chat about an intergenerational, reciprocal approach where people are both mentors and mentees at the same time.

Tea & Chats are co-presented by Siobhan Davies Studios and Independent Dance

Access

The festival base is Siobhan Davies Studios (SDS) in London with two satellite events at Women's Art Library in New Cross and Roots & Shoots Space in Kennington. All three buildings are accessible to wheelchair users.

SDS has lifts to all floors. There are two accessible parking spaces available on site which can be booked in advance by calling or emailing reception. Blue Badge parking is also available nearby.

BSL can be provided on request for *A Gathering* and for all talks.

Please feel very welcome to contact Alison Thomas at **alison@independentdance.co.uk** to discuss how we can support access requirements.

T: 020 7091 9650

E: info@independentdance.co.uk

www.independentdance.co.uk

Independent Dance
Siobhan Davies Studios
85 St. George's Road
London SE1 6ER

See map and directions

Credits

IFL.2 is curated by Independent Dance and supported through public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England with co-presenting partners Siobhan Davies Studios, Women's Art Library Goldsmiths University of London, Roehampton University and Sadler's Wells.

ID would like to thank all the contributing artists, and our Trustees Nicky Childs, Kimberley Harvey, CJ Mitchell, Fernanda Muñoz-Newsome, Mita Pujara, Sara Reed and Iris Yi Po Chan for their support throughout the year. Our thanks also to Theresa Beattie, Renée Bellamy, David Caines, Andrea Buckley, Justin Hunt, Eva Martinez, Graeme Miller, Nao Nagai, Julia Pond, Efrosini Protopapa, Claud Tonietto, Andy Wansell, An Endless Supply, Roots & Shoots and to all our colleagues at Siobhan Davies Studios.

For Independent Dance

Co-director	Heni Hale
Co-director	Nikki Tomlinson
Programme Coordinator	Alison Thomas
Communications Assistant	Jay Yule

Independent Dance

SIOBHAN DAVIES STUDIOS

University of Roehampton London

Goldsmiths UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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