

mapdance

SPRING TOUR 2025

Artistic Director

Yael Flexer

Rehearsal Director

Luke Brown

Lighting Designer, Technical Manager and Touring Technician

Natalie Rowland

Costume Designer

Rosalind Noctor

Photography

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SPRING TOUR 2025






Works by: Luke Brown, Rhiannon Faith, Ceyda Tanc and Ben Wright



 UNIVERSITY OF
CHICHESTER

"A fun, exuberant,
celebration of life."
David Mead

Photography by Mike Bignell @mikebdesigns

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SPRING TOUR 2025

The University of Chichester's performance company, mapdance, brings together 14 dancers, three newly commissioned dance works and a restaging of Luke Brown's *Let Us Know You* from 2023. An evening of dynamic, theatrical and beautifully crafted work by both established and emerging contemporary dance choreographers.

CHOREOGRAPHERS AND WORK

Ceyda Tanc | *KIZ*

Rehearsal assistant: Gabby Sanders

Music: Original Composition by Asta Hiroki

KIZ finds strength, unity and power in sisterhood. Rooted in community, ritual and feminism, the dancers move in lacy symmetry and hypnotic rhythm, performing a celebratory resistance.

Ceyda Tanc is a British-Turkish choreographer and Artistic Director of Ceyda Tanc Dance. She founded her all-female company in 2012, creating a body of professional contemporary dance works drawing on Turkish folk culture. Ceyda presents live work in theatre settings, festivals, galleries and alternative event spaces. Producing dynamic and athletic contemporary dance works, she transposes the virtuoso movements of the male Turkish dancers on to female bodies, seeking to challenge traditional gender representation in dance and promote the intersection of cultures as a medium for social change. In 2021 she advised on English National Ballet's *Raymonda* and subsequently created *Nefes* for the company. In 2024 she co-created *BACI* with support from the British Council, a cross-cultural collaboration featuring 67 British and Turkish dancers. She runs a successful youth dance programme from her multi-arts space, 'The Studio' in Brighton.

Ben Wright | *Even after everything*

Music: Jon Hopkins

Text: Patti Smith, Poem by EE Cummings

"Each day is a little life," mused Arthur Schopenhauer – a thoughtful reminder of the potential contained within the moments we are afforded. In *Even After Everything*, dancing emerges as an act of rebellion against the weight of despair, a tender balancing of contradictions. It offers a chance to unleash creativity in all directions, for the benefit of others, including ourselves.

Ben is a choreographer and director working across dance, opera, theatre, and film. He trained at Ballet Rambert School and performed from 1991-2006. He served as Artistic Co-Director for Candoco Dance Company, Associate Artistic Director and Artistic Lead at National Dance Company Wales. He also lectured at NSCD. Recent work includes *Chariots of Fire* (Sheffield Theatres), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Opera North), *La Bohème* (Washington National Opera), *Orlando* (The Garrick, West End), and *The Lost Thing* (Royal Opera House). His feature film *The Feeling of Going* and work as an intimacy coordinator for Amazon's *My Policeman* exemplify his diverse practice as an artist.

Rhiannon Faith | What is the pain and how do we hurt?

Music: Reverend Kristin Michael Hayter, Cristobal Tapia De Veer, Ana Carla Maza, Jonny Greenwood, John Hanks, Henry Torgue & Serge Houppin, Hildur Guðnadóttir, Peter Broderick, Jóhann Jóhannsson, Lankum.

A mediation on the complexities of human suffering and healing. Through powerful movement and intimate storytelling, the performers invite you to witness the tender beauty in shared vulnerability. Deep healing can be found through suffering tenderly together – transforming pain into connection. A moment in time, to take time to welcome the tears and welcome the wounds. Rhiannon Faith makes radically tender dance theatre, pushing the boundaries of performance to make shows that speak to, reach and bring people together. The work was devised with the performers, drawing on autobiographical experiences to create a deeply personal narrative with universal themes.

Rhiannon Faith is a boundary-breaking artist whose work and experiences cross artforms. Brought up in a big Irish-Catholic working-class family, she is an exciting British female voice making waves in choreography, directing, social activism and as a published author. Artistic Director of Rhiannon Faith Company, nominated for five National Dance Awards; 'Best Digital Choreography' (2021), 'Best Dance Film' (2022), and 'Best Independent Company' (2021, 2022 & 2023). Critically acclaimed work DROWNTOWN received 4 stars across the board, and recently toured to Wuzhen Festival, China. The new work *Lay Down Your Burdens*, Co-Commissioned by Barbican, London and Harlow Playhouse, premiered at the Barbican in November 2023 and was shortlisted for a 2023 One Dance UK Award for 'Innovation in Dance' and nominated for a 2024 Olivier Award for 'Outstanding Achievement in Dance'.

Luke Brown | Let Us Know You

Music: Minesota Migs, Lorn Dolor, Zamilska, Matt Lange, Arigto, Sombre Lux, Voice over by Alan Watts.

Inspired by Mihoko Ogaki's Milky Way Sculptures, which represent life, death, and rebirth, *Let Us Know You* holds on, suspends itself and re-centres, seeking comfort in the act of letting go.

Luke Brown is the Artistic Director of the courageous dance theatre company, Luke Brown Company, based in Southampton. In addition to this role, Luke is a lecturer in dance and serves as the rehearsal director for mapdance at the University of Chichester. He trained at the London Studio Centre and Intoto Dance, graduating in 2012. Since then, he has performed with several critically acclaimed companies, including Frantic Assembly, English National Opera, Ben Wright, Junk Ensemble, and Lila Dance Company. Luke Brown Company's previous touring production, *For You I Long the Longest*, toured the UK in 2016 and 2018 and was featured in 2019 as part of Frantic Assembly's 25th Anniversary celebration at the National Theatre River Stage. According to Dance Tabs, "*Brown taps into our imaginations with physical and visual artistry*" (★★★★). Currently, Luke is developing a new immersive theatrical experience titled *The Dandelion Child*, which explores his personal experiences with childhood trauma. He is also in the process of creating *Walk of the Dandelion*, a large-scale outdoor puppet promenade show supported by Arts Council England and 101 Outdoor Arts. Luke is proud to be an Associate Artist with Crying Out Loud for 2025. In addition to his artistic directing, Luke has worked as a movement director on productions such as The Point's Christmas show, *Cinderella's Wellies*, and *Downtown Pompey's Sticky Floors & Palm Trees* and *Knees Up Cabaret*.



“Brilliant fun, and like the rest of the programme, brilliantly danced.”

Miles Hedley





mapdance 2025 DANCERS' BIOGRAPHIES



Natacha Aaron

Natacha is a Toronto-based artist whose passion for performance drives her work as a choreographer and dance educator. Since 2020, she has dedicated herself to creating dynamic, engaging works that captivate both her students and audiences. A recent year-long exchange at the University of Chichester allowed her to deepen her artistic practice, studying under choreographers Carrie Whitaker and Amy Morvell. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance from York University in Toronto, where she graduated as a dean's honor roll recipient. Natacha is thrilled to be part of mapdance company's Spring 2025 tour.



Samantha Hodge

Originally from West Sussex, Samantha began ballet training aged 4 at Horsham School of Dance. At 15 she started training in contemporary dance at a local college, working with their youth company. This was when she discovered a passion for making contemporary choreographic works which she went on to explore while working with B12, Berlin. Samantha is excited to work with choreographers and develop her own movement vocabulary in her training with mapdance. After graduating, Samantha hopes to perform and develop her own choreographic works as an independent artist.

Victoria Kuronen

Originally from Fort Erie, Canada, VK has over nineteen years of experience in multiple styles including ballet, tap, hip-hop, and contemporary dance. VK has performed with Ballet Jørgen, was a member of the Integrated Entity crew, and recently completed her BFA Honours in Choreography and Performance at York University, Canada. To further her training, she has participated in workshops with Paula Abdul, Derek Hough, the Martha Graham School NYC, and the Royal Family Dance Crew. VK is interested in kooky movements, body-to-music translations, and creating work that exemplifies odd-ball mentality. She plans to continue with company work, from a choreographic and dancer's perspective after completing her masters.



Emily Morgan

Emily is originally from South Wales, where she trained in Russian classical ballet, before moving to East Yorkshire where she studied ISTD ballet, modern, jazz and musical theatre styles with Annas Academy of Dance. She took part in productions with English Youth Ballet and Northern Ballet, as well as training with Ballet Boost. She continued her training at De Montfort University, graduating with a first-class degree in Dance Performance and Choreography. Alongside this she taught for and was a part of the De Montfort University dance society. She is looking forward to working with the choreographers this year and getting her first experience of touring, developing as an artist with mapdance.





Wan Li (Vanda)

Wan is a dance artist from China, where she trained in Chinese folk dance from a young age. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree from the School of Continuing Education of Beijing Dance Academy. For Wan, modern and contemporary dance is a step into a fresh chapter in her dance journey. She is excited to join the mapdance team, diving into the unknown together.



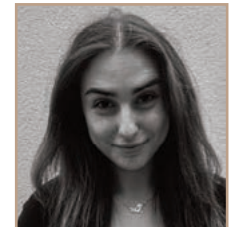
Yishan Liu

Yishan is a dance artist from China, where she trained in ballet from a young age. She graduated from Xi'an Conservatory of Music. During her undergraduate years, she participated in the design of cooperation projects in dance and technology and performed in the opening and closing ceremonies of the National Games. After experiencing modern dance at college, she became interested in the European modern dance scene. She wants to continue to expand the possibilities of dance performance and gain more experience, performing and creating meaningful artworks in the future.



Saskia Le Vien

Originally from Southeast London, Sas discovered her love for dance at Lucy Lovick Dance School where she trained in a wide variety of styles from ages 7-18. She graduated with a BA in Dance Performance from the University of Chichester where she was a member of 3Fall Dance Company working with choreographers Abi Mortimer (*Lila Dance*) and Ashley Jordan (*Ascension Dance*). This inspired her to continue her journey as a dance artist by studying for an MA Performance Dance. Sas is excited to perform with mapdance 2025 and would like to enter the professional dance industry as a contemporary dance performer.



Amy Perry

Originally from Southampton, Amy began her training in various styles of dance at a local dance school before finding her love for contemporary. She later became a member of Hampshire Youth Dance Company. Amy continued her undergraduate training in Dance Performance at the University of Chichester where she was a member of 3Fall Dance Company in her final year. Amy has worked with several renowned choreographers and companies such as Botis Seva, Ashley Jordan and Lila Dance. She is excited to further her training as a dance artist, expanding her knowledge through work with the mapdance choreographers and team.



Katherine Sarney

Katherine is a dance artist from Bedfordshire. Growing up she took classes in contemporary, ballet and tap. She graduated with a BA (Hons) in Contemporary Dance from London Contemporary Dance School, performing in works by a range of artists, including Vicky (Skytitz) Mantey, SAY Dance and James Cousins. She is interested in dance psychology as well as performance, and mapdance is a great opportunity to explore these interests whilst continuing to perform. Katherine is passionate about dance's ability to connect people through the camaraderie that comes from performance.





Julie Sedláčková

Julie is a dance artist from Czechia. At the age of 17, she started her training in Latin-American and standard ballroom dancing. Moving to the UK from the Czech Republic, Julie followed her new found passion for dance and graduated with a BA in Dance Performance from the University of Chichester. She is excited to be part of mapdance and to experience deeper professional insights into the dance industry, working with inspiring choreographers. After completing her MA studies, she hopes to pursue a career in performance, seeking work opportunities as a performer and choreographer in the Czech Republic and other parts of Europe.



Sahara Shwed

Sahara is an emerging dance artist from Ontario, Canada. She has 19 years of training in several dance styles, including contemporary and ballet. Sahara has worked with several North American professional dance artists, such as Susan Lee, Alyssa Martin, and Syreeta Hector. She has also taken part in workshops at Studio North, Alvin Alley American Dance Theatre and Broadway Dance Centre in New York City. Sahara recently obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts in choreography and dance performance with honours from York University, Canada. Following graduation from the MA Performance Dance programme at University of Chichester, Sahara plans to continue working in a dance company while pursuing dance therapy work with seniors.



Tilly Skates

Originally from Bristol, Tilly started her dance training in ballet and contemporary. She completed her undergraduate training at Arts University Bournemouth with a first-class degree in Dance. Tilly taught dance at Pavilion Dance Southwest and was dance captain for bukposoc girl group competition team. Tilly is excited to deepen her skills in contemporary dance and performance working with inspiring choreographers. Alongside contemporary Tilly loves commercial and K-pop dancing. In the future she aims to continue making work that raises awareness and entertains in both the contemporary and commercial fields.



Jing Tang

Jing is a dance artist from China, where she started to learn dance at a young age training in various styles. She graduated from Hunan University of Technology, majoring in Dance Performance. In college she participated as a dancer in national art exhibitions and theatre festivals. She then joined Shanghai Golden Ballet & Dance Theatre. She is excited to join mapdance, growing together as a group and is looking forward to all the artistic challenges.



Phoebe Tyler

Phoebe is a dance artist based in West Sussex. After graduating with a BA from the University of Chichester, she wanted to keep developing her craft and explore a deeper physicality. Previously collaborating with Lila Dance, Morvell Dance and Ashley Jordan (Ascension Dance), Phoebe loves to connect with people through movement and is excited for this upcoming year. She looks forward to touring with mapdance and meeting audiences and participants.



*“Humanity at its most primordial
performed with great artistry, wit and
menace by mapdance company.”*

Miles Hedley



PRODUCTION TEAM

Yael Flexer: *Artistic Director, mapdance*

Co-artistic director of Flexer & Sandiland Yael has created 14 full-length productions for the company touring in the UK and internationally. Flexer & Sandiland have been commissioned to create live and/or interactive works for, among others: Brighton Festival and Digital Festival, South East Dance, Sadler's Wells and Barbican Centre, London. Current touring projects include the installations *An Elevated Platform* (Brighton Festival) and *An Obscure Camera* (Towner Gallery, Eastbourne, InSpace Gallery, Edinburgh, Creative Crawley) and the live internationally touring dance works *Imagining Otherwise* and *Acting Our Age*. Past productions include: the family work *Curiouser*, the site-based app *The Hum*, and the live works *Disappearing Acts*, *Weightless* and *The Living Room*. Commissions as an independent artist include works for London Contemporary Dance School, Hull Dance, Three Score Dance, Encore East, National Youth Dance Company and YDance, Scotland, Trinity-Laban, Motus, Maslool, RAS & Stavanger University, Norway and numerous works for youth and C.A.T. programmes. Yael's research focuses on digital dance, inter-generational and over 60s dance practice. She regularly leads workshops, conferences and talks alongside ongoing intergenerational classes

online and at South East Dance, where Flexer & Sandiland are a partner company. Yael was appointed Reader in Dance at the University of Chichester in 2021.

Natalie Rowland: *Lighting Designer*

As a professional design member of the Association of Lighting and Production Designers (ALPD), lighting credits include design for contemporary choreographers Liz Aggiss, Ben Wright, Yael Flexer and Lila Dance Company. Her most recent designs have included Flexer & Sandiland's dance works *Imagining Otherwise* (2022), and Lila Dance Company's *The Hotel Experience* (2018). Natalie frequently lights for non-theatre spaces and touring productions, seeking solutions to bring the atmosphere, elegance and voice of light as an integral part of performance wherever that might be. In addition to her practice as a designer, Natalie is an academic working with the University of Chichester teaching in the areas of Scenography, Performance Design, Choreographing with New Media and Aerial Dance. Her research interest is located in the intersection and discussions between the scenographic and the choreographic, drawing on both her lighting practice and her aerial dance practice on fabrics.

Rosalind Noctor: *Costume designer*

With over 18 years of experience in costume design for dance and theatre, Rosalind brings a unique perspective shaped by her rich background as a professional dancer. Her fascination with the moving body led her to study men's tailoring on Savile Row, culminating in the launch of her bespoke clothing label, *Rhen*. Focused on creating seasonless, gender-fluid, and minimalist mini-capsule collections, her work has been showcased in London, Tokyo, and Tel Aviv. In addition to her design practice, Rosalind is an Ilan Lev Method bodywork practitioner. This holistic approach to movement and creativity informs every aspect of her work, uniting her passion for the body in motion with her dedication to crafting transformative garments.

Hattie Musgrove: *Restaging Let Us Know You*

Hattie is a freelance contemporary dance artist based in the south of England. She initially completed her BA (Hons) degree and then the MA Performance Dance at the University of Chichester through the postgraduate company mapdance, touring works by Luke Brown, Gary Clarke, Seeta Patel and Kay Crook. Hattie has since worked on projects and tours with Lila Dance, Ceyda Tanc, Morvell Dance, Ascension

Dance, Downtown Pompey and the National Youth Dance Company. Prior to studying, she was a member of the National Youth Dance Company in 2019, led by guest artistic director Botis Seva.

Alice Hunter: *Restaging Let Us Know You*

Alice initially trained at Brooks Dance Academy and continued her training at school taking GCSE and BTEC Dance alongside art and photography. She completed an Art Foundation at Brighton and Hove City College and graduated from the University of Chichester with a BA in Dance Performance and an MA in Performance Dance. During her time at Chichester, she was a member of 3Fall dance company performing pieces by Amy Morvell, Shaun Dillon and Antonia Grove. For her MA in Performance Dance she became a member of mapdance performing works by Luke Brown, Seeta Patel, Gary Clarke and Kay Crook, touring theatres around the country. Alice has since performed for Florence Peake in *Factual Actual* at the Towner, Eastbourne. She currently lives in Bristol working at a studio school, assisting in art, graphics and photography, continuing her practice as a dance artist and creating art and graphics.





FIND OUT MORE

Tour Dates

February

- 12 Seaford College, Petworth
- 25 Weymouth College

March

- 7 Pavillion Dance South West, Bournemouth
- 18 Dance Theatre Space, University of Chichester (shared MA performance)
- 21 The Point, Eastleigh
- 27 South East Dance, Brighton
- 31 Collyer's College, Horsham

April

- 28 Exeter Phoenix

May

- 1 ShowRoom, University of Chichester
- 6 Trinity-Laban, London (MA students informal sharing and exchange)
- 13 Dance Theatre Space, University of Chichester
- 22 University of Chichester (informal sharing and exchange with Think18)

Tour Management

For booking, availability, fees, and any further information regarding performances, please contact Becca Thurston:

- Email: tourbooking@mapdance.org

Education workshops and residencies

mapdance offer tailor-made educational residencies, delivering one-off workshops, creating choreographic projects, or making short 'curtain-raisers' with participants to complement the touring programme. All workshops are led by company members. For direct information relating to education workshops and residencies contact: Becca Thurston:

- Email: tourbooking@mapdance.org

mapdance operates as a professional touring company working for intensive periods with guest choreographers, followed by a national tour, and is run at MA level.

The Dance Department at the University of Chichester offers five Postgraduate/MA programmes:

- MA Performance: Dance (*mapdance*)
- MA Dance: Advance Practice
- MA Choreography and Professional Practices
- MA Dance, Somatics and Dance Science
- MSc Dance Science

Audition Dates 2025

- Saturday 15th February – PG Dance Experience Day with opportunity to audition
- Thursday 6th March

Online:

Online audition slots also available throughout February to April.

Find out more

To find out more about *mapdance*, please contact Caroline Harmer: c.harmer@chi.ac.uk.

For further details regarding courses and auditions, contact admissions.

- Email: admissions@chi.ac.uk
- Tel: +44 (0)1243 816002
- chi.ac.uk/departments/dance/our-courses