

mapdance

SPRING TOUR 2026

Artistic Director

Yael Flexer

Rehearsal Director

Luke Brown

**Lighting Designer, Technical Manager
and Touring Technician**

Natalie Rowland

Costume Designer

Rosalind Noctor

Photography

Mike Bignell

Tour Management

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mapdance

SPRING TOUR 2026

Works by: Cathy Waller, Amy Morvell, Luca Silvestrini and Yukiko Masui



mapdance.org



*“A fun, exuberant,
celebration of life.”*
David Mead

Photography by Mike Bignell @mikebdesigns

Design by Chris Anderson

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SPRING TOUR 2026

The University of Chichester performance company, *mapdance*, brings together nine dancers, three newly commissioned works and a restaging of Yukiko Masui's *For Seasons* from 2024. Don't miss this opportunity to experience dynamic, theatrical, and beautifully crafted work by both established and emerging choreographers.

CHOREOGRAPHERS AND WORK

Cathy Waller | *Symphony of Many*

Music: Shadows by Bonobo, Jordan Rakei Flood by Little Simz, Green to blue by Daniel.mp3, Underwaterfall by Bearcubs

Drawn from human and mammal connections found in flocks, herds, and shoals, *Symphony of Many* reveals how bodies find harmony through instinct, intuition, rhythm, and shared momentum. Conducting bodies as an orchestra and shifting through roles of leader and follower, it invites the beauty of collective movement.

Cathy is an award-winning Choreographer and Movement Director working across dance, film and theatre. She has created work for BBC, Tate Modern and Breakin' Convention, and founded Cathy Waller Company in 2012. The company's productions have toured nationally to venues and festivals including Sadler's Wells, West End Live, National Theatre, The Place and Greenwich and Docklands International Festival. Her choreographic practice is rooted in contemporary dance and shaped by her background in hip hop theatre, informing a movement language that is rhythm-driven, physical and intricate. She has worked internationally across Europe, Kenya, Iceland and Azerbaijan, and as a movement director has collaborated with theatres across the UK including the National Theatre, The Other Palace, Park Theatre, Leeds Playhouse, Nottingham Playhouse and Theatre Clwyd. Cathy is known for her joyous and empowering leadership and for actively advancing inclusion and equity within the sector.

Amy Morvell | *This Is Not A Party*

Music: *Luna Nel Bosco* by Teho Teardo, *Dies Irae* by Giuseppe Verdi and *Hot stuff* by Donna Summer

Untouchable, self-assured and confident in their own importance. But when exposure arrives, the surface cracks, and the moment slips out of control. Time folds back, the performance resets, and the image is repaired. Nothing to see here. This is not a party. This is just a work event.

Amy Morvell is a performer, choreographer, and teacher based in South East England. In 2017, she founded her dance and physical theatre company, Morvell Dance, and is currently developing a new show, *The Difference a Year Makes*, supported by Arts Council England. Alongside her own creative work, Amy performs with Lila Dance, touring nationally and internationally in their latest production, *Fault Lines* and has recently been performing for Off the Wall Aerial and Cscape Dance in their work 'Wipeout!'. Amy is a lecturer in Dance and Choreography at the University of Chichester and has worked as a guest choreographer for a range of youth and undergraduate companies, including INTOTO Dance Company (London Studio Centre), CAT at The Place, 3Fall Dance Company (University of Chichester), and Hampshire Youth Dance Company.



Luca Silvestrini | All Human Beings

Music: *All Human Beings*, *Journey Piece*, *Chorale* by Max Richter, Kiki Lane, Mari Samuelsen, Robert Ziegler, Grace Davidson

Created with and for mapdance, *All Human Beings* is a dance response to Max Richter's original work by the same title which features readings from 1948's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Artistic Director of award-winning company Protein, Luca Silvestrini is known for his unique style of dance theatre combining choreography, text, humour, and social commentary to present the everyday in revealing and subversive ways, on- and off-stage. Protein has toured the world, whilst Luca's accessible, inclusive approach has led to Protein's work being in demand in both professional and community settings. Through Protein's Real Life, Real Dance programme, he has created groundbreaking participatory performance opportunities for the most disadvantaged and disengaged, including refugees and people seeking sanctuary, young people in Pupil Referral Units and elders in care settings. Luca has won a Jerwood Choreography Award, a Bonnie Bird New Choreography Award, The Place Prize Audience Award and One Dance UK's Innovation in Dance Award. He's an Affiliate Artist at The Place, and Protein is an Artistic Resident Company at Woolwich Works.

**Yukiko Masui | For Seasons**

Music: Recomposed by Max Richter: Vivaldi, *The Four Seasons: Summer* 3-2012 Huldra by Gidge, *Zankyou Sanka* by Aimer

A contemporary take on Vivaldi, Masui's *For Seasons* celebrates the seasons with a global music palette, creating our distinct version of the original Four Seasons: a dance concerto. For this tour we have re-staged three of Masui's original choreography. Yukiko Masui is a Tokyo-born, London-based choreographer and movement director. Her choreographic work spans contemporary dance, theatre, film and commercial projects. Dance credits include *SAY Something* (National Dance Company Wales) international tour, *SAY:AF* (Dance Umbrella), *The Night Is Darkest Just Before the Dawn* (National Youth Dance Wales) at Sadler's Wells East, and / (The Place & HKAPA). Her own work has toured internationally and been praised by *The Guardian* for creating "performances that make you sit up and pay unwavering attention." Masui is the co-founder of SAY, a performance duo collaborating internationally as choreographers and movement directors. They have worked on *Romeo&Juliet* starring Tom Holland, directed by Jamie Lloyd.





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

Miles Hedley



mapdance 2026 DANCERS' BIOGRAPHIES



Elise de Silva

Elise is a UK-based dance artist, originally from Norwich with Sri-Lankan and Irish heritage. She has trained in classical Ballet from a young age and was introduced to contemporary dance through the CAT scheme at DanceEast. Elise went on to study dance as an undergraduate at Ballet West Scotland and the University of Lincoln. Alongside her dance practice, Elise has recently completed her 200-hour yoga teacher training and is interested in moving and creating in somatically informed ways. This year, Elise is looking forward to working with the other map dancers and choreographers, deepening her practice and refining herself as an artist.

Claudine Antaki

Originally from Dubai, Claudine started dancing at the age of four, training in R.A.D. Ballet before expanding into ISTD modern and tap. At sixteen, Claudine moved to England, where she trained at Tring Park Associates and started Contemporary and Jazz. Contemporary techniques gave her a voice to share ideas and explore political and social perspectives through movement. Claudine went on to study at Bath Spa University, performing with V3ENTURE Dance Company. In her final year, she collaborated with artists such as Faye Stoeser (Ekleido), Kay Crook (Chhaya Collective), and Sam Amos (Trash Dolls). Now with mapdance, she is excited to tour and work with the company, expand her versatility, push her creativity, and grow as a passionate and expressive performer.





Seren O'Neil

Originally from Cornwall, Seren trained in Ballet, jazz, modern and tap. A spark for contemporary dance was lit at the age of sixteen when she was a member of Altitude Company at Cornwall College. She recently graduated with first-class honours from Trinity Laban, where she had the privilege of working with choreographers including Monique Jonas and Marina Collard, and restaged Merce Cunningham's 'Suite for Five' with Daniel Squire. Living and studying in London was a transformative period of creative and technical growth for Seren, and she is excited to be continuing her journey with mapdance. Seren's creative process is rooted in curiosity and collaboration; she embraces physically challenging choreography and is drawn to bold, cinematic movement with a strong emphasis on musicality.



Xiaoyu Wu

Xiaoyu is a dance artist from China, currently based in Europe. She has trained in contemporary, modern, jazz, and Ballet in both Germany and China. Drawing on a decade of experience in management, Xiaoyu pursued her lifelong passion for dance and is now completing an MA in Dance Performance at the University of Chichester with mapdance. Xiaoyu participated in several international dance festivals, including Tanzwerkstatt Europa in Munich. She has taken classes with renowned artists such as Ohad Naharin, Sandra Marin Garcia, Charlie Morrissey and Stephan Herwig. Fascinated by different movement languages, she is constantly exploring the expressive potential of the body.



Katie O'Neil

Originally from West Sussex, Katie started dancing at the age of three at her local dance school, Brooks Dance Academy. Later on, she became part of 3Fall Youth at Shoreham Academy Sixth Form, performing at U.Dance and collaborating with 3Fall Dance Company in their Dance for Camera piece 'And Still We Move'. Katie graduated with a first-class degree BA(hons) in Dance Performance from the University of Chichester, where she toured with 3Fall Dance Company and worked with choreographers such as Lila Dance, KJ Mortimer, and Glitch Dance Collective. Katie is most excited for the chance to tour again as part of mapdance.





Ruth Woolmer

Ruth is a dance artist from North Devon, where she trained extensively in Classical Ballet from the age of 3 and added Contemporary from the age of 14. After graduating from Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London with a first-class BA(Hons) in Contemporary Dance and having her choreography selected for several showcases, Ruth is eager to continue broadening her creative experience with dance. Having previously collaborated with choreographers such as Marina Collard, Monique Jonas and Gary Lambert, she is keen to work with further inspiring artists during her time with mapdance. Ruth is excited to deepen her connection with performance and move closer to her goal of joining a professional dance company.



Liana-Rosa DellaPina

Liana studied hip hop for most of her early dance training through the Step into Dance programme. Through her further studies, she developed a love for contemporary dance, studying at the R.A.D. and Trinity Laban, where she graduated with a First-class BA(hons) in contemporary dance. She has had the pleasure of working with choreographers such as Cynthia Casimir, Seke Chimutemwende and Marina Collard. She has worked with Lauren Potter to restage 'Scan' by Rosemary Butcher and, among other projects, created two dance film adaptations that audiences have warmly received. This year, Liana wants to further her understanding of who she is as a performing artist through music, visual arts, and dance.



Islay Spanswick

Islay is a dance artist from Scotland, where she began her training at The Scottish School of Contemporary Dance and later completed her studies, receiving a 1st class Honours in Contemporary Dance Performance. Islay was a member of the National Youth Dance Company of Scotland, where she had the opportunity to work with choreographers Anna Kendrick and Manuela Liszewski and tour as a performer around Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Germany.



Zhige Zeng

Zhige graduated from Xinghai Conservatory of Music with a degree in dance, specialising in Chinese folk and classical dance styles. During her third year at university, she participated in a workshop on contemporary dance and theatre, which marked her first encounter with modern dance and improvisation. This experience fostered a deep appreciation for contemporary dance within her. She learned to embrace the "imperfections" of her own form, discovering within them a unique strength and significance.



*“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 15 full-length productions
for the company, touring the UK and
internationally. Commissions of live
and/or interactive works include:
Brighton Festival, Dreamy Place, Sadler's
Wells and Barbican Centre, London, Hull
Dance, Dance East & South East Dance.
Current Flexer & Sandiland touring
projects include *An Elevated Platform* and
the installation and choreographic
intervention *An Obscure Camera*. Recent
touring live works include *Imagining
Otherwise* (2024) and *Acting Our Age*
(2023-24) and past productions include
the family work *Curiouser, Disappearing
Acts, Weightless* and *The Living Room*.

Commissions as an independent artist
include works for London Contemporary
Dance School, Project Female, Three
Score Dance, Encore East, National Youth
Dance Company Scotland, Trinity-Laban,
Motus, Maslool, RAS & Stavanger
University, Norway. Yael's research
focuses on digital dance, intergenerational
and over 60s dance. She regularly leads
workshops, conferences and talks
alongside ongoing intergenerational
classes online, at JW3, London & South
East Dance, Brighton where Flexer &
Sandiland are a partner company.

Yael is Reader in Dance and has been
artistic director of madance, the
University's touring postgraduate
company since 2006.

Luke Brown: Rehearsal Director

Luke Brown is a contemporary dance
artist, choreographer, movement director,
and teacher based in the south of
England. He is Artistic Director of Luke
Brown Company, a dance lecturer at the
University of Chichester, rehearsal
director for *mapdance*, and Artistic
Director of ORB Youth Dance Co. Luke
Brown Company's most recent work,
Walk of the Dandelion, is a community-
focused outdoor puppetry project that
toured extensively in 2025 and returns
with new dates in 2026.

As a performer, Luke's work includes
Fatherland (Frantic Assembly), *The
Perfect American* (English National
Opera/ Queensland Opera), *Marble &
Bread* (Junk Ensemble), *The Hotel
Experience* and *Faultlines* (Lila Dance),
For You I Long the Longest (Luke Brown
Company) and *Us* (Glass House Dance).

As a movement director, choreographer
and workshop leader, Luke has
collaborated with The Point, New
Theatre Royal Portsmouth, Candoco
Dance Company, English National Ballet,
Ballet Boyz, The Place, Laban, Intoto
Dance, *mapdance*, and youth dance and
CAT schemes across the UK.

Sam Wild

Sam (she/they) is a contemporary dance
and visual artist from the Midlands. After
training at Birmingham Ormiston
Academy Sam went on to train at the
University of Chichester in
Contemporary Dance later joining
mapdance. Sam has performed at
Resolution Festival for Iván Merino
Gaspar as well as at Brighton Fringe for
Camille Cooper in 2025. Since graduating,
Sam has taught for several local dance
schools and showcased their work within
the West Midlands.

Megan O'Donnell

Megan O'Donnell is a dancer,
choreographer and teacher from
Liverpool who has studied various dance
styles across the UK and internationally. A
mapdance graduate Megan is currently
studying at Edge hill University. She is due
to gain her QTS in Secondary Physical
Education in July 2026 and is eager to
develop her teaching portfolio further.

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* (2021),
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

Rosalind is a dancer, costume maker, and
bodywork practitioner whose work is
rooted in a deep relationship with the
moving body. With over 20 years'
experience creating costume for dance,
she finds dressing movement an endlessly
satisfying practice. During a pause from
performing, she trained in men's tailoring
on Savile Row, later founding her bespoke
clothing label Rhen. Her mini-capsule
collections are seasonless, gender-fluid,
and minimal, and have been sold in
London, Tokyo, and Tel Aviv. Alongside
her design practice, Rosalind is a certified
Ilan Lev Method practitioner, offering
bodywork treatments in London. Her
ongoing engagement with movement,
touch, and transformation informs every
aspect of her work, each discipline
supporting and enriching the others.



FIND OUT MORE

Tour Dates

February

- 12 Winchester Theatre Royal
- 23 Varndean College
- 24 Exeter College
- 25 Exeter Phoenix
- 26 Bath Spa University

March

- 3 South East Dance, Brighton
- 6 Pavilion Dance South West
- 10 Dance Theatre Space, University of Chichester (shared show with MA cohort)
- 17 Propel workshop, South East Dance, Brighton
- 27 Think 18 workshop, Chichester

April

- 20 Southwark College, London
- 21 Royal Ballet School, White Lodge, Surrey
- 28 Seaford College, Petworth
- 30 Showroom, University of Chichester

May

- 5 Arlington Arts Centre, Newbury
- 12 Dance Theatre Space, University of Chichester

Tour Management

For booking, availability, fees, and any further information regarding performances:

- Email: mapdance@chi.ac.uk

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:

- Email: mapdance@chi.ac.uk

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 four Postgraduate/MA programmes:

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

Audition Dates 2026

In person:

- Tuesday 27 January
- Tuesday 17 March
- Thursday 30 April

Online:

- Friday 20 February
- Friday 13 March
- Friday 24 April

Find out more

To find out more about *mapdance*, please contact Yael Flexer: y.flexer@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/department-dance/our-courses