



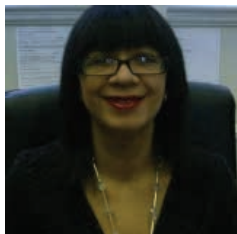
MERSEYSIDE DANCE INITIATIVE
Annual Report
2012/13

Image Credit: Stephen King



China Pearl perform at City Steps

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT



What a year!

Working with partners MDI presented a three week dance festival, 38 performances and 790 workshops;

commissioned three dance works; reached audiences of 1667 and estimated audiences of more than 70,000 for our free outdoor events; and engaged 4046 participants aged from 18 months to 86 years through our community and outreach programmes.

MDI explored options to establish a single agency spanning Merseyside and Greater Manchester to lead on artists' development and dance production with Dance Initiative Greater Manchester (DiGM). A final report concluded that an approach that considered joint working between the two organisations was one that could develop a vision for the NW.

Particular highlights that contributed to our success this year:

- Big Dance NW Link up – a sensational achievement by all involved
- Breath Project – using dance as a tool for change with people with Asthma
- Commissioning new work by House of Suarez and Taciturn through joint working with Digm
- Working with ADAD as part of our Bend Down Low Showcase
- Hosting UK based Joseph Mercier to create his new work, Throb!
- Leap 13 – for so many special moments not least the community showcase, and EU triple Bill
- Winning the Social Enterprise of the Year Award
- Supporting Taciturn to create their first Youth Dance Company

MDI achieved its financial aim to manage a balanced turnover this year, made possible through:

- Continued support from Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council
- Successfully raising over £65,000 from a variety of sources contributing to our dance and health strategy including Liverpool PCT, The Alzheimer's Society, and Asthma UK.
- Raised over 100K from a variety of sources including ACE via Grants for the Arts, local authorities, trusts, foundations and housing associations toward the Big Dance NW project
- Received investment and funds from Culture Ireland, trusts and foundations and box office generated income for Leap 13.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team, the board, the artists, the participants, venues, audiences, consultants and funders, whose constant hard work, support, contributions and provocations keep us on our toes and ensure we maintain dance at the heart of all that we do and achieve. Big thanks to Mira Balchandran- Gokul who worked with the organisation tirelessly from 2010-2012 both in her contract as Youth Dance Development Officer and then subsequently as the Big Dance NW Hub Coordinator creating an absolutely spectacular event. We wish her much luck for the future.

Collaboration is essential and MDI has built strategic partnerships with a variety of networks to develop our ambitions such as:

- A member of the National Dance Network (NDN)
- Executive Member of Creative Organisations of Liverpool (COoL)
- An associate member Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium (LARC)

**Karen Gallagher MBE
Artistic Director.**



Images: Karen Gallagher

International Day of Dance 2012



2012-2013 has seen MDI develop and grow in spite of the increasingly challenging economic environment in which the organisation operates. Thanks to the vision and tireless work of the organisation, MDI has raised funds and developed key partnerships in order to present and develop activity to their usual excellent standard. In financial terms MDI successfully achieved its aims through support from regular funders, Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council, and through successful fundraising from a number of sources including trusts and foundations.

2012-2013 is the first year that MDI has, in response to Arts Council England's condition of funding, worked collaboratively with DiGM in order to explore options for a single agency to develop dance across Merseyside and Greater Manchester. Despite the challenges that this presented in terms of resources and focus, MDI worked strategically and proactively to maximise the potential of this activity, drawing on MDI's strategic position locally, regionally and nationally.

Throughout 2012-13 The organisation also continued their arts and health activity through initiatives such as the highly successful Breathe Project. MDI's project Development Manager Rachel Rogers was awarded the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship which allowed her to travel to the USA to research dance provision for older people.

MDI's work and success across all areas of activity was recognised when the organisation were awarded the Social Enterprise of the Year Award.

A major highlight of the year was the Big Dance North West Link Up, an event of national and international significance, the delivery and development of which was a huge achievement demonstrating MDI's capacity to deliver large scale complex projects. The success of this project was in large part due to the work of Mira Balchandra-Gokul (Big Dance NW Hub Coordinator). I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the board, to thank Mira for her tireless work, enthusiasm and dedication to MDI both in this role, and from 2010 as Youth Dance Development Officer.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank all of the MDI team, the freelance artists, participants, venues, audiences, consultants, funders and the board for their continued work and support of MDI and the development of dance in the region, without whom none of the above developments and achievements would be possible. Special thank you to Karen Gallagher, Artistic Director, who continues to drive the organisation forward with her tireless dedication, ambition and vision.

Cathy Butterworth Chair, MDI Board



MDI Staff and Board

BIG DANCE

In 2012 MDI was nominated as the NW Hub Lead for Big Dance North West. Part of the Cultural Olympiad offer for the 2012 Olympics. Led by Mira Balchandran-Gokul as NW Hub Coordinator and joined by regional agencies DiGM, LUDUS and Dance Cumbria with Dare Dance to create a mass choreography that culminated in over 1000 dancers from across the north west performing in Liverpool city centre in July 2012.

As well as this flagship event there were a number of other performances across the summer at various Olympic Torch events including Liverpool Pier Hear, Looping the Loop in Manchester, and on Crosby Beach.



Images from the Big Dance Link-Up

The Project Plan was as follows:

- Jeanefer Jean-Charles and Lisi Perry to create a choreographic structure with 25 artists from across the North West: 5 artists from each county
- These artists to go in to the 5 counties and work with 50 participants each
- Each county to host a performance by their respective groups of 250 participants during different days of the Big Dance week.
- All 1250 participants and 25 artists to come together in a grand finale event in Manchester or Liverpool

Some Statistics:

Money raised for the project: £163000 (£55000 from ACE)

Number of artists employed: 35

Number of performances: 11

Number of participants: 1056 (Lancashire: 276 / Merseyside: 270 / Cumbria: 233 /

Greater Manchester: 143 / Cheshire: 134)

Audience live: 50300 Audience Online: 5 million

Volunteers: 30

Local boroughs involved in the NW: 25

Alongside our Big Dance flagship project in 2012 MDI also staged another successful outing of their city centre festival **City Steps** first produced in 2010. Hosting 6 companies and 32 artists the day saw performances in Church Street and Marks & Spencer Windows as well as promenade performances throughout the city centre. The festival performed to a footfall of 36,983 which was a 40.6% increase from the previous year.

Companies Included:

Nicoletta Cabassi (Italy)

Axial Dance (UK)

China Pearl (UK)

Gary Clarke (UK)

Granny Turismo (UK)

**Belmont Freetown Folk and
Performing Arts Company (Jamaica)**

Dt.Elipses

Images: Stephen King



Granny Turismo



China Pearl



Nicoletta Cabassi



**Belmont Freetown Folk and
Performing Arts Company**

DANCE AND HEALTH

2012 / 2013 was a significant year for MDI in terms of our Dance and Health programme.

MDI's Move on Up Dance and Health Strategy was launched in April at Tate Liverpool with over 35 colleagues and partners from health and arts organisations including the English National Ballet, the Liverpool PCT and the Alzheimer's Society.

Strategy Aims:

- Put dance at the centre of more people's lives and use it as a tool to create transformative experiences for individuals, groups and communities.
- Gain acknowledgement from health professionals on a regional and national level that dance is a valuable tool for improving health and wellbeing in order that dance be routinely considered as a viable method of tackling health inequalities.
- Become a regional hub, recognised nationally as an exemplary centre for dance and health practice.
- Work with Local authorities to develop a dance manifesto for the North West Region

The programme will gather evidence from participatory and creative projects to build a reference point that measures and evaluates the value and benefit of participating in dance. This evaluation will be structured around the 5 Ways to Wellbeing (as detailed by the new economics foundation <http://neweconomics.org/projects/five-ways-well-being>): Give, Take Notice, Keep Learning, Be Active and Connect.

The programme is aimed at, though not exclusively for the following groups:

- Children & Young People
- Boys & Men
- People with a disability
- Over 50s (including Dementia care)
- People accessing Health Services
- People with Mental Health issues

Breathe Project:

MDI partnered with Liverpool PCT and Sense of Sound to deliver a 15-month participatory project aimed at adults with Asthma, COPD and other long-term conditions. The project reached over 600 individuals in Liverpool and was widened to include children with chronic asthma at Alder Hey Hospital. More info on the project can be found here: <http://www.breatheproject.co.uk/home> 'Wendy's success in raising the sense of wellbeing in our (North Liverpool Breathe Easy Group) has been spectacular' Breathe Easy Group Leader - Aintree, Liverpool.

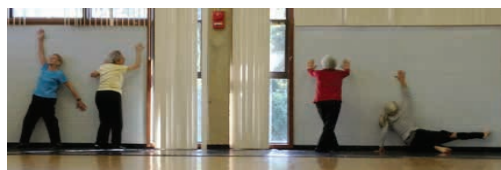


Image: Dava Jona h

Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention Project:

MDI partnered with the Alzheimer's Society and the Liverpool PCT to begin delivery of an 18month participatory project in Liverpool, Sefton and Knowsley. The project provides dance classes for people living with dementia and their carers and is led by the interests and mobility of the group members. The dance classes are part of a larger research project evaluating the benefit on non-pharmaceutical intervention. The wider project includes singing and visual art.

'You've transformed my Dad's life in so many ways...he's been able to answer the door when the doorbell rang for the first time in ages' Participant's daughter spring 2013.



Quicksilver Dance Group

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship:

Rachel Rogers, MDI's Project Development Manager travelled to the East Coast of the USA to research dance provision and creation of performance for and with older people after being awarded a travel fellowship by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. The fellowship has added to the development of MDI's provision for older people including a focus on offering more high quality performance opportunities within our regular programme. The report and key findings are available on line here: http://www.wcmt.org.uk/reports/1075_1.pdf



Image: Danny Ranaïke



Other events included:

April 2012: MDI signs up to join the Year of Action on Dementia steering group for Liverpool

October 2012: Project Development Manager became Advisory Director of Lisa Simpson Inclusive Dance.

November 2012: Time and Tide Seminar, a national event exploring dance and older people.

YOUTH DANCE

The first 'Steppin' Fresh' project was launched in September 2012. This was for children aged 7-11 exploring dance styles influenced by African dance. The group worked with different dance styles such as traditional African Dance and Hip Hop to create a performance piece for Afro Vibes at The BlackE and our own Bend Down Low showcase at the Florrie.

During October Half term we held a three day workshop for children and young people aged 7 – 19. These workshops gave the young people experience of working with different artists and in different styles, such as hip hop, contemporary and physical theatre. The week was attended by over 30 young people, and offered us the chance to promote the upcoming Youth Dance Company that was led in partnership with taciturn dance company.

taciturn were funded by Liverpool City Council as part of the Grassroots fund to set up youth dance sessions and develop a company, MDI supported this bid with funding and studio space. The company was split into two age groups 7-11 and 12-19. Both groups worked from January through to March and performed as part of the Community Dance Showcase in Leap 2013.

Working as a company rather than drop in sessions gave taciturn the chance to work more closely with the young people, developing their technique and creative skills as well as offering support for their aspirations within dance or outside



Image: Mira Balchandran-Gokul

Images from taciturn youth dance company.



Image: Cathy Monkey

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Image Credit: Jennie Hale

Granby Children's centre

we have been delivering parent and toddler sessions at Granby Children's Centre since February 2012 and they continue to be well attended by families from the area. The sessions offer a chance for children to move and explore their moving bodies without restriction and with the support of their parent or carer.

ARTIST SUPPORT

We ran two Dance Intensive workshops with 2012/13 with artists selected after consultation during our Artist Forums. Alesandra Seutin ran a two day course working with her style of Afro eclectic dance. A high energy weekend giving an insight into how Alesandra's company, Vocab Dance, works, including class, teaching of rep and choreographic tasks. The second of our dance intensives was an inspiring 5 days with Marc Brew. Marc used the week to try his own new creative ideas out on a group, as well as to develop the artists own way of working creatively and in inclusive class settings. Each day introduced a new idea to be explored and played with, concluding with an informal sharing of the work of Friday 1st March.

Weekly professional class was led by various artists from September to December including Daniella B Larsen of Wired Aerial and David Willdridge of Stop Gap. From January 2013-March 2014 we ran the class Monthly with visiting artists delivering including Francis Angol and Liz Roche.

As part of the joint programme with DIGM, MDI commissioned work by House of Suarez and taciturn. Both companies were commissioned £5000 to make new work with the fund. House of Suarez's work featured in the Vogue Ball: Twisted Fairytales in November 2012 and taciturn will be sharing the first stages of this work at Northern Dances in October 2013.

The Gary Clarke Project – 5 dances in 5 days, that happened in February 2012 found a new form when the trio that was created as part of it were invited to perform at Dancebase during the Fringe festival. We supported the artists through rehearsal of this and provided expenses for their travel and accommodation to perform at 'Head's Up'. This not only offered the artists to perform the piece again and promote Gary's work, but gave them the opportunity to make connections with dancebase and the team working there.



Image: Jennie Hale

5 Dances in 5 Days



The Vogue Ball: Twisted Fairytales



Image: Mira Balchandran-Gokul

MDI Artistic Director Karen Gallagher MBE, Big Dance NW Hub Coordinator Mira Balchandran-Gokul and Project Development Manager Rachel Rogers at the Liverpool Olympic Torch Celebrations 2012.

MDI STAFF

Karen Gallagher MBE - Artistic Director
Sarah Jane Leydon - General Manager
Rachel Rogers - Project Development Manager
Mira Balchandran-Gokul - Big Dance NW Hub Coordinator
(Until Oct 2012)
Laura Clarke - Administration & Communications Officer
Jane Davies - Administration & Communications Officer
Jennie Hale - Community Dance Artist
Maxine Brown - Community Dance Artist (APD)

MDI BOARD

Cathy Butterworth - Chair	Tunde Zack-Williams
Maxine Ellis	Sue Harrison
Katharine Lawrenson	Hazel Russell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Marc Brew
Jordan Massarella
Debbie Waistell
Robbie Graham
Mustdashios
Wired Aerial Theatre
Robert Guy
Deniela.b.Larsen
Gavin Persand
Lamin Dumbuya
Darren Suarez
Pau Doyle
Alan Pugh
Movema
Ruth Jones
Felix Ologbesere
Step & Street
Afro Roots
GODS
Danielle Fernando
Stephanie Bairet
Jo Ashbridge
Wendy Thomas
Namron
Lucy Suggate
Taciturn Dance Company
Alesandra Seutin
Daniel Gale
Zanna Dennis
Jennifer Stokes
Wirral Youth Theatre
Kate Jackson
Samantha Carruthers
Anthony Briggs
Sarah Hall
Marsha Roddy
Amy Cartwright
Erin Dixon
Sheetal Maru
Liz Roche company
Sharon Watson
Toni Grove
Liz Aggis
Arno Schuitemaker
Compagnia Nari-Frangioni
2faced Dance Company
The Kosh
Anton Alexandrov
One Latin Culture
New Art Club
Pheonix Dance Theatre
ADAD
Northern Ballet
Francis Angol
Nicoletta Cabassi
Axial Dance
China Pearl
Gary Clarke
Granny turismo
Sarah Dwyer
dtElipis
Amanda Mortlock
Alison Horn
Kelly McClelland
Sarah Lockwood
Louise Rowley
Lisi Perry
Jeanefer Jean Charles
Kate Jackson
Craig Horton
Clare Fildes
Beth Bracegirdle
Yolanda Blades
Bisarka Sarker
Belmont Freetown Folk and Performing Arts Company
Business in the Arts NW

FUNDERS



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust



Big Dance Funders:



AGMA
ASSOCIATION OF
GREATER MANCHESTER
AUTHORITIES



BALANCE SHEET AT 31/03/13

	2013	2012
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	1,155	8
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	35,401	47,621
Cash at bank	<u>33,295</u>	<u>74,002</u>
	68,696	121,623
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	55,174	40,838
NET CURRENT ASSETS	13,522	80,785
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	14,677	80,793
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Unrestricted funds		
General fund	14,677	14,343
Restricted funds	-	66,450
	<u>14,677</u>	<u>80,793</u>

The Rockin' J's perform at International Day of Dance



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