



One Dance UK – Dance Manifesto

General Election 2017

The purpose of this paper is to outline the key pledges we urge all political parties and candidates to commit to in the lead up to the 2017 General Election.

Dance has never been more popular in the UK than it is now. The Government's most recent 'Taking Part' survey found that 76.1 per cent of adults had engaged in the arts in the last year, 8.4 per cent of which took part in dance. Big Dance 2012, was the largest UK-wide dance programme ever, involving 5 million people. Over 10 million people watched the launch night of BBC One's Strictly Come Dancing 2016, said to be the biggest audience yet for a series debut.

Dance has a unique and important role to play in education, health and wellbeing, community cohesion, social mobility and diversity as well as being a great UK art form.

Dance has the power to unite and transform lives. We urge policymakers to support dance in the following areas:

Education

- **Offer all students a broad and balanced curriculum.**
- **Ensure that dance is an integral part of every young person's education, with the same status as music, maths and English.** More children take part in dance outside school hours than any other physical activity. Studying dance helps young people develop physical as well as academic skills including discipline, communication skills, teamwork, analytic ability, understanding of physiology and confidence. The combination of offering science, technology, arts, engineering and maths (STEM vs STEAM) subjects in the curriculum will ensure the creation of future innovators and leaders to sustain our world class reputation in the creative industries.
- **Invest in more specialist dance teachers in schools** – though 96% of schools in England in 2010 offered dance, just over 4% of PE teachers held a post A-level qualification in dance. Between November 2011 and November 2015, the number of arts teachers at Key Stage 4 in England's state-funded schools declined from 25,300 to 21,900, a 13.4 per cent fall.
- **Enable career guidance that fully understands the potential of creative jobs** and career pathways.

Brexit

- **Maintain the status of migrant workers from EU member states** in both employed and freelance positions as eligible to remain and work in the UK.
- **Ensure that the route to Indefinite Leave remains unchanged** so those who would have qualified for this before will still be eligible for at least the two years following the triggering of Article 50.
- Should a points based system be introduced for migrant workers from EU member states, **consider exemption for cultural/creative workers**, or at the very least ensure the shortage occupation list has special arrangements and in particular no or low cost.
- **Seek to secure reciprocal arrangements to enable cultural exchange** without increased bureaucracy or cost to organisations touring in Europe and the UK.

Health & Wellbeing

- Recognise and act to harness the proven health and wellbeing benefits of dance to communities.
- Dance is a powerful force for achieving a healthier lifestyle, with proven success in tackling particular challenges including obesity, mental health, Parkinson's Disease, cancer and loneliness.
- **Embed dance in public health strategies delivered by local Government, health and social care services.**
- **Encourage primary schools to use their PE & Sport Premium funding to deliver more dance activity.**
- **Include dance in local planning strategies, providing affordable spaces** for community dance classes and create new affordable dance spaces.

Champion dance as a great UK art form

- From Matthew Bourne's block-busting, *Swan Lake* to classical kathak performances, from *Cats* to Candoco Dance Company, renowned for integrating disabled and non-disabled dancers, the UK has become a centre for world class dancers and choreographers who are choosing to train in the UK and build their careers here. Dance is at the heart of our growing creative industries, from theatres across the UK and in the vibrant West End, to pop videos to films.
- **Champion and support local dance companies, schools and organisations** that contribute significantly to the cultural, social and economic capital in local constituencies.
- **Develop dedicated funding to enable local theatres to afford to present dance** companies so more people can enjoy dance in their local areas.
- **Support Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, Arts Council of Wales and Arts Council of Northern Ireland** to invest in young and emerging artists to experiment, research and take risks; to safeguard and provide a seedbed for the next generation of great dance artists and leaders to emerge.
- **Continue to fund the Dance and Drama Award scheme, and the Centres for Advanced Training in Dance**, to support exceptionally talented young people with their pre-professional training, to ensure equal access to the dance profession.
- **Ensure Local Enterprise Partnerships and local authorities recognise that creating spaces is vital for dance** to be available to audiences and participants at the heart of communities, and to maintain and attract dance talent to the area. These spaces act as an economic driver for associated businesses and area regeneration.

About One Dance UK

One Dance UK is the main industry body for dance.

It has over 2,000 members, including dance teachers, youth dance leaders, students, professional dancers and choreographers, producers, managers, dance marketing professionals and publicists and other people working in and with dance. Our member organisations include schools, university dance departments, private dance schools, dance companies, vocational dance schools, dance organisations and theatres. We provide a "one-stop-shop" for advice and guidance for anyone working in dance or interested in dance.

We represent our members' interests across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and collaborate with European partners and artists.

Contact: Andrew Hurst, Chief Executive One Dance UK, Tel: +44 (0)20 7713 0730
e: Andrew.Hurst@onedanceuk.org w: www.onedanceuk.org t: @onedanceuk