



PRESS RELEASE: 23 September 2018

One Dance UK appoints new Head of Children and Young People's Dance

Monday September 23

One Dance UK announced today the appointment of Laura Nicholson as Head of Children and Young People's Dance. Laura joins the organisation to lead on the strategic planning and delivery of One Dance UK's programmes with and for children, young people and teachers. She will be a champion for dance in education and a strong advocate for the value of dance in government and political arenas.

Laura Comments: I am thrilled to join the team at One Dance UK and feel privileged to be able to advocate and share my passion for dance in education and the youth sector.

Andrew Hurst, Chief executive of One Dance UK adds: *We are delighted to welcome Laura to the team. With this appointment, Laura can progress the work of One Dance UK, advocating for the value of dance in education and for the role that dance plays in the development and well-being of young people right across the UK.*

Laura trained at Laban Centre London (now Trinity Laban) where she had the opportunity to work with choreographers including Mark Baldwin and Mark Murphy as well as performing in the UK and Spain in Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* choreographed by Stuart Hopps. Upon graduation Laura worked extensively in the north of England in youth and community settings as a performer, workshop leader and community artist, including spending several years as a core member of Qdos Dance Theatre, devising and performing issue-based work for young people. She has worked as a dance consultant, devising and delivering CPD and dance training programmes to specialist and non-specialist teachers working with students of all ages and in a range of settings.

Laura brings 12 years of experience working in the secondary education sector to One Dance UK. She developed a highly successful Dance and Performing Arts curriculum at an inner-city Leeds secondary school and held the position of Assistant Headteacher at a Wakefield secondary school with whole-school responsibilities including leadership of a unique specialist Performing Arts curriculum pathway. In addition to leading on the successful delivery of a wide range of arts-based qualifications in the formal curriculum, Laura also developed a wide range of extra-curricular and community youth dance activities, providing young people with the opportunity to participate in regional and national events and

competitions. In addition to holding Qualified Teacher Status she has also completed a Masters-level certificate in Teaching and Learning and is an alumnus of the Teaching Leaders programme.

For more press information, interviews, images please contact Susi Pink, Head of Marketing and Communications on 07843 363183 or susi.pink@onedanceuk.org

About One Dance UK

One Dance UK is the sector support organisation leading the way to a stronger, more vibrant and diverse dance sector. We provide one clear voice to:

- Support all those working in the sector to achieve excellence in dance performance, education and management
- Advocate for the increased profile and importance of dance in all its diverse forms and settings
- Enhance dancers' health, well-being and performance
- Identify gaps, provide opportunities and improve conditions for dance to be learnt, discussed and seen

We provide membership packages for a range of individuals and organisations to support, advise and connect people across the dance sector. Our aim is to create a workforce that is well-equipped to secure dance's prominence in the cultural landscape of the future. We do this by providing services, information and opportunities for:

- Dance organisations
- All dance professionals including:
 - Dance artists and choreographers
 - Dance teachers, educators and practitioners
 - Dance managers and producers
 - Dance medicine and science/research professionals
 - All children and young people.