

42PUPPETS

# OPEN CALL



RIVERINE BY MARIA NILSSON WALLER SU23 © IARA PEREIRA



DANCE  
LIMERICK



# Step Up Dance Project 2024

## Open Call for Early-Career Dance Professionals

### What is Step Up

Step Up Dance Project is a programme of professional development for recent dance graduates or equivalent early-career dance professionals. We're looking for **dancers born or resident in Ireland who graduated in 2020 or since then** and who are interested in being part of a paid professional development programme. You're also eligible, if your professional dancing career has started since 2020 but you have come through other training routes that didn't involve graduation. **This is an opportunity for dancers in the early stages of their professional career.** If you are only starting your career or graduating in 2024 you are not eligible. Previous Step Up participants who match the criteria above are eligible to apply again. We're recruiting **up to five dancers** for this programme.

Step Up wants to connect recent graduates to the range of practices and practitioners that make up Ireland's dance ecology and to the international networks of dance in which we operate. **Curated by Fearghus Ó Conchúir** and delivered under the guidance of **Rehearsal Director, Lucia Kickham**, the programme is focused on developing artists as performers while recognising the creativity necessary in the performer's work.

Dance artists rely on a range of skills including technical competence, improvisational facility, the ability to process input from a variety of creative stimuli, alongside a capacity to perform and engage with audiences and publics in different circumstances. We're hoping you'll come with some of those skills and with an appetite to develop them further.

In 2024, the programme has three core elements and an optional fourth.



## Creation and performance of new choreography

A Performance in Context project with choreographer **Catherine Young** to develop a new work in Limerick. Catherine's work holds a deep commitment to building community, to social justice and to working through dance to communicate vital stories and ideas, especially from those on the margins. She believes in **bringing people of all cultures together through dance** and in finding our common points of connection and is interested in how dance can function in society, not on the periphery but at the heart of it. Her work responds to the beauty, the wonder, the questions and challenges we face today as humans: **raw, visceral, truthful, transcendent**. Catherine will be bringing these values to her work with the Step Up dancers, connecting to communities and experiences in Limerick in ways that expand our humanity.

**Catherine Young** has created work for the Dublin Dance Festival, Dublin Fringe Festival, CoisCéim Dance Theatre, Féile Fáilte among others. Her company works 'A Call to You,' 'Floating on a Dead Sea', 'State of Exception', 'Ultima Thule', 'Woman Stood Regardless' and 'Welcoming the Stranger' have all been received to critical acclaim. Catherine is co-curator of What Next Dance Festival and runs The Welcoming Project, a programme designed to foster cultural integration & social inclusion through dance.

## Learning repertoire & choreography with leading dance artists

**Finola Cronin** | Dance Artist & Lecturer in Theatre Studies at UCD. Finola danced in Germany with Vivienne Newport in TAT Frankfurt, and with Pina Bausch in Wuppertal, and with many other choreographers including Raimund Hoghe in Düsseldorf and the Liz Roche Company in Dublin.

**Mufutau (Junior) Yusuf** is a Nigerian/Irish performer based between Dublin and Brussels. Trained mainly in dance and physical theatre, Mufutau regularly works with Brussels company Ultima Viz and is known to Irish artists and audiences through his work with Irish choreographer John Scott's Irish Modern Dance Theatre and through his own choreography.



## Further development week

Independent dance artists often have to make their own opportunities, to manage their careers and build networks. **The Personal Development aspect of the Step Up programme aims to give participants a broad toolkit or road map for taking the next steps in their career path.** Activities will be in person for an additional week of practical and conversational activities at **Dancehouse, Dublin 9-13 September 2024.** The activities will include daily class and further opportunities to meet the dance community in Ireland.

Career skills - a series of workshops designed to support early-career dancers in the practicalities of making a career in dance. Topics will include self-employment, contracts, application writing, CV development, a.o.

Coaching – each participant will receive 2 x 45-minute sessions with a personal coach.

## Work opportunities with professional companies (optional)

All five participants will have an opportunity to audition / interview for one of four paid work opportunities. These will be offered by John Scott, Artistic Director of Irish Modern Dance Company, Emma Martin, Artistic Director of United Fall, Liz Roche, Artistic Director of Liz Roche Dance Company and Davild Bolger, Artistic Director of CoisCéim Dance Theatre. Each company will offer a two-week period during the Research and Development process for new work.



## Key dates

Tuesday 12th December 2023 **Application deadline**

Monday 8 January 2024 **Audition at Dance Ireland**

Sunday 30 June – Saturday 10 August 2024 **Training / rehearsal / performance**

Monday 9 – Friday 13 September 2024 **Further development week**

## Terms & conditions

Rehearsals will take place in Limerick 10 am – 6 pm Monday to Friday for the duration of the rehearsal period.

Five selected dancers will receive a **weekly fee of €650 over 7 weeks**, along with **accommodation** for the period of 30 June - 10 August and 9 - 13 September. Participants will be responsible for their own travel costs to and from Limerick, and for incidental travel while in Limerick.

**Participants must be available on an exclusive basis** to take advantage of the full programme. This includes the Further Development week.

## Applications

Please send your **CV and a personal statement** outlining your motivation to be involved in Step Up along with a **weblink to a 1-minute improvisation to [stepupdanceproject@gmail.com](mailto:stepupdanceproject@gmail.com) with Step Up Application in the subject line**. Your personal statement can be written (100 words max.) or in video form (1 minute max. submitted as a weblink)

Applications should be submitted in one pdf, as an email attachment, to include cv, personal statement and weblink. Please note individual video files and documents linked to google drive cannot be accepted.

The closing date for receipt of applications is **Tuesday 12 December 2023**





## Accessibility

The programme is committed to equality of opportunity, supports and encourages under-represented groups and values diversity. We guarantee an interview to any dancer with a disability whose application meets the minimum criteria for the opportunity. To be eligible for the guaranteed interview, you must have a disability or long-term health condition which puts you at a significant disadvantage in either obtaining or keeping jobs. The disability could be physical, sensory or mental and expected to last for at least 12 months. You do not have to be registered as a disabled person to apply under this scheme.

If you have additional access needs, please get in touch with us at [stepupdanceproject@gmail.com](mailto:stepupdanceproject@gmail.com)

**Step Up Dance Project is a partnership project between the Arts Council, Dance Limerick, the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance at the University of Limerick and Dance Ireland.**

