

**Report from Kerry Chappell who travelled to Brazil to attend the conference of Dance and the Child International (daCi).
16 October 2003**

Dear Chair of the Lisa Ullmann Travelling Scholarship Fund

Please find enclosed two copies of the report of my trip to Brazil, funded by LUTSF, together with a CD-R also containing a copy of the report, and certificate of attendance at the conference. I apologise if this package is delayed in reaching you; I fear it may become entangled in the UK postal strike, which has been announced today.

Title: Attendance at daCi conference 2003, Salvador Brazil

Dates: 3 - 10 August 2003

Please see the report for full information, but the trip allowed me to achieve all of my objectives and more. I have been able to input peer review within my research; have contributed to international agendas for both research and project management in dance education; and have gained unique insights into worldwide practice in developed and developing countries for comparison with the current UK agenda.

One of the highlights of the conference was being able to cement strong professional relationships with dance education practitioners and researchers in Brazil, New Zealand and North America in particular, which I am hoping will lead to exciting collaborations in the future. Each of these colleagues has showed me very different ways of working within our field, and really brought home to me the importance of diversity and variety in our approach to dance education. I have already shared informally information about my project with colleagues at LABAN, and hope to be able to include insights of the trip within lecturing that I

undertake in the future with LABAN and other students. I have published one article already discussing the conference and am currently negotiating for a final article to be published soon. There is, however, no doubt, that what I have learned from my time in Brazil will continue to filter through all aspects of my work for a long time to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank LUTSF for their generous funding of the trip, which would not have been possible without this support. Finally, I would like to take LUTSF up on the offer of a ticket to see Mavin Khoo Dance on Thursday 13 November. I have enclosed a cheque for the price of a ticket made payable to LUTSF (I hope this is correct) and look forward to meeting you at the Royal Opera House.

Best wishes

Kerry Chappell

**Report on attendance at the dance and the Child international Conference
In Salvador, Brazil
August 2003
By Kerry Chappell**

Description of the Project

Funding from the Lisa Ullmann Travelling Scholarship Fund has allowed me to undertake a very valuable trip to attend the week-long dance and the Child international (daCi) conference in Salvador, Brazil. The funding for travel allowed me to present a research paper entitled 'Identifying and Nurturing Creativity in late primary age dance education', which had previously been accepted by the daCi conference committee in 2002.

Specifically, my research is concerned with 'how selected specialist dance teachers identify and foster creativity'; which dovetailed well with the conference theme of 'bringing into light the importance of thinking, creating, teaching, and performing dance within the context of multicultural societies'.

Outcomes and Personal Conclusions

The funding facilitated the presentation of my doctoral level research to the international dance education community, and allowed me to learn about other dance education practice and research being carried out worldwide within this area.

As a result, I have made new professional connections with practitioners and researchers in New Zealand, Brazil, North America, Australia and Germany, a number of whose work has already contributed to my own research process. These professional relationships have now been cemented by personal meetings, discussions and debates, allowing me to receive live feedback and gather insight from internationally based peers. This has been invaluable to contributing to the path of the research, continuing rigorous questioning of my own approaches, and embedding it within relevant international research practice, together with having my work published and disseminated to many more countries.

I have been able to include recommendations from other researchers about the use of dance teachers' research diaries as a methodological tool, and the use of video for collecting data. I was also able to learn from other researcher's experiences of using theory to sensitise themselves in preparation for the field within grounded theory studies; and to learn of new possibilities for presenting data within the final thesis (for example, poetic interpretations of pupils' perspectives).

As my research combines the fields of education, social systems psychology and dance, I was able to highlight to the dance education community the contribution that it has to make to current research agendas in other disciplines. Conversely, my presentation was also able to contribute findings from the UK creativity in education research community to international dance education debates. It was particularly interesting to debate the place of this kind of creativity research within dance education research, which focuses on children's perspectives in dance education, and dialogical pedagogy, together with the role of qualitative and quantitative methodologies in these areas.

The conference also provided the opportunity for me to access seminars, workshops and presentations on offer at the week-long conference. I was brought up to date with the recent implementation of an arts based dance curriculum in New Zealand. I gained insights into the teething problems and advantages of rolling out country wide dance professional development within schools; and the real advantages of teaching dance as part of an arts based curriculum, compared to the Physical Education model used in the UK. I also learned about how dance curriculum models are being developed in North Carolina using new technologies and the internet; and how Laban Movement Choirs are being used as part of a social inclusion agenda in the United States.

In line with another of the conference themes (to promote a worldwide exchange experience for researchers, artists, teachers, and young people, regarding artistic, cultural, and scientific production in dance), I was able to exchange my own knowledge of the dance education system within the UK with international colleagues and to promote aspects of good practice of which I am aware. This was particularly in regard to running inclusive dance projects, drawing on my own experience of managing the Dance-Ability programme as part of my project management work in the UK.

Conclusions

Following the conference, the presentation has been published as part of the conference proceedings for the daCi Conference 2003. I have also written a conference report for the termly publication LABANlink, which is sent out to alumni, current students, colleagues and friends of LABAN. I am currently negotiating to publish a conference report in another dance publication soon.

I have also been able to disseminate ideas, strategies and information gleaned from the conference, internally within the Laban Research Department and Education and Community Programme, together with passing on useful contacts to colleagues, and reconnecting other colleagues with the dance and the Child international organisation.

Finally, the conference connected me with the mission, mechanisms and networks of dance and the Child international, which were very much at the heart of the proceedings. Across the week, daCi 2003 offered hundreds of workshops, practical and research seminars and performances for people of all different ages from around the developing and developed world, in a multitude of dance styles. Delegates themselves ranged from infants to highly respected practitioners in the field, who were encouraged to get to know each other and explore each other's experiences, with the voice of young people often placed centrally. This has opened up a new perspective on dance education for me, giving me an insight into how dance is perceived and positioned within other cultures, and placing a real emphasis on the needs of the child at the heart of our work. One of the most fascinating outcomes of the conference is that my week's experience was just one amongst hundreds; and that the potential for learning, debate, dissemination and networking at a conference like this is immeasurable.