News from the Lisa Ullmann Travelling Scholarship Fund

Issue 6 - Autumn 2013



Patrons' news

Our warmest congratulations to LUTSF Patron, and generous donor, Gillian Lynne CBE, whose dedication to a life of dance has been honoured this year with an Olivier Special Award for lifetime achievement.



2013/2014 Scholarships

LUTSF is supporting 18 travel scholarships in 2013/14. A total of £12,210 has been awarded to projects that highlight the policy of the Fund to support a diverse range of journeys and to assist individuals at different stages in their careers to travel to enrich their practice and pursue a personal passion. A full list available on the website www.lutsf.org.uk.

Kathinka Walter travelled to New York in June 2013 to present her work at the Brooklyn International Performance Art Festival.



'I had an amazing time in New York and I have come back feeling inspired, full of new ideas and with many contacts as well as invites to other festivals for next year (New York, Mexico, Berlin)'.

The residency included rehearsal.

discussion with other artists and curators and the performance of her work. Her experience has, in her own words, helped her to 'broaden (her) artistic/research horizon offering a wealth of experience and reflections'. During the week she kept a 'talking diary', which allowed her to truly reflect on the impact of working in this new context and which led to different ways of experiencing her and others' artistic practice.

One of the many outcomes of her travel to New York is that it has developed the opportunity for Kathinka to travel more internationally with her work in the future. As she says, it has also made her realise that 'the performance art scene is possibly the better place to present (her work) and it was exciting to see how it can be perceived so differently by other art scenes'. Kathinka Walter's work was presented at the Grace Exhibition Space New York, a venue in a Brooklyn loft that is devoted exclusively to Performance Art.

Support LUTSF

Donations (one-off gifts, covenants, or bequests) to make it possible for LUTSF to continue its work are gratefully received and can be sent to: The Treasurer (LUTSF) at the address on the right hand side. Find out more about how you can support us on our website www.lutsf.org.uk.

Sincere thanks

This year the LUTSF management committee has gratefully received generous legacies from the late Eugenie Littlecott (née Fraser) and Chloe Gardner. Thanks also to many other individual donors whose contributions support these wonderful journeys.

Recent LUTSF winners join committee



LUTSF is delighted to welcome two recent scholarship winners Iris Tomlinson and Alexandra Baybutt to the committee. After experiencing first hand the benefits of their trips both are pleased to support the Fund to enable others to have similarly valuable experiences.

Apply to LUTSF

Information and guidelines for applicants are available online now. Completed applications must arrive BY POST not later than 25th January 2014.

No late applications are considered. Forms can be obtained on receipt of an A5 SAE (1st class stamp) from the Secretary (LUTSF) at the address below.



Our mailing address is: Lisa Ullmann Travelling Scholarship Fund The Secretary, LUTSF Breach, Kilmington, Axminster, Devon EX13 7ST United Kingdom

Jennifer Paterson and Brigid McCarthy travelled to Buenos Aires to advance their aerial dance harness skills and research movement ideas with Cuerda Producciones.

This proved a fantastic opportunity to acquire techniques, ideas, teaching approaches and importantly inspiration - both were overwhelmed by the 'can do' attitude that pervaded their experiences.

The awardees found the whole company, including technicians, at their disposal. Brigid enjoyed ten highly skilled aerial performers at her bidding. She said 'I can't express how much I thrived on it!'

Both Jennifer and Brigid valued the chance to immerse themselves in the experience free from daily distractions. They were able to 'totally enter into the creative process and give time to being there, learn, develop and grow'.

Brigid observed that 'theatre is not a middle class business in Argentina....it really belongs to the people and there is an artistic hunger/need which is born through passion. It is fabulous'.



Both have returned to the UK reinvigorated, creative and passionate about their work, with new developments underway and a commitment to stay connected with Cuerda.



"To pursue intercultural dialogue, knowledge and collaboration with artists from other cultures is one of the biggest privileges an artist can have. LUTSF has given me this opportunity, allowing me to interact with the Japanese contemporary freelance dance scene"

Avatâra Ayuso visited Japan Her reflections are captured in her own words:

"The aim of my research was to gain a deeper understanding of what the freelance dance scene is like in a country where advanced technology, art and tradition blend in unexpected ways. The results of my short stay in Tokyo could not have been more astonishing:

- the infrastructure the choreographers have to support them in developing their work is almost non-existent as the government is much more supportive of Kabuki and traditional theater
- they don't have any audience development strategies to encourage Japanese people to understand and engage with contemporary dance
- the pressure put on freelance contemporary dancers is unbelievable: most of the time they don't get paid; they have to pay a fee to be part of a company; they obviously have to work in other "non-artistic" jobs to make their living; and last but not least, they are responsible for selling a portion of performance tickets, having to cover the cost of those that they could not sell themselves .

This situation contrasts with the splendid quality of the dance artists I met and it is admirable to see how eager they are to develop their work despite the enormous difficulties they face.

This experience in Tokyo has broadened my view on how other cultures deal with their own performing arts sector, exposing its achievements but also, and mainly, their deficiencies and difficulties."

To learn more about Avatâra Ayuso's performance practice visit www.avataraayuso. com

Top image: (c) Ian Whelan

Bottom image: Jeen Miura (filmmaker) and Avatâra Ayuso (choreographer) filming in Tokyo city. This dance film collaboration came out unexpectedly during Avatâra's research trip. Google translator was the main tool of communication between both artists. The film "Tokyo, Tokyo" will be ready in Winter 2013.