

Lisa Ullmann Travelling Scholarship Fund

Spring News 2015



Scholarship Winners

LUTSF is supporting 21 travel scholarships in 2015/16. A total of £12,100 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.

Where they are now

Stuart Waters Klein Technique, New York (2009/2010)

My Scholarship from LUTSF was to cover the expenses to fly to New York to study Klein technique with Susan Klein herself for one week. Although Klein technique did not become an integral part of my practice as a contemporary dance artist it was an important trigger in a chain of events that changed my career.

At the time of the scholarship I had recently finished two very long full time contracts with touring companies. At this point I was searching for a resolution to the never-ending question, "what next?" I was searching for a way to deepen my existing skill set and develop new skills through fresh experiences with a different perspectives and knowledge.

At this point my career had heavily been about delivery, I wanted something back for my body and mind. This introduction to Klein technique opened the door to a more somatic approach to my practice. This experience also opened up my mind and the questions just kept coming. I wanted more self- development as a simultaneous training to go along side my performing and teaching career. Naturally this lead me to seek out the areas I felt were missing from being a performer and dance leader. The space to enquire became very attractive leading to self funded training at international contact festivals, teaching and training dancers in Ethiopia, being accepted onto the Dance UK mentoring programme and embarking on a Masters degree at The London School of Contemporary Dance.

On reflection being awarded the Lisa Ullmann Travelling Scholarship was a profound moment even though I was not fully aware of it at the time. It was a stepping stone that has fed my desire to learn and develop, as well as drip feeding into my own delivery and passing on the knowledge I have experienced as a dance leader and choreographer. This somatic experience also features in my delivery as a performer looking inside my self to find authentic ways to be present in the moment during performance.

<http://stuartwaters.com/index.php/>



Becky Edmunds 'SHOOT Dance for Camera Festival, Argentina (2009/10)

Receiving the scholarship allowed me to take up an invitation to travel to Sweden as a guest of the SHOOT Dance for Camera Festival in 2009. I met Christina Molander of the SHOOT festival at the BA Videodanza festival in Argentina, where I had been in residency, I had been travelling through the Argentinean countryside, making a series of short, landscape video studies. My aim had been to shift my habits through practicing my practice in wide spaces and unfamiliar territories. I had been shooting in salt fields and deserts, in heat hazes and fire. Christina suggested that I should visit Sweden and continue to challenge my habits through working in coldness

and darkness. So, with the support of the Lisa Ullmann Travelling Scholarship, I travelled with a collaborator through the north of Sweden into the Arctic Circle.

I encountered a silent world of frozen stillness – of blues, and shades of white and gray. I wrapped my camera in bubble-wrap and pushed it across frozen rivers, letting it slip and slide, relinquishing camera control to the icy environment. I asked questions around the screen as a site for choreography. What is it that I am choreographing? The body? The space around the body? The movement that already exists in the space? Or the frame around the space? I tried to work my way through all of those options.



I made a study in stillness, which can be found here – <https://vimeo.com/9960964>. I ate reindeer meat and cloudberry.

I watched the Northern Lights shimmer across the sky, and I know that the memory of that experience will never leave me.

The works that I made in Sweden on that trip continue to be shown at screen festivals, and the trip helped cement my approach to placing the movement (or stillness) of the human body into the natural environment. Subsequently, I was invited back to Sweden to speak at a film festival and show the works that I had created during my time there. This kind of trip is invaluable to an artist. I was under no pressure to make work, but I did make work. I kept a blog, which is still available to view here – <http://beckyedmunds.com/#/sweden/4533025694>

Ruth Pethybridge Argentine Tango, Buenos Aires (2007/8)



The Lisa Ullmann Travelling Scholarship Fund supported me to travel to Argentina in 2008 to research and learn Argentine Tango, whilst also investigating its use in the context of palliative care at Enrique Tornu Hospital in Buenos Aires.

I cannot overstate the importance of this experience to my life both professionally and personally. Receiving the LUTSF bursary at this time enabled me to fundraise for the rest of the trip by giving me the confidence that someone else thought my interest a worthwhile one. I went back to Argentina twice subsequently and learnt Argentine Tango in depth, also meeting my now partner in life and in dancing.

My work at the palliative care unit resulted in a publication which was the beginning of writing becoming more integrally part of my creative practice and career as a dance researcher. I have since published a book chapter and several articles as well as currently working towards finishing a practice based PhD. I am a Lecturer in Dance at Falmouth University where bringing together writing and dancing is a fundamental part of what I do with undergraduate students. I continue to teach Tango occasionally, recently establishing a class for people with Parkinsons disease in my region and will always be grateful to LUTSF for allowing me to pursue the initial project.

Furthermore, the seemingly incongruous joining up of Tango in the hospital encouraged me to seek the multitude of reasons people participate in dance practice. I seek, with others in my field, to broaden the scope of what we study in dance to include culture and health and politics and how social dance forms intersect with these – practices that sometimes sit on the periphery of the academic study of dance. To support my interests I have recently established DR@FT: Dance Research at Falmouth and I look forward to this being a spring board for further research and travel, inspired by the ethos of LUTSF.

Related article can be found at: <http://www.communitydance.org.uk/DB/animated-library/un-abrazo-sin-tiempo-an-embrace-beyond-time.html?ed=14044>

Related film can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZPYPI3oZKw>

2015 Scholarship Winners

This year's 21 awardees exemplify the range of projects and geographical locations that characterise the diversity LUTSF enables.

For example:

Neus Gil Cortes, a dancer with the Hofesh Shechter Dance Company and one of ten invited dance artists will attend the OMI International Dance Collective for a three week choreographic exchange.

Thomas Thomasson, a 35 year old freelance performer with cerebral palsy from Essex will participate in a summer dance course run by Axis Dance Company in Oakland California.

Lindsey Butcher, an experienced aerial dance artist will travel to Vancouver to engage in peer to peer exchanges in the specialist area of vertical dance.

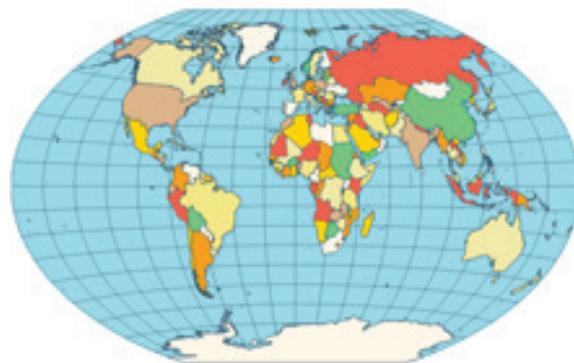
Corey Baker, Artistic Director of Corey Baker Dance, has performed with the Ballet Boyz and New Adventures. He will travel to New Zealand to perform and undertake a research project of teaching and developing relationships with artists, venues, councils and arts festivals.

Katie Keeble, a community dance artist, will take up teaching and workshop opportunities to build on her knowledge and skills of working with special educational needs children.

Evangelia Kolyra, a freelance performer and choreographer will participate in a research week with US choreographer Deborah Hay in the Findhorn Community in Scotland.

Thomasin Gulgec a dancer with the Russell Maliphant Dance Company will attend the Abada-Capoeira Arts Festival in Rio de Janeiro sharing artistic/cultural practices with capoeiristas from all over the world.

Tamara Tomic-Vajagic, a full time lecturer in dance will explore the creative contributions of dancers during The Forsythe Company's 2015 performing season.



Applications open November 2015

Information and guidelines for applications are available online now.

The 2016/17 application form will be available from 2 November 2015. Deadline for applications 15 January 2016.



Support LUTSF

Donations in the form of one-off gifts, regular direct debit payments, covenants, and bequests make it possible for LUTSF to continue its work. They are gratefully received and put to valuable use directly supporting those in the field of movement and dance.

Find out more about how you can support the Fund on our website. Please consider Gift Aid-ing your donation to help it go even further.

Thank you

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