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## Spring News 2020

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

#### LUTSF ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE 2020/21 ANNUAL TRAVEL

The quality of applications this year was high and exciting, and ten Travel Scholarships were awarded. A selection of Scholarship Winners' diverse destinations include:

- From Wiltshire to Zimbabwe to re-connect with heritage, collaborate with local and national dance artists and musicians and participate in the annual Harare International Festival of Arts
- From London to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to work with 'Destino' – a professional performance company that integrates multiple marginalised groups into its projects
- From London to Gothenburg, Sweden to work with Swedish based dance artists on the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of an ecology project researching the significance of trees in a rural farmland setting
- From London to Kyoto, Japan to engage in a three-week intensive training in traditional Japanese theatre techniques
- From Lancashire to New York to train with the internationally renowned somatic movement practitioner, Mary Abrams

However, given the unprecedented global situation and an unpredictable forecast for future travel, the Fund has offered the following options to this years' scholarship winners:

- a) Should it look possible to complete the project later in the year, travel between the UK and your destination must be officially declared open and safe

b) The Fund will honour awards and guarantee availability for 2021/22 should winners wish to defer until next year

## **ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

We welcome **Andrew Holdsworth**, as new **Treasurer**. Andrew is currently Chair of [Nonsuch History and Dance](#) and former Treasurer of this organisation. He is a performer and teacher and has worked with early dance groups: Gramarye, The Renaissance Dancers, Quadernaria and Nonsuch History and Dance. Andrew is also an accomplished musician.

And we welcome **Avril Hitman BEM FRSA**. Avril founded [Magpie Dance](#) in 1985. On stepping down from her role as Artistic and Executive Director in 2017 (over 30 years later), she set up [Avril Hitman Consultancy](#) to utilise her extensive skills, experience and knowledge to make a difference in the charity sector. Under Avril's leadership Magpie Dance became a registered charity and a nationally recognised model of good practice, delivering hundreds of sessions annually to over 300 people of all ages with a learning disability. After decades of supporting thousands of people with learning disabilities through the art of dance, Avril received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Diversity Awards and a British Empire Medal in 2017.

## PAST AWARDEES STORIES



***The First Language**, choreographed by Avatâra Ayuso. Photo by Adam Dresser. Dancers Mar Roval, Juliana ... Cindy Hammer, Miriam Ramirez, Alejandra Bano*

### **Avatâra Ayuso, 2013, Tokyo, Japan**

The results of my stay in Tokyo could not have been more astonishing. I even managed to collaborate with local artists to create a short dance film [Tokyo Tokyo](#) without speaking each other's language, just enjoying the beautiful creative journey that brought us together. The entire experience certainly broadened my view on how another culture deals with its own performing arts sector, exposing achievements but also - and mainly - deficiencies and difficulties. To engage in dialogue, exchange knowledge and pursue collaborations with creative minds from other cultures is one of the greatest privileges any artist can have. The Lisa Ullmann Travelling Scholarship Fund gave me this opportunity. I could not be grateful enough for this life-changing experience. [avadancecompany.com](http://avadancecompany.com)

**[READ MORE HERE](#)**

*Photo: Adam Dresser*



Lucy Nicholson worked with artist Helen Linsell on the 'Dance For All' project in Cape Town

**Lucy Nicholson, 2010, Cape Town, South Africa**

The experience was one that has touched my career for years since and taught me many things including the capacity positive facilitation has in creating community, the value of creativity in supporting agency and the finely tuned balancing act that delivering successful dance projects requires when artistic quality and participant experience remain equally and fundamentally important. I returned from South Africa to a role lecturing on the BA (Hons) Dance Performance & Teaching degree at the University of Central Lancashire – UCLan.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

**and a recent article:** [Return To The Body: An approach to working with those in disconnect](#)



Paolo Mangiola working in the studio. Photo by Matteo Carratoni

### **Paolo Mangiola, 2014, Tokyo, Japan**

The trip to Tokyo, which only could have had happened through the support of the LUTSF, not only concretely provided me an insight into the Japanese culture, the subject of my research at that time, but also allowed me to meet artists from different fields and initiate a dialogue which I'm still cultivating to this day. I believe that now more than ever grants and support to artists are vital as most of the people operating in the industry are all freelancer. There are big questions to be addressed regarding the future of our society and in small the future of dance as an artform. [paolomangiola.it](http://paolomangiola.it)

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*Photo: Matteo Carratoni*



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*Patrons: Dame Beryl Grey, Akram Khan MBE, Robert Cohan CBE, Dame Joan Plowright,  
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