

FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH STABLE THEATRE PRESENTS

2ND **FLATFOOT** *access* **FESTIVAL** 2023

a week of performances, workshops and dialogues
that engage access, disability and belonging in dance



PROGRAMME
28 NOV - 3 DEC | **STABLE THEATRE**
COMPUTICKET



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WELCOME AND Thanks

AS WE ENTER OUR SECOND ANNUAL EDITION of the **FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL**, I take this moment to acknowledge FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY's almost 20-year history of encountering disability through our dance education and development work, and more recently in our professional development work. Our history intertwines with local and international practitioners Gerard Samuel, Jürg Koch, Gladys Agulhas, UNMUTE DANCE COMPANY, Joseph Tebandeke, and Adriaan Luteijn. The journey to thinking about and working toward access and training for dancers living with both intellectual and physical disabilities lies at the heart of FLATFOOT, and this small festival - which is growing - is a wonderful moment of celebrating not just incredible dancers, dance makers and choreographers, but of the truly transformative power of dance to bind us together.

I thank the eThekweni Stable Theatre team for partnering with us and literally opening doors! I acknowledge that this festival would not be possible without the support funding from PESP 4, the National Arts Council and the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture in South Africa who have put their faith in FLATFOOT and the work we do - thank you! I also acknowledge Prof. Yvette Hutchison who, alongside the URKI-funded African Disability Dance Network (ADDN), have supported and encouraged our dance work and helped us grow - in practice, pedagogy and philosophy.

Finally, I thank all the dancers, their families and their communities for the love and support that allows each and every one of us to be in the studio dancing. Long may it continue!

Lliane Loots

Artists Director: FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY



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FLATFOOT dance COMPANY

FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY's home is in the culturally diverse City of Durban on the East Coast of South Africa, in KwaZulu-Natal. This geographical location is important as it offers a unique flavour to this African contemporary dance company. Often working with memory and history, FLATFOOT has developed a unique identity as a contemporary South African dance company that is known to offer artistically and socially charged dance theatre work.

Lliane Loots began FLATFOOT in 1994 as a part-time training programme that aimed to offer contemporary dance training to any Durban/eThekweni-based dancers who were able to make the classes. The company began with no funding and simply the good will and political and artistic impulse to offer dance training to primarily black dancers who had historically and economically been denied access due to the apartheid systems. In 2002, a decision was made to secure a more permanent base for some of the exceptional dancers who were coming through the training and so, in 2003, the company became a full registered and now internationally recognised contemporary dance company.

FLATFOOT prides itself on not only offering dance theatre work that has won numerous awards, commissions and invitations from all over the world, but also on the vast amount (21 years) of dance development and dance education work that they run in both rural and urban areas of KwaZulu-Natal. The FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL (now in its 2nd year) is a space created to showcase the large integrated and disability dance portfolio sustained by FLATFOOT as it breaks ground in the dance work it does with dancers living with both intellectual and physical disabilities. This year we are delighted to also welcome our sister dancers from WACO's DANCE MOVEMENT (under the guidance of Jarryd Watson), and very special guest, Jürg Koch from Switzerland. The initial impulse of creating FLATFOOT - the idea of growing dance and dancers in South Africa - is something that the company still remains true to almost 29 years since its inception.



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28 NOV - 3 DEC | STABLE THEATRE

115 Johannes Nkosi (formerly Alice Street) Durban

BOOKING VIA COMPUTICKET | TICKETS: R80 EACH

<https://computicket-boxoffice.com/e/flatfoot-access-festival-3-dec-2023-8RIGkr>



PROGRAMME



TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER

10am - 1pm WORKSHOP #1 Jürg Koch (Switzerland) with preselected participants

WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER

10am - 1pm WORKSHOP #2 Jürg Koch (Switzerland) with preselected participants

THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER

10am - 1pm WORKSHOP #3 Jürg Koch (Switzerland) with preselected participants

2:30pm Free and open staging of the outcome of **"In response to ..."** by Jürg Koch and dancers followed by an interactive panel discussion with Jürg Koch, Lliane Loots, Jarryd Watson and dancers from the workshops.

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER

6:30pm **FLATFOOT ACCESS (PERFORMANCE #1)**

- **"finding home"** - FLATFOOT ACCESS PANTHERS
- **"medicine"** - DANCE MOVEMENT
- **"the infinites space between us"** - FLATFOOT's Julia Pitt, Jabu Siphika and Ndumiso 'Digga' Dube

SHORT INTERVAL

- **"The Printer's Tray"** - Jürg Koch
- **"now that we are here ..."** - FLATFOOT Downie Dance Company with FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER

2:30pm **FLATFOOT ACCESS (PERFORMANCE #2)**

- **"finding home"** - FLATFOOT ACCESS PANTHERS
- **"medicine"** - DANCE MOVEMENT
- **"the infinites space between us"** - FLATFOOT's Julia Pitt, Jabu Siphika and Ndumiso 'Digga' Dube

SHORT INTERVAL

- **"The Printer's Tray"** - Jürg Koch
- **"now that we are here ..."** - FLATFOOT Downie Dance Company with FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY



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WORKSHOPS

"In response to ..."

Facilitated and taught by Jürg Koch (Switzerland)

28, 29 and 30 November: 10am - 1pm

During the three-day workshop series, 16 eThekweni dancers, who auditioned to participate, will work on dance and access **"In response to..."** score elements and structures of works created by Jürg Koch; specifically, his works **"The Printer's Tray"** and **"(un)heimlich schön ((c)overtly beautiful")**. Both of these dance works deal with choreographic elements and aspects of dance which bring into dialogue diversity of dancers and how they are challenged for their potential to create and perform.

<http://www.jurgkoch.com/unheimlich-schn>

PANEL DISCUSSION and outcome of WORKSHOPS VIEWING



THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER @ 2:30 - 4pm

Staged viewing of the outcome of **"In response to ..."** workshops by Jürg Koch and dancers.

Panel discussion with Jürg Koch, Lliane Loots, Jarryd Watson and the dancers from the workshops.

The panel will discuss, amongst other issues, the working process used by Jürg and will offer space for participants to speak about their dance experience over the past three days, all the while celebrating the rich diversity of disability dance work being done in Durban.

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PARTICIPANTS

SPECIAL
guests



JÜRIG KOCH

(Bern, Switzerland)

BORN IN INTERLAKEN, SWITZERLAND, Jürg has been working internationally as a performer, choreographer and dance educator for over 20 years. He received his MA from the London Contemporary Dance School (1998) and, significantly, has worked with Candoco Dance Company. His practice integrates disabled and non-disabled performers and this informs his artistic and pedagogic approach. In January 2004 he joined the faculty of the University of Washington as a lecturer and was appointed Assistant Professor in 2008 and Associate Professor in 2014. After working for ten years in higher education he moved back to Switzerland, where he has established a freelance praxis as artist, educator and performer, working closely with BewegGrund (CH) and Dance Unstuck (UK). Jürg has a specialised interest in access to dance, performance and training for a diversity of participants. His choreographic work spans from soloistic miniatures to works for large ensembles, commissions for various dance companies, universities and community dance organizations.



"The Printer's Tray"

On the one hand a printer's tray is a sorting box, divided into a number of compartments to store movable type for printing. Letters and movable type are the building blocks for words and texts - creating meaning. On the other hand, printer trays are used to store and display keepsakes and souvenirs. They are placeholders for memories and stories.

"The Printer's Tray" is a collection of short pieces from 1999-2023. On the one hand they are pieces, which pursue and develop a specific choreographic idea. On the other hand, they are summarised core phrases from bigger pieces and larger productions. Since 2018 the collection has been revised and developed more systematically - it is an archive as well as an ongoing artistic and choreographic practice. It is living and changing as well as re-finding, reiterating and navigating these structures with a changing and ageing body. Currently there are 15 choreographic pieces in the collection set to more than 40 different pieces of music with a total running time of over 2 hours. For each event or performance, a number of pieces from the collection are selected and presented as a modular set, at times with the possibility for the audience to choose the music for the performance of a particular piece.

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dance MOVEMENT

(Wentworth, Durban)

DANCE MOVEMENT IS A DANCE PROJECT that was created in 2007, under the auspices of the NPO, Wentworth Arts & Culture Organisation (WACO). Spearheaded by dance maker Jarryd Watson this project was created to give access to children and youth, artists, dancers, choreographers and people living with disabilities to dance training and skills development. During the past 16 years the DANCE MOVEMENT project has conducted many artistic programs reaching over 6500 beneficiaries in South Africa which has impacted the creative industries through growth and sustainability. Many artists, youth, women, and people living with disabilities, have received countless opportunities through DANCE MOVEMENT that includes job creation, arts education, performances and other platforms of exposure which sustains careers in the arts.



Jarryd Watson

Starting dance at the age of 14, Jarryd was introduced to street dancing in the Wentworth community South of Durban where he is from. He continued his training in African contemporary dance at the Playhouse in a performing arts academy under Sbo Ndaba, Sifiso Kweyama, Ondine Bello and Janet Hare. For the next 5 years he continued his dance training with Eric Shabalalala at the Performing Arts Centre for Education and qualified with his Dance Associates through the Dance Educators of South Africa's hip hop syllabus. He has a Bachelor of Commerce degree and furthered his studies in the arts by obtaining a qualification in arts administration, management and communication development, and film and television production. He has received the JOMBA! Eric Shabalalala Dance Champion award, and the KZN DanceLink Ubuntu Dance award for his efforts in the dance industry. Currently he is the CEO/Artistic Director of DANCE MOVEMENT.

"Medicine"

Choreography by Jarryd Watson

Dancers: Kyle Bowles, Bheki Khotsolo and Cole Walljee

"Medicine" is an inclusive performance with three dancers, two of whom are wheelchair users. The performance challenges the stereotypes and negative connotations around people living with disabilities, mental illness and depression, within the social context of South Africa. Society needs "medicine" whether in the form of God, prayer, belief, hope, spirituality and preservation of cultural heritage - we need medicine injected into society that will encourage human respect to each other's diversity.

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FLATFOOT downie DANCE COMPANY

FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY offers a now **7-year-old integrated dance programme** working with dancers with Down Syndrome who fondly call themselves “FLATFOOT Downie Dance Company”. FLATFOOT have begun to explore and develop a partnering working/training methodology that opens up participation working with dancers living with intellectual disabilities. This unique dance programme is unprecedented in South Africa and is a celebration of the power of dance to shift lives and to negotiate difference and inclusivity. FLATFOOT has - as one of its core values - the practice of dance (in education and in performance) as a tool towards what it calls “living democracy”. This particular dance programme celebrates community across the divides of race, gender and ability. The company owes its original formation to work started in 2017 by Dutch choreographer and teacher, Adriaan Luteijn from INTRODANS (Arnhem, The Netherlands). The company also performed at the inaugural SIBIKWA BODY MOVES festival in Benoni, Gauteng in 2022.



“now that we are here ...”

Choreography by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers

Dancers from FLATFOOT: Sifiso Khumalo, Siseko Duba, Jabu Siphika, Sbonga Ndlovu, and Ndumiso Dube

Dancers from FLATFOOT Downie Dance Company: Charles Phillips, Kevin Govender, Karl Hebbelman, Michaela Munro, and Sofia Braun

In honouring our seven-year dance programme working with a group of unique dancers, “**now that we are here ...**” looks at who we are and what we are together in this beautiful present moment that finds us HERE. This dance work is a celebration of history, memories and the power of the present moment.

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FLATFOOT access PANTHERS



WITH THE SUCCESS AND GROWTH of the FLATFOOT Downie dance programme and wanting to stretch inclusivity, and with request from more and more dancers wanting space to train, FLATFOOT set out (in the beginning of 2023) to start a new intake of dancers. After a series of workshops, and not excluding anyone, a group of six amazing dancers stuck it out and the group - now referred to as the "FLATFOOT ACCESS PANTHERS" - was born. The group was named by Kelly Louw - one of the participants. This is their first public performance together and alongside FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY.

"finding home"

Choreography by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers

Dancers from FLATFOOT: Sifiso Khumalo, Siseko Duba, Jabu Siphika, Sbonga Ndlovu, and Ndumiso Dube

Dancers from FLATFOOT ACCESS PANTHERS: Kelly Louw, Madeline Mouton, Danielle Spangenberg, Kyle Myers, Thomas Ras and Lindokuhle Ndlovu

"finding home" is a warm and generous encounter between South African dancers of differing intellectual abilities that celebrates a series of meetings that remind us that we are - in the best sense of community - always each other's 'home'.

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WHEELCHAIR dancing WITH FLATFOOT

Julia Pitt

"My name is Julia Pitt. I am 36 and I was born with cerebral palsy, and as a result I use a wheelchair. I have always been very interested in the arts, especially dance and singing. When I was 16, I watched my first FLATFOOT show. I found this very inspirational and realised that I could adapt their contemporary dance to my abilities. Because of this, since my teens I have choreographed my own dances but as I got older, I lost the ability to move as nimbly as before and now I am in my wheelchair more often. I have been working with FLATFOOT since the beginning of 2022 and had my very first performance with them in November 2022. I can say with pride that I am part of the very company that I have always loved and admired".



"the infinite space between us"

Choreography by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers

Dancers: Jabu Siphika, Ndumiso 'Digga' Dube and Julia Pitt

In an intimate dance journey taken by three dancers, Lliane Loots's collaborative **"the infinite space between us"**, delves into how we hold, walk and wheel past or towards one another as we attempt to find or break connections. Working with FLATFOOT's Jabu Siphika, Ndumiso Dube, and Julia Pitt, Loots's own on-going choreographic interrogations into the intimate politics of relationships, is given a unique spin as the dancers play around with duet, trio, solo formats - and a wheelchair.

"the infinite space between us" premiered at the 2023 SIBIKWA BODY MOVES festival in Benoni (South Africa)

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FESTIVAL credits

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Lliane Loots

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

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LIGHTING AND SOUND

Lisa Goldstone

TECHNICAL AND FESTIVAL SUPPORT TEAM

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PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

Versfeld & Associates

POSTER AND PROGRAMME DESIGN

CreativeSTUFF

FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHER

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african dance disability network

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 flatfootdancecompany
 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrA8hRbbZyEKCsdJqt9Un2Q>
 @flatfootdanceco



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