

FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY in partnership with STABLE THEATRE presents

4TH **FLATFOOT** **access** **FESTIVAL**

1-6 Dec 2025
STABLE THEATRE

programme



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



web tickets

welcome and thanks!



As we enter the fourth annual edition of the **FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL**, I take this moment to acknowledge **FLATFOOT's 22-year history of engaging with disability through our dance education and development work, and more profoundly through our professional creative practice.**

Our history is intertwined with that of both local and international practitioners such as Gerard Samuel, Sydney Erlikh, Gladys Agulhas, UNMUTE Dance Company, Joseph Tebandeke, and Adriaan Luteijn (to name only a few).

The journey towards greater access and training for dancers living with both intellectual and physical disabilities lies at the very heart of **FLATFOOT**. This small (and ever-growing) festival celebrates not only extraordinary dancers, dance makers, and choreographers, but also the truly transformative power of dance to bind us together.

My heartfelt thanks go to the eThekweni Stable Theatre team for partnering with us and quite literally opening their doors! I acknowledge that this festival would not be possible without the generous support of the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, who have placed their faith in **FLATFOOT** and the work we do — thank you. I also acknowledge the URKI-funded African Disability Dance Network (ADDN), whose ongoing encouragement and support have helped us grow — in practice, pedagogy, and philosophy.

Finally, I extend my gratitude to all the dancers, their families, and their communities for the love and support that make it possible for us all to come together in the studio to dance. Long may it continue!

Lliane Loots

Artistic Director: FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY

Cover: Sbonga Ndlovu, Bheki Khotsholo and Siseko Dube in Gladys Agulhas's 2024 work with **FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY** called *the dance in me*. Photo: Val Adamson.

FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY (2025). Dancers:
Ndumiso Dube and Siseko Duba. Photo: Val Adamson.



FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY



FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY's home lies in the heart of the warm, ocean-facing city of Durban/eThekweni in KwaZulu-Natal. Our sense of geographical location is central to who we are, offering a distinctive flavour to this African contemporary dance company.

Often engaging with memory and history, FLATFOOT has developed a unique identity as a South African company renowned for its artistically and socially charged dance theatre.

Lliane Loots began FLATFOOT in 1994 as a part-time training programme offering contemporary dance classes to any Durban/eThekweni-based dancers able to attend. The company began with no

funding, driven purely by the artistic and political impulse to provide dance training — primarily to Black dancers historically and economically excluded under apartheid. In 2002, a decision was made to secure a permanent base for the exceptional dancers emerging from the programme, and in 2003 the company became a fully registered and now internationally recognised contemporary dance company.

FLATFOOT prides itself not only on producing award-winning, globally commissioned work but also on its extensive 22-year history of dance education and development programmes across both rural and urban KwaZulu-Natal. The FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL (now in its 4th year) showcases the company's integrated and disability dance portfolio, breaking new ground in its work with dancers living with both intellectual and physical disabilities.

This year, we are especially delighted to welcome our guests, **Amanuel Solomon** and **Samuel Wubet** from Ethiopia. The founding impulse of FLATFOOT — to grow dance and dancers in South Africa — remains as strong as ever, 22 years since its inception.

FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL (2025). Dancers: Siseko Duba and Bheki Khotsholo. Photo: Val Adamson.

4TH FLATFOOT access FESTIVAL

1-6 Dec 2025

VENUE

STABLE THEATRE

115 Johannes Nkosi
(formerly Alice Street)
Durban

TICKETS

R85 each
(Students,
scholars, and
OAP: R65)

BOOKINGS [web tickets](#)

FLATFOOT Downie Dance Company (2024). Dancers: Sbonga Ndlovu, Jabu Siphika and Charles Phillips. Photo: Val Adamson.

daily programme



Katim Dance Company (2025).
Choreography: Amanuel Solomon

daily programme

4TH FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL 2025

MONDAY 1 DECEMBER

09:00-13:30

REHEARSAL / PARTICIPANT WORKSHOP #1

with Sifiso Khumalo, Jabu Siphika, FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY, Bheki Khotsholo (Durban), and Amanuel Solomon (Addis Ababa)

TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER

09:00-13:30

REHEARSAL / PARTICIPANT WORKSHOP #2

with Sifiso Khumalo, Jabu Siphika, FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY, Bheki Khotsholo (Durban), and Amanuel Solomon (Addis Ababa)

WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER

09:00-13:30

REHEARSAL / PARTICIPANT WORKSHOP #3

with Sifiso Khumalo, Jabu Siphika, FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY, Bheki Khotsholo (Durban), and Amanuel Solomon (Addis Ababa)

14:00-15:45

OPEN FREE WORKSHOP

with Amanuel Solomon and Katim Dance Company (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER

09:00-13:30

REHEARSAL / PARTICIPANT WORKSHOP #4

with Sifiso Khumalo, Jabu Siphika, FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY, Bheki Khotsholo (Durban), and Amanuel Solomon (Addis Ababa)

daily programme

4TH FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL 2025

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER

18:30

FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE #1

We Are Rising - FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY and FLATFOOT Access Panthers (Choreography by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers)

Who Am I? - Choreography and performance by Amanuel Solomon

Web of Uncertainty - Choreography by Sifiso Khumalo

Being Free - Choreography by Jabu Siphika

Hold My Heart - FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY and FLATFOOT Downie Dance Company (Choreography by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers)

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

14:00

FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE #2

We Are Rising - FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY and FLATFOOT Access Panthers (Choreography by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers)

Who Am I? - Choreography and performance by Amanuel Solomon

Web of Uncertainty - Choreography by Sifiso Khumalo

Being Free - Choreography by Jabu Siphika

Hold My Heart - FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY and FLATFOOT Downie Dance Company (Choreography by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers)

open workshop

Free, but booking essential

Email: Lliane Loots at Lootsl@ukzn.ac.za

WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER

14:00-15:45 CULTURAL DANCES FROM ETHIOPIA

Workshop with Amanuel Solomon
(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

This inclusive workshop celebrates the rich and vibrant traditional dances of Ethiopia, showcasing the unique cultural heritage of its many regions. A joyful celebration of music and dance!

FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL (2024) workshop. Dancers:
Sbonga Ndlovu and Eliot Mfeka. Photo: Val Adamson.



FESTIVAL guests & PROJECTS

Katim Dance Company (2025).
Choreography: Amanuel Solomon



Amanuel Solomon and Samuel Wubet

(Katim Dance Company, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Katim Disability Awareness & Support (KDAS) was founded to transform societal perceptions of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) through the powerful mediums of art and sport. Recognising that self-esteem, creativity, and self-acceptance are essential for PwDs to fully engage in society, Katim is dedicated to unlocking human potential.

Their work aligns with the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, promoting the development of talents and abilities toward independence and full social participation. Through dance, art, and performance, Katim inspires PwDs to embrace their creative potential while challenging stereotypes. Since 2010, their team of experienced dancers and performers with disabilities has worked tirelessly to foster inclusion and reshape public attitudes.



ABOUT AMANUEL SOLOMON

Amanuel is a professional dancer and choreographer, and the founder of Katim Disability Dance—Ethiopia's first company led by a disabled dancer. He began dancing as an orphan with Adugna Dance and later trained with Jackson (Tadesse Gebre). His work with Destino Dance Company and Addis Guzo further shaped his artistic vision. Today, Amanuel leads Katim Disability Dance, a mixed-ability company that has performed at the National Theatre of Ethiopia and Alliance Française. The company also runs an integrated dance festival and dance therapy projects in eight special-needs schools across Ethiopia.



ABOUT SAMUEL WUBET

Samuel Wubet, born and raised in Addis Ababa, holds a degree in Computer Science and has worked as Katim's Project Manager for the past two years. He oversees projects, communications, and international relations, and has coordinated initiatives such as the EU-funded *Inner Peace Project* and the *EUNIC Project*. Samuel also managed the *We Can 5 Festival* at the British Embassy in Addis Ababa. His goal is to gain global recognition for Katim while spreading messages of unity and equality for people with disabilities.

Katim Disability Awareness and Support Ethiopia (2024).



Amanuel Solomon's trip to Durban, South Africa, has been made possible through the support of the Goethe-Institut (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).

FLATFOOT Downie DANCE COMPANY

FLATFOOT Downie Dance Company (2024). Dancers:
Charles Phillips and Sofia Braun. Photo: Val Adamson.



FLATFOOT Downie DANCE COMPANY

FLATFOOT's integrated dance programme with dancers with Down Syndrome has now entered its ninth year. Through this work, the company continues to explore inclusive methodologies that expand dance participation for dancers with intellectual disabilities.

This pioneering programme — unprecedented in South Africa — celebrates dance as a powerful vehicle for shifting lives and negotiating difference and inclusivity. At its core lies FLATFOOT's belief in dance as a practice of *living democracy* — celebrating community across divides of race, gender, and ability.

Hold My Heart

Created in honour of eight years of collaboration with ten remarkable dancers, *Hold My Heart* explores friendship, love, and the ever-evolving nature of human connection.

Choreography: Lliane Loots
(in collaboration with the dancers)

Dancers:

From FLATFOOT: Sifiso Khumalo, Zinhle Nzama, Jabu Siphika, Ndumiso "Digga" Dube, Siseko Duba, Sbonga Ndlovu
From FLATFOOT Downie Dance Company: Charles Phillips, Kevin Govender, Karl Hebbelmann, Michaela Munro, Sofia Jameson



FLATFOOT Downie Dance Company
(2024). Photo: Val Adamson.

FLATFOOT Access PANTHERS

FLATFOOT Access Panthers (2025). Dancers: Sifiso Khumalo and Kyle Myers. Photo: Val Adamson.



FLATFOOT Access PANTHERS

With the success of the FLATFOOT Downie Dance programme and an ever-growing demand for inclusivity, FLATFOOT launched a new intake of dancers in early 2023.

After a series of open workshops, a dedicated group of five dancers persevered – and the FLATFOOT Access Panthers were born (the name coined by participant Kelly Louw). The group has since expanded to seven dancers, six of whom will perform this year – their third public performance alongside the FLATFOOT company.

We Are Rising

Inspired by Maya Angelou's evocative poem *Still I Rise*.

Choreography: Lliane Loots (in collaboration with the dancers)

Dancers:

From FLATFOOT: Sifiso Khumalo, Zinhle Nzama, Siseko Duba, Jabu Siphika, Sbonga Ndlovu, Ndumiso "Digga" Dube

From FLATFOOT Access Panthers: Kelly Louw, Danielle Spangenberg, Chloe Malcomess, Maddie Tooley, Kyle Myers, Thomas Ras



FLATFOOT Access Panthers (2024). Photo: Val Adamson.

SPECIAL festival PROJECTS for 2025

Sifiso
Khumalo



Jabu
Siphika

Two of FLATFOOT's senior dancers, Sifiso Khumalo and Jabu Siphika, have been challenged to create short works for the festival — with just four rehearsals of four hours each. Collaborating with fellow company members and visiting artists Amanuel Solomon (Addis Ababa) and Bheki Khotsholo (Durban), they bring you two new dance pieces that promise magic in motion.

Web of Uncertainty

We all feel caught in a web of confusion and uncertainty — displaced, unsure where to place our hope, or which direction to take.

Choreography: Sifiso Khumalo

Dancers: Zinhle Nzama, Siseko Duba, and Bheki Khotsholo

Being Free

To be free in one's body is to affirm the human spirit's resilience, creativity, and self-expression — inspiring us to rethink assumptions about disability and ability.

Choreography: Jabu Siphika

Dancers: Ndumiso "Digga" Dube, Sbonga Ndlovu, and Amanuel Solomon

credits



Festival Director: Liane Loots

Technical Support: Wesley Maherry

Lighting and Sound: Lisa Goldstone

Stage Manager: Lizwi Makhanya

Festival Project Manager: Clare Craighead

Publicity and Marketing: Versfeld & Associates

Graphic Design: CreativeSTUFF

Festival Photographer: Val Adamson

FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY (2025). Dancers: Ndimiso Dube, Siseko Dube and Zinhle Nzama. Photo: Val Adamson.

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