

OUR LAND

...is in your hands

A festival of dance exploring climate change
and the elements

**Souvenir
Programme
£3**

OUR LAND



Sunday 28th July 2024

Langley Park Centre for Performing Arts
Langley Park School for Boys, Hawksbrooke Lane,
South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3BE

How to use this programme

To enjoy all the exciting activities in this book, you will need to download YouTube to a hand-held device. This can be a smartphone or a tablet/iPad.

1

Download YouTube to your device.



2

Open to camera app on your device.



3

Hold over the QR code.



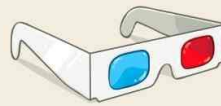
In this programme you will see the below symbols, follow the instructions below.



A 360° / VR film

(Make sure you have space when you do this)

1. Scan the QR code.
2. Move your device around to see different things on screen.



A 3D film

1. Scan the QR code.
2. Put on your 3D glasses to watch the film.



A hologram

1. Scan the QR code.
2. Put your hologram projector in the middle of the device to see things jump out of the screen!

Contents

How to use this programme.....	1	Fire - Global Warming.....	13
Welcome to Our Land.....	2	Water - Water Pollution.....	14
Nature - Living in Harmony.....	3	Water - Coral Bleaching.....	15
Earth - Landfill - Fast Fashion.....	4	Activism - People Power.....	16
Earth - Habitats.....	5	Activism - Fact or Fake.....	17
Earth - Eco Systems.....	6	Activism - Knowledge is Power.....	18
Earth - Bees.....	7	Activism - Projects & Partnerships.....	19-20
Air - Air Pollution.....	8	Activism - Change - Promises & Pledges....	21
Air - Carbon Footprint - Transport.....	9	Production Team.....	22
Air - Carbon Footprint - Recycling.....	10		
Running Order.....	11-12		



"Together, if we harness the very best of humankind, restore our planet for our children, for our grandchildren and for future generations to come. They will be able to say, with pride at what's been achieved, what a wonderful world."

(Prince William)

Welcome to Our Land

Welcome to Magpie Dance's annual festival. We are a company for people with learning disabilities based in Bromley. Starting in 1985 as one weekly class for just ten adults, today we offer 17 different weekly classes attended by over 100 dancers; holiday schools; workshops and performances; and 'Days of Dance' for dancers, friends, families and public.

We share our work far and wide, performing in day centres, hospitals and at arts festivals, with our digital work going global. Our film *Kingdom* has won awards and been screened at festivals in Argentina, Brazil, India, Kenya, Mexico, Romania, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, UK and USA!

Our past two artistic themes have focused on the world around us. *Global Moves and Grooves* (2022), explored international dances and cultures, and in *Borrowed Land* (2023) we learnt how indigenous cultures show respect for nature. This year's theme *Our Land... is in your hands* explores the impact humans are having on the planet now and what this might mean for future generations.

We've been fortunate to work with existing partners, Royal Opera House, Akram Khan Company and Akademi, but also form new collaborations, including with Flux Moving Science who specialise in teaching science through dance. Their sessions enabled us to embody different concepts and understand the difference between greenhouse gases, global warming, and climate change. We used this knowledge to create short films which will be shown today that explain ideas in a way that is accessible to everyone. (Please note, these films contain facts that may be shocking to hear and show images that may be upsetting to watch but it is important that we don't shy away from what is happening in the world. Each film finishes with things we can all do to prevent further damage).

"We can turn this tragedy into a triumph. We are after all the greatest problem solvers to ever have existed on Earth. Our motivation should not be fear, but hope."

Sir David Attenborough

This year all costumes have been recycled, upcycled, donated or sourced second-hand. We have walked, used public transport or electric vehicles for our trips. The world we live in has many problems and whilst no one person can fix everything, we can each do something and together, we can make a difference.

Thank you for joining us,
Alison and Laura



Alison Ferrao
Artistic Director



Laura Graham
Executive Director



Nature Living in Harmony

*"When we show our respect for other living things,
they respond with respect for us."
(Arapahoe proverb)*



Many indigenous cultures live in harmony with nature. We learnt about Shipibo People who live in Peru. Where human activity and climate change are threatening their way of life.



FACT:

- Rising temperatures means the ice in the Andes is melting and causing the Amazon river to flood.
- Copper mining in the Andes is polluting the rivers where people fish.
- Trees in the rainforest are being cut down to make space for cattle to graze and to grow crops that feed farm animals around the world.
- People and wildlife are being left homeless.

You can make a difference



FIX:

1. Recycle metals, like copper, to reduce mining.
2. Eat less meat to reduce deforestation.
3. Learn from indigenous cultures who take care of nature.



Under the canopy

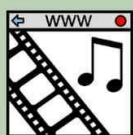
Immerse yourself in the life and culture of people that live in the Amazon rainforest.



Adult dancers watched *Nelken Line* by Piña Bausch at Sadler's Wells.



We worked with Jessica Luong from Baila Peru and learnt about the goddess Pachamama (Mother Earth) and Icaros - healing songs chanted by shamans that honour nature.



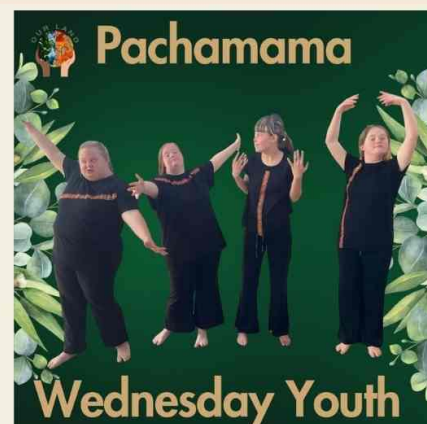
Stream it!

Watch our award-winning film *Kingdom* created as part of a collaboration with Akram Khan Company (AKC). See page 18 to find out where the film has been shown.



"Our piece is about ideas, beliefs and traditions of Incan shamans, who live in Peru in the Amazon. They believe that if we can reconnect with nature and Mother Earth, we can help the Earth."

Youth dancer



*"There is no such thing as 'away'.
So, when we throw anything away, it must go
somewhere."* (Annie Leonard, Greenpeace)

Earth Landfill - Fast Fashion



FACT:

- The UK buys more clothes per person than any other country in Europe buying on average 26.7kg of new clothes each year.
- Only 1% of clothing is recycled. Most clothing ends up in landfill.
- Every year, the UK sends 350,000 tonnes of clothing to landfill.
- A 'mountain' of discarded clothes in the Atacama Desert in Chile, has grown so big, that it can now be seen from Space. It will remain there for generations to come.

You can make a difference



FIX:

1. Mend clothes rather than throw them away.
2. Buy second hand clothes from charity shops or swap with friends.
3. Rent clothes and return them when you want something new.



Dancers of all ages came together for our costume-making workshop.



In 1966, the Scott Paper Company created a marketing gimmick – “The Paper Caper” a dress made of paper. Any design could be quickly printed, and the dress would be worn a few times before being thrown away. This was the start of fast fashion. The ‘paper dress’ has been replaced by cheap clothing that is made of poor-quality fabrics, like polyester, that shed microplastics into our oceans each time they are washed and take up to 200 years to rot away.



Living on Landfill

What would it be like to be surrounded by rubbish on a landfill site? Find out with this short VR experience.

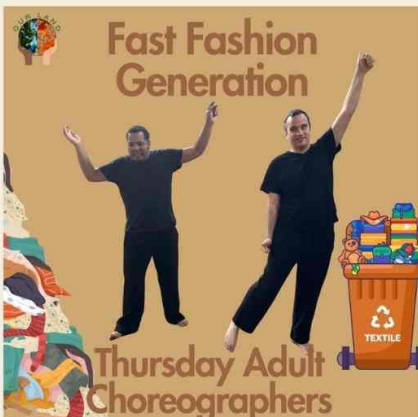


Dancers visited local charity shops to learn about buying second-hand.



Stream it!

Watch our trip to the Work and Play Scrapstore in Wandsworth. Our adult dancers collected materials for making costumes and props – saving them from being sent to landfill.



"Our piece is called Fast Fashion Generation. It's all about the clothes we buy and how fashion is the third largest polluter in the world. To save our planet, we shouldn't throw our clothes away. We should reuse and buy second-hand clothes. We share our clothes with each other as a part of a future circular economy. Reuse. Remake. Recycle."

Adult dancer





Earth Habitats

*"The future of humanity and indeed, all life on earth, now depends on us."
(Sir David Attenborough)*



People, plants and animals live in different habitats across the world, but human activity is polluting our land, waters and air. Global warming is causing climate change and parts of the planet we all call home, are being damaged beyond repair.



Animals

See insects, birds, fish and mammals appear as holograms.

We were visited by Saatchi Gallery who shared their exhibition *Civilization: The Way We Live Now*. We thought about what homes of the future might look like.



We worked with Akram Khan Company (AKC) over two years. In Easter School 2023, we explored how animals move in different habitats and in 2024 we looked at how they have been affected by climate change.



FACT:

- A child born today is expected to live for 88 years. During their lifetime they could see many things: coral reefs will be destroyed; there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans, ice caps will continue to melt and sea levels will rise flooding entire countries; areas of land will be destroyed through deforestation, forest fires and mudslides. Air pollution and CO2 emissions will mean global temperatures continue to rise and the Amazon Rainforest will become the Amazon Desert.
- Many animals will become extinct and by 2100, there could be 11 billion people living in the world. Rising temperatures will make it difficult to grow enough food to feed everyone. Rising sea levels may flood entire countries. It is predicted 3 billion people will become climate refugees and have nowhere to call home.

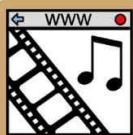
You can make a difference



FIX:

1. Reduce litter to keep habitats as nature intended.
2. Reduce light pollution to help nocturnal animals.
3. Reduce noise pollution so animals can communicate with one another.

We watched *Jungle Book Reimagined* and took part in workshops at Sadler's Wells.



Stream it!

Our new film *Home* premiered in today's show and will be available to watch on YouTube soon. Subscribe to our channel to be notified when it is available.



"We studied Jungle Book Reimagined. We explored how animals move in different habitats and how pollution and climate change are damaging their homes. We imagined how things could be better in the future."

Easter School dancer



*"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It's not."
(Dr. Seuss)*

Earth Eco Systems



FACT:

- In Great Britain, one in six species of plants and animals are at risk of going extinct.
- A quarter of UK mammals are on the 'Red List' which means they are in decline: red squirrels, wildcats, bats, beavers, water voles, hedgehog, dormouse, mountain hare, harvest mouse and shrew.
- We can all help.



An ecosystem is when plants, animals, landscape, weather and climate all work together and live in harmony. All living things in an ecosystem depend on each other. In gardens across the UK, food chains show how plants, insects, birds and mammals all need one another. Weather and climate affect how well plants grow, which in turn affects all the other creatures in the food chain.

You can make a difference



FIX:

1. Grow flowers for bees and butterflies.
2. Put up bird boxes, baths and food hangers for birds and squirrels.
3. Leave piles of leaves and logs for hedgehogs and insects.



The extraordinary Honey Bee

Your chance to experience life as a bee!

Junior dancers designed posters to save the bees which feature on their costumes today.



Stream it!

Watch this short video of our costume making workshop.



"Build a bee hotel. Plant bee-friendly flowers in your garden. Mix 2 teaspoons of sugar with 1 teaspoon of water. Save bees."

Junior dancer



"If bees disappeared off the face of the Earth, man would have only four years left to live."

(Albert Einstein)

i



Bees give us food to eat, cotton to wear and pretty flowers to look at and smell. 75% of foods we grow (crops) and 90% of wild plants need animals to spread their pollen to make new plants.

Waggle Dance is a special way bees communicate with each other. They move in figures of eight to tell each other where to find food, water and new places to build nests. The way they face shows which way to go and the length of the waggle shows how far.



Busy Buzzy Bees!

Watch bees in the hive in 3D! How many waggle dances can you spot?



Mini and Junior dancers made posters about saving our bees.



We worked with Flux Moving Science to learn all about bees.

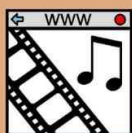
FACT:

- It is estimated that bees pollinate one of every three bites of food you eat.
- Habitat loss, climate change, pesticides and disease mean the number of bees is in decline.
- If bees disappear, so will lots of our food.

You can make a difference

FIX:

1. Plant bee-friendly flowers.
2. Let your garden grow! Don't cut lawns and hedges too often.
3. Avoid pesticides like weed killer.



Stream it!

Watch our workshop all about bees with Flux Moving Science.



*"Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this planet.
We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future.
And we are all mortal." (John F. Kennedy)*

Air Pollution



FACT:

- 40% of waste in landfill is burned which releases harmful gases into the air.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) data states that 99% of people around the world breathe polluted air.
- Air pollution affects our health. It damages our lungs causing illness like asthma and heart disease. Around 30,000 people die prematurely in the UK every year from illness linked to air pollution.

You can make a difference



FIX:

1. Use less electricity.
2. Choose electricity providers that use renewable energy sources like sun (solar power), wind, water (hydro power) and heat below the Earth's surface (geothermal).
3. Travel by transport that produces less air pollution.



Air is a mix of different gases: oxygen, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, hydrogen and others. Sometimes other things mix with these gases causing it to become 'dirty' or polluted.

Air pollution can be things we can see, like dust, dirt, soot and smoke produced by factories, transport and burning rubbish. It can also be things we can't see like harmful gases (such as methane and ammonia from farming), viruses, bacteria and even microplastics.



Lungs of the planet

This hologram shows how the structure of our lungs is like a tree.



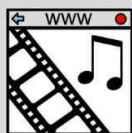
We worked with Flux Moving Science to learn about air pollution.

We loved using the big sheet to learn
Dances to represent the elements of pollution
Loved group warm-up with numbers
Dancing + learning at the same time
We loved Flux's company



We used chemical symbols from workshops as inspiration for movement.

Magpie Dance staff and dancers took part in Carbon Literacy Training.



Stream it!

Our new film *Breathe* premiered in today's show and will be available to watch on YouTube soon. Subscribe to our channel to be notified when it is available.

"Our piece explores air pollution. Inspired by our workshop with Flux. How we feel when we breathe in clean and dirty air."

Adult dancer





Air Carbon Footprint Transport

"What you do makes a difference.

You have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

(Dr. Jane Goodall)

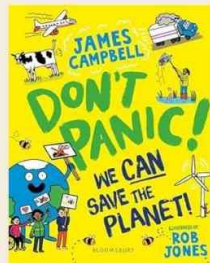


Your 'carbon footprint' is how much carbon dioxide (CO₂) is produced by the things you choose to do. How we choose to travel affects our carbon footprint.



Meet your Carbon Footprint

Spend a day with your carbon footprint. Find out what makes it grow and discover changes you can make to reduce it.



Junior dancers watched *Don't Panic, we can Save the Planet!* at The Churchill Theatre.

Juniors learnt about different modes of transport and how they affect our carbon footprint.



FACT:

Your choice of transport affects your carbon footprint. Number of grams of CO₂ produced per passenger per km:

- Aeroplane (short flight) = 246
- Car (petrol / diesel) = 170
- Bus = 98
- Tram = 54
- Car (electric) = 47
- Tube = 40
- Train = 30
- Bicycle/walk = 0

You can make a difference

FIX:

1. Choose transport that has lower CO₂ emissions.
2. Aim for zero emissions and try something new!
3. Or maybe just dance your way to school, college or work!!



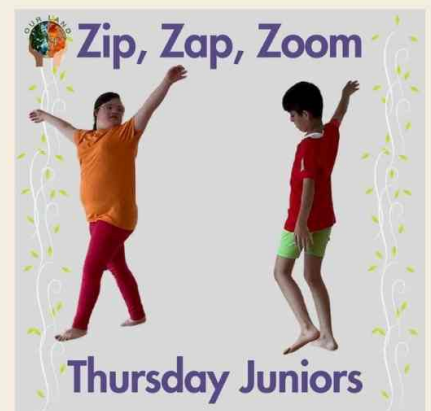
Stream it!

Watch our workshop with Flux Moving Science about our carbon footprint; types of transport and air pollution.



"Our dance is about air pollution. Cars, buses, boats and aeroplanes pollute the air. Storms and hurricanes are happening. Cycling, walking and car sharing are all ways we can make our carbon footprint smaller."

Junior dancer



*"Use it up, wear it out,
make it do or do without."
(New England proverb)*

Air Carbon Footprint Recycling



FACT:

- 64% of food waste is still edible and could be used to make 8 meals per week.
- 1 tonne of paper will save 24 trees.
- The energy saved from recycling items rather than making new items can be used to power other things:
- 1 glass bottle will power a laptop for 30 minutes.
- 1 plastic bottle will power a lightbulb for 6 hours.
- 1 aluminium can will power a TV for 20 hours.



With more people in the world every day, we have more things to get rid of. British Households create 26m tonnes of waste each year. 80% of things thrown away could be recycled. 95% of items put in household waste bins in Bromley that can't be recycled are sent to an Energy Recovery Facility and used to make electricity. It takes more energy to make a new item than to recycle an old one. The energy saved could be used to power other things.



Recycling Factor

Follow the journey the items in your recycling bins take once they leave your home.

You can make a difference

FIX:

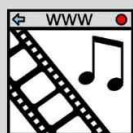
1. Reduce – Buy less items, turn off lights and turn down the heating.
2. Reuse – Find new ways to use old items; give to and buy from second-hand shops.
3. Recycle – paper, glass, metal, plastic, electric devices, batteries, old appliances.



Adult dancers visited The Hub in The Glades shopping centre, Bromley.

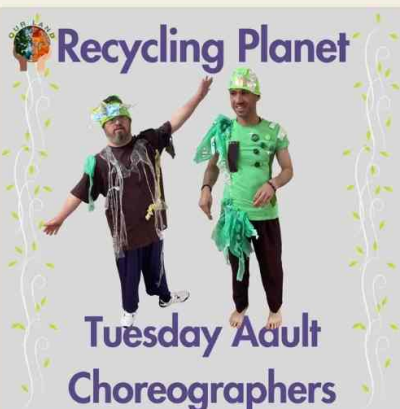


Adult choreographers gathered materials from Wandsworth Scrapstore and collected recycling to decorate their costumes.



Stream it!

Watch our trip to Greener and Cleaner. Adult choreographers visited Greener and Cleaner in The Hub to find out what Bromley is doing to help the planet.



"Our dance is about a recycling factory."
Adult dancer



Act 1

Welcome to Our Land



Nature

Pachamama - Wednesday Magpie Youth

This piece explores ideas, beliefs and traditions of the Incan shamans who live in Peru in the Amazon. They believe if we can reconnect with nature and Mother Earth (Pachamama) we can restore union in the Earth.



Earth

Fast Fashion Generation - Thursday Magpie Adult Choreographers

Fast fashion is the third biggest polluting industry in the world, yet we can't stop buying new clothes for even cheaper prices. We are addicted to buying new clothes and throwing them away. Is the circular economy, where we buy, sell and swap second hand clothes, the answer to this problem?

Home - Easter School (film)

Magpie Adult, Youth and Junior dancers work together to explore how animals move in different habitats and how pollution and climate change are damaging their homes. They imagine how things could be better in the future.

Amazing Bees and How To Save Them - Saturday Magpie Juniors

Magpie Junior dancers demonstrate the importance of bees and show how we can look after them by planting flowers, building bee hotels and making sure everyone knows how vital they are to all of us.

Waggle Dance - Saturday Magpie Minis

Inspired by the way bees communicate with each other, this piece shows bees visiting flowers, living in bee hives and working together to make figures of eight – whilst demonstrating the all-important 'waggle.'



Air

Breathe - Wednesday Magpie Adult Community (film)

This piece explores pollution. Specifically looking at air quality. Dancers explored this theme using plastic bags, finding creative ways to choreograph and move with them.

Zip, Zap, Zoom - Thursday Magpie Juniors

The piece explores how different types of transport contribute to air pollution. It begins with exploring wind and storms with a spiralling hurricane. Then come cars, buses, boats and aeroplanes, all polluting the air. The piece goes on to explore the value of lift sharing and of cycling or walking as alternative means of transport. It ends with a reminder of our Carbon footprint as the dancers leave behind their cars and walk together in a spiral.

Recycling Planet - Tuesday Magpie Adult Choreographers

Magpie Adult dancers explore the journey of a bottle as it travels through a recycling factory before showing how things can be repurposed and reused rather than thrown away.

Try it! Be taught by Magpie Dancers

Join Youth Technique dancers in the dance studio to learn exercises and sequences inspired by the movements of animals and plants.

Join Adult Technique dancers in the canteen for a ballet class inspired by the elements and repertoire from Swan Lake and Firebird. This will be followed by a physical theatre workshop with Contemporary technique dancers.



**Virtually
Magpie**



Online dance sessions and performances www.magpiedance.org.uk

If you'd like to try more Magpie Dance classes from the comfort of your own home, contact us about our Zoom classes or go to our YouTube channel for our online tutorials.

Act 2



Fire

Sparks Fly! Fire and Flames - Thursday Magpie Minis (film)

This piece explores the power and magic of fire; drawing inspiration from ancient stories of fire and how we can use and respect it. We warm our hands by the bonfire, jump and twist like fireworks, explode like volcanos, become fire-breathing dragons and reach like the sun, creating a myriad of dancing flames of fire.



Water

Nets, Plastic and the Blue - Thursday Magpie Adult Community

This piece begins with the dancers portraying huge fishing nets, (called bottom trawlers), moving across the ocean floor to catch fish. In their wave they trap other species like sea turtles and damage sea grass. Sea grass is important because it stores carbon 35 times faster than a tropical rainforest. The dancers then recreate the shapes of 'ghost nets', abandoned fishing nets that can remain in the ocean for hundreds of years. These fishing nets are a major contributor to plastic pollution in the sea. The dancers explore movements of push, pull, tug, tangle and twist, evoking the nets and the animals trapped within them. The piece then lightens in mood as the dancers explore a possible solution: picking and grabbing and reaching for nets and plastics left on the beaches before they reach the ocean. The dance ends with a reminder of the power of the ocean in providing us with over half the oxygen we need: "every second breath comes from the ocean".

Aqua Vitae - Magpie Saturday Youth

This piece is titled "Aqua Vitae" which means "Water of Life". It focuses on colourful coral reefs and the animals that live there as well as the effect climate is having on them by causing the reefs to bleach.



Activism

1000 Voices - Schools Project (film)

One world, one chance. Over one thousand children and staff from schools across London worked with the Magpie Dance team to show how we can all work together to look after our precious planet and each other.

The Debate - Dancer Development Course

The Climate Change debate can be a provoking one, depending on who you talk to. In a world where opinions are becoming more binary and more inflamed, is it possible to move forward when everyone thinks they're right? In this Physical Theatre piece you will meet some of the big characters that are at the forefront of the debate.

Change - Full Company (film)

Magpie dancers and staff use the knowledge they have gained from our project to make promises and pledges to help the planet in its fight against climate change.

Finale - Full Company

You will be able to watch the full show on our YouTube channel - subscribe to be notified when it is live!



Explore the multi-sensory exhibition

Don't forget to visit our multi-sensory exhibition in the canteen. Learn all about climate action: from fast fashion to recycling, saving the bees and what we can all do to help!

Visit our virtual exhibition here:





Fire Global Warming

"I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is." (Greta Thunberg)

i



Certain gases in the air absorb the sun's energy and make the atmosphere the right temperature for us. If there are too many of these gases, the temperature rises on land and sea and changes our weather. Hot air above water absorbs moisture which falls as rain and causes floods. Hot air above land, takes moisture from the soil which causes droughts or melts ice. Trees help by taking CO₂ from the air to stop it getting too hot. They take water from the soil to prevent flooding but if trees become too hot, they dry out and catch alight which causes wildfires. If trees are removed, more water in the soil causes mud slides. All of these things cause our weather to behave differently. This is called Climate Change.



Volcanoes

Watch the lava flow in 3D.

We worked with Muraldo DC to learn about extreme weather conditions in the Caribbean caused by climate change.



We worked with Flamenco con Gusto to learn about fiery energy.



Magpie Minis learnt about different types of fire.



FACT:

- Since the formation of planet Earth, there have been at least 5 major ice ages. Each of these have been followed by a period of warming. NASA has stated as Earth moved out of an ice age, it took the planet about 5,000 years to warm 5°C. In the past 100 years, the temperature has climbed 0.7 °C.
- Since 1750, when we started using machines to make things (Industrial Revolution), the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the air has increased by 50%.
- NASA models predict Earth will warm between 2 and 6°C in the next century. The predicted rate of warming for the next century is at least 20 times faster than former ice-age-recovery warming. 2023 was the hottest year on record.

You can make a difference



FIX:

1. Use less water. Take shorter showers; turn off the tap when you clean your teeth; use a water butt in garden to grow flowers, fruits and vegetables.
2. Buy shopping locally instead of online and travel less.
3. Eat food that's in season and produced locally or grow your own.



We worked with Elsa Perez and learnt about climate refugees.



Stream it!

Our new film *Sparks Fly! Fire and Flames* premiered in today's show and will be available to watch on YouTube soon. Subscribe to our channel to be notified when it is available.

Sparks Fly! Fire
and Flames

*"Our dance is about fire.
We looked at bonfires, fireworks,
volcanoes and dragons!"*

Mini dancer

*"It's only 1 plastic straw' said 8 billion people."
(Unknown)*

Water Water Pollution



FACT:

- The ocean currents have caused a lot of plastics to collect in an area between Hawaii and California. This is known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. It is three times the size of France.
- More than 10 million tonnes of plastic waste ends up in the ocean each year.
- 93% of sea birds have ingested plastic.
- 'Ghost nets', discarded fishing nets, are a danger to many marine creatures as they can become trapped.
- By 2050, it is predicted that the weight of the plastic in the ocean will be greater than the weight of all the fish.
- We use 7.7 billion plastic bottles per year in UK - that's an average of 117 bottles per person, per year.
- In the UK, we use 13 billion carrier bags each year. Most are used just once and will take 100 years to decompose.



Water pollution refers to contamination of waterways such as rivers, lakes and oceans.

Oil, soaps, fertilisers, insecticides and sewage find their ways into our waters and cause illness and death to aquatic animals. Rubbish that isn't recycled can be blown from landfill into the oceans.



Plastics in our oceans

See the impact of single use plastics on our oceans.

We visited The Place to watch *Plastic, Drastic, Fantastic* by Akadēmi.



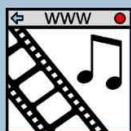
You can make a difference



FIX:

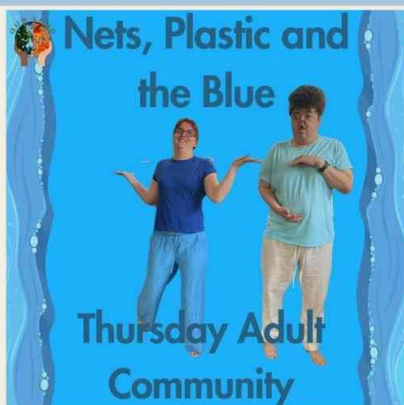
1. Carry reusable water bottles and coffee cups.
2. Make your own lunches and wrap food in foil rather than cling film.
3. Take your own bags when you go shopping and say no to plastic carrier bags.
4. Switch to plant-based chewing gum. Otherwise, it's made of plastic!

We took part in workshops with Flux Moving Science to learn about Water Pollution and Blue Carbon.



Stream it!

Magpie dancers join artists from Akadēmi for our collaboration based on their work, *Plastic, Drastic, Fantastic*.



"Our piece is about plastics stuck in the ocean. Fishing nets are polluting the ocean. The power of the ocean gives us breath."
Adult dancer





Water Coral Bleaching

*"We need to respect the oceans and take care of them as if our lives depended on it. Because they do."
(Sylvia Earle, oceanographer & marine biologist)*



Coral looks like an underwater plant but is actually an animal. The algae that lives on the coral is what makes it so colourful.



Water pollution and hotter seas (caused by global warming) 'stress' the algae and it leaves the coral. The coral has no food and it starts to 'bleach' (turn white). It takes around 8 weeks to die. Coral reefs can survive bleaching but take decades to recover.



Bleached Coral

See a hologram of a piece of bleached coral from different angles.



We worked with Flux Moving Science to learn about coral bleaching.

We worked with United Moves Dance to find out how global warming is causing the ice caps to melt, water levels to rise and the sea temperature to rise.



FACT:

- 25% of all marine species, including fish, lobsters, octopuses, seahorses, turtles, sponges, starfish and crabs live in coral reefs.
- The reefs also support humans - they absorb carbon dioxide and the organisms found there are used in drugs to treat cancer (leukaemia) and HIV.
- The destruction of the barrier reef means nearby coastal communities are flooded.

You can make a difference



FIX:

1. Reduce water pollution by recycling your rubbish.
2. Wear reef-friendly sunscreen to stop toxins entering the water.
3. Reduce your carbon footprint to stop sea temperatures rising.

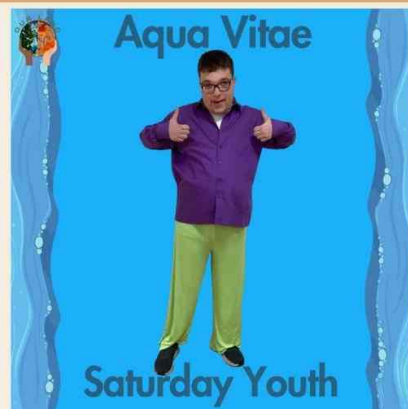


Stream it!

Watch our workshop with United Moves Dance.



"In Saturday Youth we have been looking at oceans and coral reefs. We have been researching different animals and how coral get their colours. Our piece is called Aqua Vitae which means 'water of life'."
Youth dancer



"You are never too small to make a difference."
(Greta Thunberg)

Activism People Power



"Thank you to your artists, they are super skilled, and the Ambassadors are amazing role models for our students. The sensory elements of the sessions ensure every child is engaged and the full drum kit make the sessions feel extra special. A unique experience for our students and staff!" - School staff from the project



School children learn about our world with the Magpie Team.

1000 Voices

In 2024, the Magpie Team delivered over 300 workshops to more than 1000 children with learning disabilities aged 3 – 19 years in SEN schools across Bromley, Bexley, Croydon and Lewisham. Through multi-sensory, props-based workshops, children explored our world using the four elements, Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Our team of Ambassadors supported the delivery teams and were strong role models to everyone involved in the project.



We worked with over 1000 students and staff in schools across London.



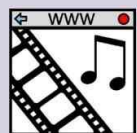
"We made up dances with the children, helped them make choices and showed them how to work as a team."

Magpie Ambassador



Stream it!

Our new film 1000 Voices premiered in today's show and will be available to watch on YouTube soon. Subscribe to our channel to be notified when it is available.



The Green Hearts Project

Our Adult Choreographers took part in Climate Coalition's *Show The Love* campaign in February 2024. They created letters "Dear Future Generation" in which they shared their hopes and dreams for a healthy planet. They used this as inspiration to choreograph new work. They shared their work with the public through a Day of Dance performing the piece, teaching repertoire to the public and creating a new dance film.

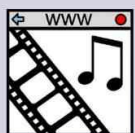


Magpie Adult Choreographers share their work at the Green Hearts Day of Dance.



Stream it!

Our new film *The Green Hearts Project* is available to watch now on our YouTube channel. This film was created by our adult dancers in response to the Climate Coalition's campaign – *Show the Love*.



"Dear Future Generations, I would like the air to be healthy. To breathe. Please make the air cleaner."

Adult dancer





Activism Fact or Fake

*"The truth can be denied, but not avoided."
(Prince EA, rap artist)*



The coronavirus has shown how important it is to listen to scientists. People all over the world are searching for information on how to keep safe, stay hopeful and help one another. The same goes for climate change. Scientists have been telling us that climate change is happening due to human activities and that we are on a path that will increasingly hurt the lives, livelihoods and health of people. And scientists also have the solutions to building a more sustainable world.



Fact or Fake

This VR film enables you to travel with science explorers and see for yourself the impact climate change is having on the world.



We visited Sadler's Wells as part of Jungle Book Reimagined and learnt about things we can do to make people more aware of climate change.

The Dancer Development Course (DDC) researched different people involved in the Climate Change Debate and thought about why they might say the things they say.



FACT:

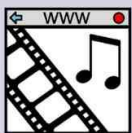
- The climate movement is a global social movement focused on pressuring governments and industry to take action to address the causes and impacts of climate change. There are many organisations that arrange campaigns and protest so governments will listen. Examples include: Greenpeace, Extinction Rebellion, Just Stop Oil, Friends of the Earth, World Wildlife Fund.
- Every year, world leaders from nearly 200 countries meet at the annual COP conference. COP stands for Conference of Parties. This initiative started in 1995 and is for all countries that have joined the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. They make decisions on ways to cut green house gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change and support vulnerable countries hit by extreme weather e.g., floods and droughts.

You can make a difference



FIX:

1. Fact-check – don't be fooled by fake news on the web and social media.
2. Fight misinformation with true facts and scientific evidence.
3. Find out what people around the world are doing to protect the environment. A good place to start is the Earth Shot Prize launched in 2021 by Prince William and David Attenborough.



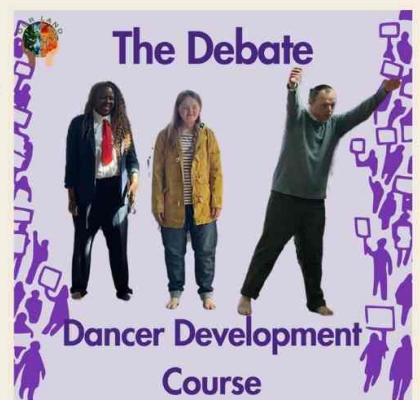
Stream it!

Watch how DDC put their piece together before performing to multiple audiences in schools, hospitals and day centres.

"In this physical theatre piece, you are going to meet some of the characters that are at the front of the Climate Change debate."

Adult dancer

The Debate



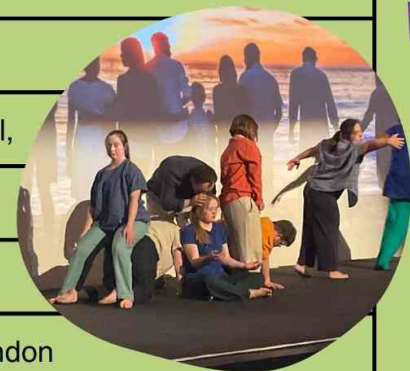
*“Gaining knowledge, is the first step to wisdom.
Sharing it, is the first step to humanity.”
(Unknown)*

Activism
Knowledge is Power



Performances - Our work has been shown in a variety of places this year.

9/10/23	Clore Studio, Royal Opera House
10/11/23	United Nations Big Synergy International Film Festival, Curzon, Mayfair
17/11/23	Disability Arts Festival, Harrow Arts Centre
25/11/23	Bromley Disability Pride
25/2/24	Green Hearts Project performance, Mottingham
17/3/24	U.Dance 2024, Medway
21/3/24	Breathe Arts Health Research, Evelina Children's Hospital,
11/4/24	Eden Park High School, Beckenham
10/5/24 & 21/6	Astley Day Centre, Bromley
27/6/24	Willowbrook Academy and Griffin Schools Trust, East London
14/7/24	U.Dance 2024 – National Platform, Liverpool (Dance film – Kingdom)



Film Festivals - Our work has been shown around the world.

Argentina		International Ecoperformance Film Festival, Pinamar, Argentina
Australia		Inspired Youth Dance Film Festival, Botany, New South Wales, Australia
Australia		International Ecoperformance Film Festival, Brisbane, Australia
Brazil		International Ecoperformance Film Festival, Sao Paolo, Brazil
India		Himalaya International Film Festival, India
India		Sittannavasal International Film Festival, Chennai, India
Kenya		Kenya Independent Film Festival, Kenya
Mexico		Biophilia International Film Festival, Oaxaca, Mexico City, Mexico
Mexico		Fauna Tepoztlán Animal Festival, Morelos, Mexico
Romania		International Ecoperformance Film Festival, Bucharest, Romania
Slovakia		Tatras Chamois International Film Festival, Liptovský, Slovakia
S. Korea		Kim Ki Duk International Film Festival, South Korea
Spain		Platartistic Springdance Film Fest, Barcelona, Spain
UK		Together! Disability Film Festival, Newham, UK
USA		Filmfest by Rogue Dancer, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA
USA		Frame X Frame Dance Film Festival, Houston, Texas, USA
USA		International Ecoperformance Film Festival, Providence, USA





Activism Projects and Partnerships



Nature



Workshop with Jessica Luong from Baila Peru. We learnt about the Shipibo People who live in Peru. We danced to 'Icaros' – healing songs chanted by Shamans and discovered how this indigenous culture shows respect for nature in all they do.

Workshop with Alondra Galvan.

We learnt about the importance of water conservation and the impact of drought and flood. We also explored the movements of endangered species in Mexico.



Earth

AKRAM KHAN COMPANY



Workshops with Akram Khan Company (AKC).

Adult, Youth and Junior dancers all worked with AKC for Easter Schools 2023 and 2024. We visited Sadler's Wells to watch *Jungle Book Reimagined* and took part in workshops with AKC Creative Learning Team and professional dancers performing in the show. 60 dancers participated in the project, performed their work live and have created our new film, *Home*.

Workshop with Saatchi Gallery.

Saatchi Gallery visited us for Summer School 2023 to explore their exhibition 'Civilisation: The Way we Live Now.' We designed eco-friendly sustainable homes for the future which we used to inspire movement ideas.

SAATCHI GALLERY



Air



Workshop with Elsa Perez.

Elsa Perez delivered a workshop for one of our Days of Dance to Magpie dancers, friends and families. We learnt about cultural dances from Portugal and Spain that are linked to the weather, farming and growing crops.



Workshops with Flux Moving Science.

We worked with Charlotte Hale-Smith and Steph Thompson from Flux Moving Science. They created 16 bespoke workshops for our dancers to explore topics about climate change that interested them. From pollution to renewable energy, blue carbon to our carbon footprint, dancers embodied science by moving as atoms and particles, becoming parts of food chains and recreating the journeys and pathways of the things we buy.





Fire

Workshop with Muraldo DC.

Caroline Muraldo from Muraldo DC shared with us the impact of climate change in the Caribbean. We imagined the extreme weather conditions - melting in scorching heat, swirling in tornados and being swept away by monsoons.



Flamenco Con Gusto



Workshop with Flamenco Con Gusto.

Danielle from Flamenco con Gusto taught us about Spanish culture and the tradition of flamenco. This dance and music style is full of passion and is often associated with fire and flames.



Water

Workshop with Akademi.

27 Magpie dancers collaborated with Akademi in October 2023. We watched their performance *Plastic, Drastic, Fantastic* at The Place, participated in workshops with their dance artists and some of our dancers were interviewed for a film on their YouTube channel.

Akademi



Workshop with United Moves.

United Moves delivered a workshop for our Day of Dance in October 2023. We learnt about the polar regions and how global warming is causing the ice to melt and sea levels to rise.



Activism

Trip to Greener and Cleaner.

Greener & Cleaner, based in The Hub in the Glades Shopping Centre in Bromley welcomed us in June 2024. They shared all the things available to Bromley residents to help save the planet from their 'library of things', to their free workshops on sewing. Our dancers were inspired by all the eco-friendly things we can do for our future shows!



Trip to The Work and Play Scrapstore.

The Work and Play Scrapstore in Wandsworth run a brilliant scheme where organisations pay a small subscription to visit the warehouse and take as many items as they can carry! We made several trips and sourced materials for costumes and props for our shows.

