

Scottish Talent Invited onto a Global Stage at the Edinburgh International Festival



Dancers from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, photo by Dario Calmese

- The International Festival searches for 26 talented dancers to join **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** on stage and five pre-professional musicians to join the **Mendelssohn Octet** in an audition judged by Festival Director **Nicola Benedetti**.
- 12 Scotland-based dance artists are invited to take part in a week of artistic development with performers of **Pina Bausch's *The Rite of Spring / common ground[s]***.
- Other opportunities to get involved with the International Festival include the **London Symphony Orchestra** playing for patients and staff in hospitals, flagship **Culture Club** events in community centres and young people will get the chance to meet *The Late Show's* bassist, **Endea Owens**, in a **Youth Takeover Day**.

- To apply visit: <https://www.eif.co.uk/jobs>.

15 May, Edinburgh: As part of the expansive 2023 Edinburgh International Festival programme, the International Festival is providing three exciting paid opportunities for dancers and musicians based in Scotland to collaborate with major artists, **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, **Dance Base** and in a performance of the **Mendelssohn Octet**. Each artist will be paid, with travel and accommodation provided, to open the opportunity for equal participation. These projects were made possible by the support of the International Festival's Learning & Engagement Partner Baillie Gifford Investment Managers.

In partnership with the world-renowned **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, the International Festival has created a major professional development opportunity for a diverse and dynamic cohort of 26 emerging dancers aged 18-25 who live in, were born in or trained in Scotland, to rehearse at Edinburgh College with the company and perform in the Alvin Ailey classic *Memoria*, on stage at the Festival Theatre on 24 and 25 August.

In mid-May, the Festival will also be inviting applications from pre-professional string players (three violins, one viola and one cello) through an open international audition process for the **Mendelssohn Octet**. Musicians will be selected by Edinburgh International Festival Director, **Nicola Benedetti**, to work with **Stefan Jackiw**, **Jessica Bodner** and **Sterling Elliott**, culminating in an onstage performance in the Festival's home on the Royal Mile, The Hub, on 10 August.

Outside of the August festival period from 24 – 28 July, the Festival is partnering with **Dance Base**, Scotland's National Centre for Dance, to find 12 Scotland-based dance artists to take part in a week of artistic development and workshops with performers from *The Rite of Spring / common ground[s]*. The dance work premiered at Sadler's Wells in 2022 and marks the first-time **Pina Bausch Foundation** (Germany), **École des Sables** (Senegal) and **Sadler's Wells** (UK) have collaborated. At least 25% of the places will be allocated to artists who identify as d/Deaf, Disabled and/or Neurodivergent. This opportunity is supported by the British Council.

In a collaboration with two Belgium-based award-winning puppetry and mime companies, **Focus Company** and **Chaliwaté Company**, the International Festival will continue to match artists in a sharing of artistic skills by hosting a professional development workshop with Imagine and Puppet Animation Scotland, ahead of the UK premiere of their work *Dimanche*.

Caroline Donald, Head of Learning & Engagement at Edinburgh International Festival said: *"We are delighted to share these projects that we work on year-round to connect with people of all ages across Edinburgh, with our values of discovery, connection and internationalism at the heart of each opportunity."*

By welcoming schools and community groups to International Festival performances, we hope to help people get involved in the arts, be inspired by artists and art forms they might never have come across before and feel part of what we at Edinburgh International Festival do. We may be international, but we are firmly rooted in Edinburgh."

Alongside the performance and development opportunities, there are also several opportunities for children and young people to engage with the International Festival.

On the 23 August, young people will be joined by bassist **Endea Owens** in a **Youth Takeover Day**, in partnership with 6VT Edinburgh City Youth Café, to explore her commission, and will be invited to The Hub to watch her performance.

Opera Project will return in June to secondary schools across the city, this year exploring the International Festival's performance of Mozart classic **The Magic Flute**. A version of the opera will tour schools, with participating pupils offered free tickets to attend the **Scottish Chamber Opera's** performance during the Festival. After the summer holidays, the classes will then be invited to see Bartok's **Bluebeard's Castle**, with the International Festival working with Sight Scotland and the Royal Blind School to create a bespoke, sensory version for their pupils.

Punchdrunk Enrichment's The Lost Lending Library will welcome groups of children from ten community groups across the city during the summer holidays, with follow-up immersive storytelling workshops. Stories from the children written during the workshops will be collected and shared, creating a legacy for *The Lost Lending Library* beyond the Festival.

For people of all ages, the **LSO in the NHS Project** will bring **London Symphony Orchestra** players into The Royal Edinburgh Hospital, The Royal Infirmary, The Royal Hospital for Children and Young People and The Western General over the 14-16 of August. LSO players will perform in closed wards, staff wellbeing spaces, and larger, open spaces for patients, staff and visitors. In addition, 100 tickets will be given to NHS staff to attend the LSO's performance of **The Road to Turangalila**, presented by **Nicola Benedetti** and **Sir Simon Rattle** on 18 August. The project is supported by Tonic Arts, the Arts and Wellbeing leg of the NHS Lothian Charity.

Culture Clubs will bring together different communities in Edinburgh together to share a meal and enjoy a range of artistic performances from the International Festival programme. This year, there will be four **Culture Clubs** as part of 2023 Festival programme with the first ever BSL Culture club being hosted by Deaf Action. **Endea Owens** has already been confirmed as a performer for one date.

For full information on these projects and further information on how to apply, please visit: <https://www.eif.co.uk/jobs>

- ENDS -

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For media images – see [here](#):

For the 2023 International Festival trailer – see [here](#)

For a digital version of the Programme Brochure – see [here](#)

To request media tickets for any performance during the 2023 Edinburgh International Festival, please complete our online accreditation form. To access the form – see [here](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Edinburgh International Festival

Edinburgh International Festival is a **global celebration of performing arts**, bringing the

finest performers of dance, opera, music and theatre from around the world to Edinburgh for **three weeks every August**.

The International Festival will take place **4-27 August 2023** and is the first from Festival Director and Scottish violinist **Nicola Benedetti**. Benedetti's vision for the program is to create the deepest level of experience, through the highest quality of art, for the broadest possible audience. Each year the programme will also be developed around a central question, this year's asks '**Where do we go from here?**'

The International Festival's impact also extends beyond the annual programme, with community learning, engagement and professional development programmes running throughout the year, contributing to the cultural and social life of Edinburgh and Scotland.

For more information visit www.eif.co.uk

Edinburgh International Festival's Learning and Engagement Programme

The International Festival connects with thousands of people around Edinburgh through its year-round bespoke Learning and Engagement programmes, supported by our Learning & Engagement Partner, Baillie Gifford Investment Managers.

The International Festival believes that the arts are for everyone and aims to connect with people of all ages, both locally and internationally, through projects that explore our values of discovery, connection and internationalism at their heart.

This summer will see flagship projects such as Culture Clubs for community groups and our Opera Project for secondary school pupils return to the city. This year the International Festival is partnering with a range of companies and organisations to support this work including Alvin Ailey Company, the London Symphony Orchestra, Imagine, Punchdrunk Enrichment and a range of local and international artists.

The Edinburgh International Festival's Learning & Engagement partner is Baillie Gifford Investment Managers.

See [www.eif.co.uk/learning-and-engagement for](http://www.eif.co.uk/learning-and-engagement-for) more information.

Further Information

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater are seeking a diverse cast of professional dance artists at the start of the careers who have no more than three previous paid professional credits. Dancers must be trained to a professional level in contemporary or ballet, however dancers trained in another style but feel able to perform contemporary repertoire, please do send an application.

This is a paid, professional opportunity and we will provide travel and accommodation to remove all barriers to participation.

Applicants are encouraged to complete the written application form by **29 May 2023**: <https://www.eif.co.uk/jobs/call-out-alvin-ailey-auditions> or send a link to a video application to the following email address Learning & Engagement engage@eif.co.uk.

The audition is a chance for the company to build as diverse a cast as possible. They are looking to see as many dancers as possible therefore we encourage dancers of any dance form, origin, age, body form, sex or sexual orientation to apply

About the Auditions

After a pre-selection, selected candidates will be invited for an in-person audition workshop consisting contemporary movement phrases that draw from the repertory to be performed.

Please ensure you are available for the following dates:

Auditions: 17th – 18th June 2023

Rehearsal: 14th – 23rd August 2023

Performance: 24th – 25th August 2023

What we offer:

Audition Travel Bursary (if required)

Rehearsal and Performance Fee of £1,200 (£600 per week)

Rehearsal & Performance Travel, Accommodation and Per Diems

Application Process:

Deadline: Sunday 29th May

Panel meet: Thursday 31st May

Artists Invited to Audition: Monday 5th June

Dance Base

From the 24 – 28 July 2023 the dance artists will come together at Dance Base, Edinburgh, for five days of artistic development and exchange, led by Tony Mills (Artistic Director of Dance Base).

The week will consist of:

- Daily class led by Tony Mills
- Sharings of practice individually led by each artist
- Group reflections and conversations
- Group creation and artistic devising
- A live sharing of group practice on the final day

All attendees will then be invited to attend the premier of *The Rite of Spring* at Edinburgh International Festival on 17 August 2023.

The aim of the Artistic Development Week is for the artists from Scotland and Africa to:

- Connect and share practice with each other, opening themselves to new techniques and creative approaches
- To network with their national and international peers
- To collaborate with international artists and create together

Please note that the focus of this week is not on teaching the choreography of *The Rite of Spring*. Support will be available for travel and accommodation.

Applicants are encouraged to apply through the application form by 11am **Thursday 1 June 2023**: <https://www.dancebase.co.uk/professionals/current-opportunities/artistic-development->

[week-eif/](#) if applicants have any questions or need some assistance with their application, contact Kirsty.Somerville@dancebase.co.uk

What the Artistic Development Week will provide:

As part of the Artistic Development Week each artist will receive:

- A week of artistic development at Dance Base, Edinburgh, Monday 24 – Friday 28 July, 10:00 – 18:00 approx.)
- A weekly fee of £750
- Travel and accommodation expenses to travel to Edinburgh for the week of the 24 – 28 July 2023
- An additional budget to cover any access requirements that you may have to enable you to engage fully with the week, including support towards childcare
- A ticket to attend the first performance of *The Rite of Spring* on 17 August

Who is it for:

The Artistic Development Week is for Artists who:

- See their work as based in physical or choreographic practices
- Are working at a professional level and at any stage of their career
- Have a personal movement practice that they could confidently share with a group of international peers
- Are comfortable and able to work collaboratively with peers who may not have English as their first language
- Are based in Scotland
- Are available for the full week of the 24 – 28 July
- Are available to attend *The Rite of Spring* premiere at Edinburgh International Festival on 17 August

As part of Edinburgh International Festival's remit, 4 of the 12 places for Scotland-based artists will be reserved for artists based in Edinburgh. This is a minimum but not a limit, though the selection process will aim to ensure that the group reflects the geography of Scotland and support will be available for travel and accommodation.

Dance Base is committed to supporting and celebrating the full vibrancy of the dance sector in Scotland. We recognise there are significant barriers to working in dance and that many of these are experienced more acutely by those facing marginalisation and deep-rooted systemic injustice.

As part of our on-going support to artists who experience these barriers, *we guarantee that 25%* of the places available will be allocated to artists who identify as Black or POC (Person of Colour) and at least **20%** of the places will be allocated to artists who identify as d/Deaf, Disabled and/or Neurodivergent. This is a minimum, but not a limit.

Artists are invited to identify if they are part of these communities in their application form and this will be brought into the decision panel making as the places are allocated.

Mendelssohn Octet String Players

For a performance of the Mendelssohn Octet as part of our series of evening concerts at The Hub, Edinburgh International Festival are looking for 5 talented pre-professional string players – 3 violinists, 1 violist and 1 cellist. To be considered applicants must be of

conservatoire level standard and not be part of a recognised existing chamber group playing professionally.

This is a paid, professional opportunity and travel and accommodation will be provided to remove financial barriers to participation.

Audition Requirements:

To be considered candidates will need to submit a video audition consisting of the first movement of a Classical or early Romantic concerto or sonata. Candidates playing without accompaniment will not be penalised.

A private link to the video (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) should be sent with an accompanying CV and details of current teacher (if applicable) to Kirsty Hughes – Music & Scheduling Co-ordinator – by 9th June (Kirsty.hughes@eif.co.uk).

Full details will be available on <https://www.eif.co.uk/jobs/> from 15th May 2023.

You must be available for the following dates:

Rehearsal: 7th – 9th August 2023

Performance: 10th August 2023

What we offer:

Rehearsal and Performance Fee of £500

Rehearsal & Performance Travel, Accommodation and Per Diems

Application Process:

Deadline: 9th June 2023

Successful applicants will be contacted by late-June.