



# INDEPENDENT DANCE APPLICATION PACK:

## GILL CLARKE BURSARY AWARDS

This pack includes information for practitioners interested in applying for the Gill Clarke Bursary. If you would like this information in another format, or if you would like to submit an application in an alternative format, please feel welcome to get in touch

Email: [info@independentdance.co.uk](mailto:info@independentdance.co.uk)

Deadline for applications: **1 May 2024**

INDEPENDENT DANCE

Siobhan Davies Studios, 85 St George's Road, London SE1 6ER

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From L to R across the rows: Unravelling by Emma Hoette, performers Kate Brown, Franziska Boehm, Lydia Swift, Chloe D'Arcy, Emma Hoette. I Begin in the Middle (Neither Me nor the Bucket)' by Alice Gale-Feeny, Photo Adianna Apodaca | 'Funmi Adewole, Embodied Pathways, Embodied Journeys workshop (2022). Photo Irven Lewis | A sharing of work by Flora Baltz during MA/MFA Creative Practice: Dance Professional. Photo Nikki Tomlinson | A seminar in MA/MFA Creative Practice: Dance Professional with Gaby Agis and Kirsty Alexander. Photo Georgia Paizi | Siin Lee, MAMFA Creative Practice Sharing. Photo Nikki Tomlinson. I Conversations during A Gathering, International Festival of Learning (2022). Photo Cheniece Warner | Florence Peake in Voicings. Photo Matthew Kaltenborn. Florence Peake is a teaching artist with ID



## GILL CLARKE BURSARY AWARDS 2024

This year Independent Dance is offering bursary awards to support practitioners to undertake [MA/MFA Creative Practice: Dance Professional](#), a course led by Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in partnership with Independent Dance and Siobhan Davies Studios.

The bursary is named in honour of Gill Clarke (1954-2011), a renowned independent dance artist and educator and former Co-Director of Independent Dance. Gill Clarke was key to the development of MA Creative Practice: Dance Professional and the rigorous, curious and playful ethos at the heart of her approach to learning continues to underpin all of Independent Dance's work today.

This year the Gill Clarke Bursary Award scheme is funded and managed by Independent Dance as part of our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. £10,000 in total is now available through individual awards ranging from £1,000 - £2500. Please read below for detailed criteria and how to apply. Please also note that unless Independent Dance secures further funding, this scholarship will only be available in 2024.

We know that underprivilege and under-representation in the arts works in a layered, intersecting way across race, gender, socio-economic class, neurodiversity, and dis/ability. These bursaries are intended to help reduce financial barriers to postgraduate study, and to support practitioners to undertake MA/MFA Creative Practice: Dance Professional who would not otherwise be able to do so.

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR A GILL CLARKE BURSARY?

This bursary is open to practitioners based anywhere in the world.

To be eligible, applicants

- will have accepted the offer of a place on **MA/MFA Creative Practice: Dance Professional** full-time or part-time. (For information about the course and how to apply please see [here](#))
- would not otherwise be able to afford to undertake postgraduate study
- can demonstrate what positive impact/s the course might have on their and/or other people's artistic development

## HOW TO APPLY

Please send the following to [info@independentdance.co.uk](mailto:info@independentdance.co.uk) with 'Gill Clarke Bursary' as the subject heading, by **1 May 2024**:

A written statement of 500 words maximum explaining your eligibility for the bursary.

This should include:

- Confirmation that you have accepted the offer of a place on **MA/MFA Creative Practice: Dance Professional**, part-time or full-time – or that you are already undertaking the programme part-time and enter the second year in September 2024
- Your reasons for applying for the bursary
- What the bursary would enable you to do which would not otherwise be financially possible, and how you envisage spending the bursary
- How you are planning to fund your studies and living costs
- Whether or not you are applying for other funding to support your studies and/or living costs
- An indication of whether you identify as being either from an under-represented background in the creative and cultural sector and/or, if you have lived experience of marginalisation due to race, gender, disability, long term health issues, neurodivergence, and/or socio-economic status.\*
- Whether or not you have dependents, and/or have current or past caring responsibilities
- If as a child you were officially cared for by the state at any point

\* socio-economic status is often represented by the employment status or profession of the highest earning adult in your household at the age of 14, but may also be determined by other factors that you feel are relevant

Please also include a copy of your CV (maximum 4 pages)

Please complete our online equal opportunities monitoring form here:

<https://forms.gle/skWQqFJEcLTPgeuT6>. The form is anonymous and separate from your application, in line with equal opportunities practice.

## KEY DATES

Deadline for applications for a Gill Clarke Bursary: **1 May 2024**

Applicants will be informed of the outcome by: **21 May 2024**

## APPLICATION SUPPORT

Contact Nikki Tomlinson, Co-Director of Independent Dance if you have questions about this bursary [nikki@independentdance.co.uk](mailto:nikki@independentdance.co.uk)

Contact Heni Hale, Lead Tutor of MA/MFA Creative Practice: Dance Professional if you have questions about the course itself [heni@independentdance.co.uk](mailto:heni@independentdance.co.uk)

## SELECTION PROCESS

People who self-identify as being from under-represented backgrounds in the creative and cultural sector in the UK will be involved at every stage of the selection process.

All applications will be reviewed by a panel composed of

- Heni Hale, Lead Tutor, MA/MFA Creative Practice: Dance Professional
- Nathaniel Parchment and Nikki Tomlinson, Co-Directors, Independent Dance
- A member of Independent Dance's Board of Trustees

## MANAGEMENT OF THE BURSARY AWARD

Successful applicants can choose to have the scholarship award paid directly to Trinity Laban to support course fees or receive it themselves after starting the course.

All scholarship holders will be requested to provide a brief written evaluation to Independent Dance at the end of their course of study

## ABOUT GILL CLARKE

Gill Clarke (1954 – 2011) was an independent dance artist and co-director of Independent Dance from 1996-2011. She was a founding member of Siobhan Davies Dance Company and also performed and collaborated with other choreographers including Rosemary Butcher, Rosemary Lee, Janet Smith, Kate Brown and Marina Collard. Gill regarded teaching as an integral part of her artistic practice. She regularly led masterclasses and workshops internationally for students, professionals and companies, and collaborated with filmmaker Becky Edmunds on a multi-screen installation – *Stones and Bones*. Head of Performance Studies at LABAN from 2000-2006, she founded MA Creative Practice: Dance Professional which ID continues to lead in partnership with Trinity Laban and Siobhan Davies Studios. Gill was an Honorary Visiting Professor at University of Ulster, a joint NESTA fellow and a Trustee of Dance UK. She received a London Dance and Performance Award, the Jane Attenborough Award from One Dance UK and an MBE, which she returned in protest of the UK government's foreign policy in Iraq.

## ABOUT INDEPENDENT DANCE

Independent Dance (ID) is one of the UK's leading dance organisations with a focus on artist and artform development.

Resident at Siobhan Davies Studios in London, ID supports the development of dance through radical enquiry, learning, community-building and audience engagement. ID has been artist-led since 1984 and is staffed by a team of five part-timers, all of whom sustain freelance practices alongside their role with the organisation.

Our public programme supports a wide range of interdisciplinary approaches to dance, somatic practices, improvisation and choreography. We collaborate with 100+ artists a year and with organisations across the UK/internationally to facilitate critically-engaged activity for artists, participants and audiences. Our year-round programme currently includes classes, talks, workshops, research projects and festivals as well as an online digital library of archival material.

Our aim is to generate a diverse and dynamic 'community of practice' which is not limited to one place or location and to agitate for positive change and justice within ID, the arts and society. Over the past five years, we have diversified our programme offer and expanded our reach, supporting a wide range of artists and practices through a live and online programme. We have undergone significant organisational change and revised our policies, including making commitments to anti-racist and anti-ableist working practices and to reducing barriers to engaging with our programme and organisation at all levels. This ongoing work is critical to our future development.

Partnership is key to ID's work; over the past two years we have delivered projects with organisations including Sadler's Wells, Dance North, Candoco Dance Company and Center for Performance Research, with initiatives such as Fest en Fest and Contemporary Dance & Whiteness, and with Higher Education institutions including Roehampton University, C-DaRE Coventry University and Women's Art Library, Goldsmiths. ID forms a bridge between

professional and academic spheres, leading on the delivery of MA/MFA Creative Practice: Dance Professional with Trinity Laban and Siobhan Davies Studios.

Independent Dance and Siobhan Davies Studios (SDS) are partners in a National Portfolio Organisation consortium currently receiving regular funding from Arts Council England, with SDS as the lead partner. ID receives core funding of £71,000 a year from ACE and generates further funding through project grant applications. ID's turnover is between 150k – 250k annually, and our programme operates largely on an income-generating basis.

As such, ID is a thinktank, a hub for research, a meeting and learning ground, and a base for artists across generations. It is considered a 'home' organisation and reference point by a wide community across the UK and internationally.

For more information about how we work and what we do, please explore [www.independentdance.co.uk](http://www.independentdance.co.uk)

You can also see our profile as a registered charity on the [Charity Commission site](#)

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

To help us monitor our equal opportunities policy, we are asking applicants to complete our equal opportunities monitoring form above as part of the application. This is an anonymous form completed as a Google Form and is not used during the short-listing process. The information submitted is kept in the strictest confidence, following data protection requirements, and will only be used to monitor and analyse the progress of the organisation's equal opportunity policy.

Independent Dance's full Equity and Inclusion Policy is available publicly at <https://independentdance.co.uk/about/policies/>

Independent Dance is an employer, a provider of services, a member of numerous communities and a purchaser of goods and services. Within this context, the organisation does not make any assumptions about the physical, social or cultural background, or other protected characteristics of its audiences, service users, actual or potential employees, collaborating artists, partners or service/goods providers.

We recognise protected characteristics as being: race, ethnicity, gender or gender reassignment, marital status, parenthood, age, class or socio-economic status, sexual orientation, disability, religion or belief.

With due regard to the Equality Act 2010, Independent Dance is committed to:

- the elimination of unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act by ensuring that no potential or actual employee, recipient of the organisation's services or participant in the organisation's activity, receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of any protected characteristic, or is disadvantaged by

conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable.

- advancement of equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not by ensuring the widest possible access to the organisation's artistic work, as well as its facilities and services and within its workforce, ensuring that selection criteria and procedures for recruiting new employees or participants in the organisation's activity be such that individuals are selected and treated on the basis of merit.

## DATA PROTECTION

### **Data Protection Act (1998) and General Data Protection Regulation (2018)**

Information provided by you as part of your application will be used in the recruitment process. Any data about you will be held securely with access restricted to those involved in dealing with your application and in the recruitment process. Once this process is completed the data relating to unsuccessful applicants will be stored for a maximum of 12 months and then destroyed.

If you would like to access your data or request that we delete, rectify or restrict processing of your data, contact Nikki Tomlinson in her role as data protection officer for ID. If you are the successful candidate, your application form will be retained and form the basis of your personnel record.

Information provided by you on the equal opportunities monitoring form will be used to monitor Independent Dance's equal opportunities practices. By submitting your application, you are giving your consent to your data being stored and processed for the purposes of the recruitment process, equal opportunities monitoring and your personnel record if you are the successful candidate.