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**Brief for position of Rehearsal Director (studio and touring)**

**April 2019**

**Marcos Morau’s *Tundra, 2017***

**Background**

NDCWales is one of the foremost national arts companies of Wales. It creates impact with work of the highest quality by working with exceptional UK and international choreographers, to reach and inspire audiences across Wales, the wider UK and around the world.

The Company is on a high after two years of extraordinary achievement which has raised its profile and enhanced its reach and reputation. 2017 saw the successful delivery of NDCWales’ most ambitious project to date – P.A.R.A.D.E. created with Marc Rees and a host of other artists to mark the centenary of the Russian Revolution. P.A.R.A.D.E was the icing on the cake of a year which saw a surge in international profile with visits to Hong Kong, Germany (twice) and Austria. A regularly funded organisation of the Arts Council of Wales, the Company has successfully diversified its funding base to raise funds from trusts, individuals and corporate sources.

A new 3-year grant enabled delivery of a small-scale tour and associated participation work, allowing a new post of Learning-lead Dancer which works with the rest of the dancers and others to deliver excellent participatory work with people of all ages across Wales, and the wider UK.

The Company was founded as ‘Diversions’ in 1983. The Company grew in size and stature, mounting tours to China, Australia, India and many European countries. In 2004 the Company moved to a new purpose-built home, Dance House/Tŷ Dawns, as part of the new Wales Millennium Centre (WMC) and in 2009 the Company became National Dance Company Wales, reflecting its status and its role in leading and championing dance in Wales.

2015 saw the start of a new phase in the Company’s history with a new Chief Executive (Paul Kaynes), and latterly a new Artistic Director (Fearghus Ó Conchúir). The Company’s role as an ambassador for dance in Wales is vital to its new strategy, increasing the reach of its international touring and forging contacts and gathering knowledge which it brings back to Wales for the benefit of the wider dance sector.

The Dance House is the Company’s home and hub, acting as a centre for the creation and rehearsal of the Company’s work, a training base for the Company’s dancers and other dance artists, a space for hire as a rehearsal, creation and performance space, a centre for community activity and youth dance, and as a wider resource for the arts sector in Wales.

**The Company**

The Company is based at The Dance House/Tŷ Dawns in Cardiff, at the Wales Millennium Centre, where it has a dedicated rehearsal studio and performance space. There is currently a company of eight dancers and two student apprentice dancers who perform at base and at other venues in Wales, the wider UK and overseas. Company members also deliver a range of education and participation projects.

NDCWales creates dance which engages and resonates with audiences by being extraordinary and inclusive, working with the best dancers and choreographers from across Wales and beyond to make dance for stages large and small, in unusual spaces, and online.

We perform across Wales, the UK and around the globe, taking people on journeys of discovery, creating opportunities to participate, discuss, watch and learn about dance, about themselves and about the world. Our status as the national dance company is a privilege that informs everything we do: how we make work, who we work with and where work is placed. It is important that our programmes resonate with the diverse communities of Wales. Working in collaboration, we will ignite the spark of interest in dance with the widest range of promoters in every corner of the nation, building larger, broader audiences for dance.

NDC Wales is part of the Arts Council of Wales (ACW) portfolio. ACW is the Company’s major funder, awarding a revenue grant of £834,186 for 2018/19.

The key strategic priorities for our current business plan are:

* Developing the artistic vision with the interests/aspirations of audiences at the heart of our work, alongside our brand renewal and new approach to audience engagement
* Become an ‘all-Wales’ company creating the highest quality work with and for any and every community in the nation, entailing moving from an exclusive focus on touring to theatres of 250-900 seats only, to one which includes a dynamic and versatile model of presenting work which enables major collaborations, outdoor, smaller and larger scale touring, site specific work and community projects in a calendar which maximises the impact and exposure of the dancing company
* Revolutionising the Company’s approach to participation and learning, creating a more varied programme of activity which inspires and engages the people of Wales with the power of dance
* Fulfilling our role as a leader of dance in Wales, acting as an exemplar for the sector, recognised outside Wales, and bringing its knowledge and contacts home to make meaningful connections and create imaginative partnerships
* Securing the Company’s future through robust financial and operational management, always seeking out more efficient and effective ways to deliver everything we do
* Investing in the resources needed to tap into new income streams to deliver long-term stability for the Company, including income from trusts and foundations, individual donors, space and asset hire and box office/touring fees.

**Structure and Governance**

NDCWales is a registered charity with trustees who also act as directors of the Company. The

Board of NDCWales has a number of suitably qualified members who have an excellent track record of attendance and willingness to share their expertise and given their time for the good of the Company. There is currently one sub-committee, the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP). Members are recruited through open advert and interview. The members of the Board include:

* Jane McCloskey, broadcaster and academic, with a strong background in creative industries development (F&GP Member)
* Emma Evans (F&GP member), dance producer and consultant
* Gary Thomas, digital/film expert, staff member at British Council
* Matthew Gough, Senior Lecturer & Course Leader (Dance), University of South Wales
* Susan Coffey, Finance Manager (F&GP member)
* Huw Davies, Director of Finance, Welsh National Opera (F&GP member)

The Board is active between quarterly meetings to offer expertise, contacts, act as a sounding board for senior staff and making the Company aware of opportunities.

**Our Work**

Here are links to some recent works in the repertoire:

**Folk by Caroline Finn:** <https://vimeo.com/155395220>(password folkdance) **Atalaӱ by Mario Bermudez Gil**: <https://vimeo.com/255073402> (password WatchTower)

**Tundra by Marcos Morau** <https://vimeo.com/232690331>

In Autumn 2018, the Company created a co-production with Music Theatre Wales of the dance opera *Passion* by Pascal Dusapin – which includes dance content choreographed by the Company’s Resident Choreographer, Caroline Finn.

The current pattern of touring sees the Company tour the UK middle-scale in Spring (February to May) each year whilst the Autumn is the main season for special projects and co-productions, such as *Passion* in 2018, and for the small-scale tour of Wales. Outdoor projects, and appearances in showcases such as Edinburgh and Tanzmesse take place, where possible, in the summer.

In addition to UK touring, the Company has a relationship with a German agent, Norddeutsche Konzertdirektion, booking tours of Germany, Austria, Switzerland. Recent tours have included Germany and Austria in April 2018 (Linz, Bonn, Leverkusen), Germany in July 2018 (Fürstenfeldbruck), Poland in February 2019 (Krakow), with further trips being planned to the Asia Pacific area and South America.

**Participation**

There are three key elements to the Company’s participation programme with examples below:

1. Schools and Education activity: workshops are offered in schools and colleges, for young people with little or no experience of dance, delivered either by company dancers, or by ambassadors in the locality of the venues visited, and specially trained and briefed to support our work and repertoire. Most of this work is offered at Primary School age (7-11 year olds). New partnerships enable the Company to reach schools without strong traditions of dance.
2. Gifted and Talented Young People: the Company runs a youth company called the Associates, a group of 20 young people aged 13-19 who attend weekly classes and work towards presenting productions each year, showcased in bi-annnual youth dance showcases (for other youth companies as well as our own). There are week-long holiday courses for those wanting to develop technique, and by Dance Days during holiday periods for young people. In addition the Company works with other agencies such as Rubicon Dance.
3. Community activity: the Company works with a number of people and groups, for instance running two regular Dance for Parkinson’s Groups in Cardiff and the South Wales Valleys, in conjunction with English National Ballet. In addition a new programme called Dance to Health targeted at older people at risk of falling is being delivered with a Welsh health board.

**NDCWales – Our Audiences**

Some key facts about our productivity and audiences/participants:

* The number of performances in 2017/18 was 80 (up from 35 in 2016/17)
* Of these 5 were international, 45 were in Wales and the remainder were in the rest of the UK
* 2017/18 number of live audiences and participants was 20,000 (trend is up, growing from 16,073 in 2016/17)
* Online and broadcast viewers were over 350,000, partly as result of BBC4 broadcast and The Space commission.

Recent Wales based research has shown most audiences are not dance loyal and on average will attend once every 2 years. Audiences are loyal to venues rather than the company. The figure below shows the last time NDCWales audiences attended a performance.





The average NDCWales audience in Wales and across the U.K are mostly middle aged, white collar, already highly engaged and is are confident arts attenders.

**The Role of Rehearsal Director (Studio and Touring)**

National Dance Company Wales is one of the national arts companies of Wales. We make dance that aims to inspire audiences and participants across Wales, the wider UK and internationally. We are now looking for a Rehearsal Director (studio and touring) to work alongside the part time Rehearsal Director (Dance House) to manage the dance team and ensure the highest quality of company performances.

NDCWales aim to be a diverse and vibrant Company and welcome applications from people of all backgrounds

**Duties and responsibilities**

* Work with the dancers on all aspects of their performance to ensure the highest quality of company performances
* Adapt and stage work for different venues
* Lead technical rehearsals on tour
* Responsible for managing all rehearsals and co-ordinate with RD (Dance House) in planning of rehearsals
* Work with the Artistic Director, choreographer and technical team on the creation of new work to ensure the production is completed to the highest standard and on time
* Work closely with choreographers during the development of each production acting as a point of contact between choreographer and dancers
* Responsible for teaching new and existing repertoire when necessary
* Continuously monitor the workload and responsibilities of individual dancers and assess and plan to reduce stress
* Teach company class at least the equivalent of twice a week when at base. To teach company class when on tour
* Participate in running of company and apprentice auditions, and help with audition screening process
* Support RD (Dance House) audition planning and administration, casting and re-casting
* Support company’s Learning and Participation activity (e.g. contributing to NYDW programme)
* Leading Discover Dance, Open Rehearsals, post-show discussions and other engagement activity and co-ordinating dancer involvement in these activities
* Participate in dancer appraisals in co-ordination with RD (DH) and AD

**Person specification**

**Skills and experience**

**Essential**

Experience

* Rehearsal Director experience in the studio and on tour
* Experience of managing, motivating and leading a diverse team
* Experience of working with choreographers to realise their aspirations

Skills and knowledge

* Have appropriate dance experience
* Experience of teaching classes that will develop the technical proficiency of the dancers and support their well-being
* Excellent communication skills
* Have an eye for detail

Disposition

* Remains calm when working under pressure
* Confident
* Self-Motivated
* Team player
* Have a willingness and interest to tend to the work of other choreographers
* Have a willingness and interest to support the Company’s work with all kinds of people in all kinds of settings.

**Desirable**

* Able to drive
* Welsh speaker

**Company Values**

It is essential that all staff members demonstrate active promotion of the Company’s values. The six values are:

**Curious and Pioneering, Inclusive and Versatile, Collaborative and Ambitious**

**Terms and conditions**

The terms and conditions are indicative of a full-time appointment and would be negotiated accordingly for any joint or job-share appointment.

Salary: Salary £27,500 per annum pro rata

Pension: NDCWales currently contributes 5% of salary to a pension with Royal London, dependent on employee’s matching contribution

Contract: Equity/ ITC permanent employment contract

Hours: This is a full-time permanent position. We also welcome job share proposals. TOIL is available for hours outside of those contracted.

Place of work: Cardiff with extensive UK and international touring

Holidays: 30 days per annum pro rata plus public holidays (3 of these days must be taken between Christmas and New Year)

We expect the post-holder to live locally.

Any offer of employment will be subject to the receipt of:

* + Satisfactory References
	+ Evidence of right to work in the UK as defined by the Home Office

There will be a three-month probationary period, during which time regular monitoring meetings will be held with relevant representatives.

**How to apply**

Please apply by submitting the application form.

Please also indicate if you are an EU national or if you would require a visa.

Closing date for applications 12 noon, Friday 3 May 2019

Interviews will be held either 15 May or 25 May in Germany

If you would prefer to submit a video application, please send us a link via You Tube or Vimeo or share the video with us via your preferred file sharing service. Please make sure you answer all the questions on the application form on the website.

Please e-mail Kelly Twydale at kelly@ndcwales.co.uk to request this pack in Welsh or in another format.