

Fertile Ground Dance seeks Artistic Director

Fertile Ground (FG) is a dance company focused on early career dancers and based in Newcastle. The company performs and gives workshops across the North-East region and beyond, showcasing great talent and great work in unusual settings.

FG, formerly Dora Frankel Dance, established in 2013 is a project based company limited by guarantee with dance talent retention and sector development as its heart. It is currently applying for charitable status.

The new Artistic Director, will be an experienced and dynamic individual with exceptional knowledge of the dance sector and experience of leadership, with strategic skills. They will also have a proven track record in delivering or overseeing choreographic creation, touring and participatory work and possess project management skills.

The successful candidate will work closely with the Development Director and Board to lead and realise the vision, aims and plans for the future with a particular view to the next 3 year period and be able to support the delivery of the business plan and upscaling of this unique company. They will be an individual who bring bold ideas and vision particularly in terms of talent retention, diversity and programming and have a network of significant contacts, regionally, nationally and internationally. They will be a proactive individual capable of developing commissions with other arts, heritage and similar organisations and some-one who demonstrates commitment to equality, diversity and excellence.

This is a fixed fee post of 10k from March – July 2018

It is planned that the role will lead to a permanent salaried position.

Appointment: 44 days from March to July 2018

Responsible to: The Board of Trustees

Responsible for: Staff, artists and associates

The role

Responsibilities:-

1. Artistic leadership.
2. Developing the artistic programme and productions.
3. Selecting dancers, choreographers and other artists for future seasons (2018 is planned and under production).
4. Leading the training, teaching and rehearsing of the ensemble and other emerging dancers
5. Working with the Universities, Colleges, Schools and other partners and collaborators.
6. Leading the artistic development of the Company, creating new opportunities to expand the programme regionally, nationally and internationally.
7. Working with the Development Director on all aspects of the participatory programmes
8. Continue to develop the strong relationship with Dance City and find the unique niche for the company within the North East dance infrastructure.

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Person specification

Essential: The successful candidate will be a strong strategic leader with the skill and drive able to express FG's core values. A good collaborator, facilitator, with excellent knowledge of the sector.

Desirable: Proven track record of choreography in order to contribute to the overall programme

Ability to teach at professional level

International connections

Fee £10,000

To apply please send your cv with a detailed cover letter addressing the role responsibilities and person specification.

We particularly welcome applications from people of diverse backgrounds and cultures and of all ages. Please let us know if you require this information in another format.

Further information can be found on our website fertileground.org.uk

If you have any queries or require further information such as our business plan please contact:-

Dora Frankel 0191 269 5581 dora@fertileground.org.uk or

Chair Dr Matt Sutherland m.sutherland@nortumbria.ac.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications is Thursday February 8th 9am

Interviews Wednesday Feb. 14th Boardroom 2nd floor, Dance City, Temple Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE14BR

Further information on Fertile Ground

FG is a vibrant contributor to the NE dance ecology reflecting a strong sense of place and culture, landscape and environment. Significant works include *The Unfolding Sky: Turner in the North*, part of the Festival of the North East 2013 choreographer Dora Frankel, *On the Darkened Wing* (devised by the company, directed by Dora Frankel) inspired by the Birds of Paradise exhibition at Bowes Museum, *Shields of Bone* Eleesha Drennan and *Land* choreographed by Alys North, both in 2015.

The company creates and produces mixed bills commissioning exciting mid-career choreographers and creating a new early career ensemble every year. Outreach and education focuses on engaging with children and young people from Yr5 upwards with a particular emphasis on providing dance opportunities and pathways for young people 16+ and those living in areas of economic deprivation. Our main performance season currently runs from winter to summer; in 2018 we are creating and touring a double bill *Fully Grounded* rehearsing and performing from March 5th – Mid July. Fertile Ground is a talent

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retention and dance sector development company and represents the best of North East dance talent. FG has a unique place in the NE dance ecology and is a frequent recipient of Arts Council England funding through Grants for the Arts. We have been awarded a 3 year grant by Newcastle Culture Investment Fund to support our work with children and young people in Newcastle.

'Supported by Grants for the Arts Fertile Ground ...provides a much-needed performance and talent development opportunity for emerging dancers from or based-in the North East, using a model for a Graduate performance company found nowhere else in the North...There continues to be a need for this kind of delivery regionally and Fertile Ground appear well placed to build ... to deliver successfully in the future.'

Alex Croft, former Dance RM Arts Council England (2013 -2016)

Dora Frankel Dance was active in the region from 2004 and as Fertile Ground since 2013. In 2017 FG employed a Development Director to support the expansion of the company. Our partners and stakeholders include Arts Council England, Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund, Newcastle and Northumbria University, Newcastle and Sunderland College and Benfield School.