

# LIAM FRANCIS

## *MIXTAPE*





# ABOUT

"Mixtape" is a provocative exploration of music, the body, and brotherhood—a visceral performance that celebrates the dynamic synergy between dance and sound, showcasing the intimate bonds among three young Black men.

Choreographed by Liam Francis, the performance explores what it takes for an individual to become part of a community. Invitation, resistance, acceptance and pleasure all play a part in this short performance that draws on Liam's own experiences of slowly allowing feelings of isolation, threat and competition to be replaced by trust, intimacy and friendship. And just as communities are built through the development of shared experiences, landscapes and languages – here the soundscape, mixed live by Chloe Mason, is created by capturing the sounds of the dancing bodies. First one, then two, then three bodies build a unique and spontaneous 'mixtape' – a compilation of sounds that speak of the joyful complexity of a life lived fully - together.

Francis and his extraordinary dancers draw effortlessly from the dance canon, nodding sublimely at hip hop, ballet, disco, contemporary and jazz, all held gently within a fluid and playful language completely his own.

A ten minute-version of this work premiered as a grand finalist at **Danse Élargie** in **Théâtre de la Ville** in Paris, June 2024. This was supported by **South East Dance**, **Brighton Dome**, **Choreodrome** at **The Place** and the **Abderrahim Crickmay** charity.

[Danse Elargie performance - Video](#)

[South East Dance Residency - Behind the scene](#)





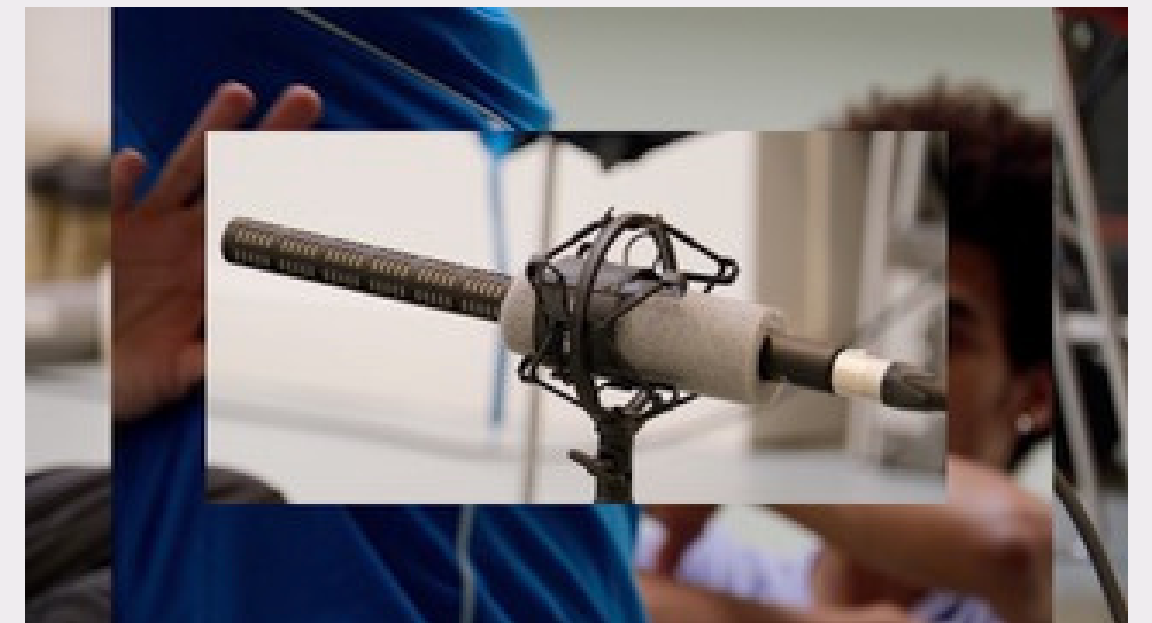
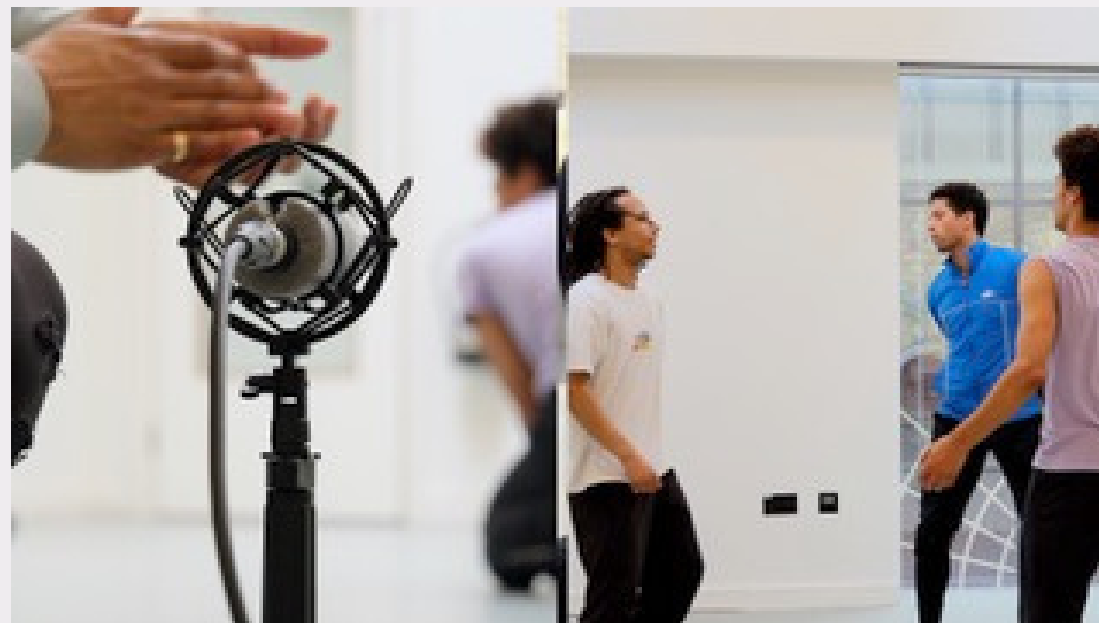
# AIMS

After years of collaborating and performing works from some of the world most renowned choreographers, Francis' aims is to now build on the attraction he has gained over the years and further establish his voice as a UK choreographer working across borders. With his newly founded dance company FranDanCo, Francis aspires to contribute to the representation of black and brown choreographers and dancers within contemporary dance.

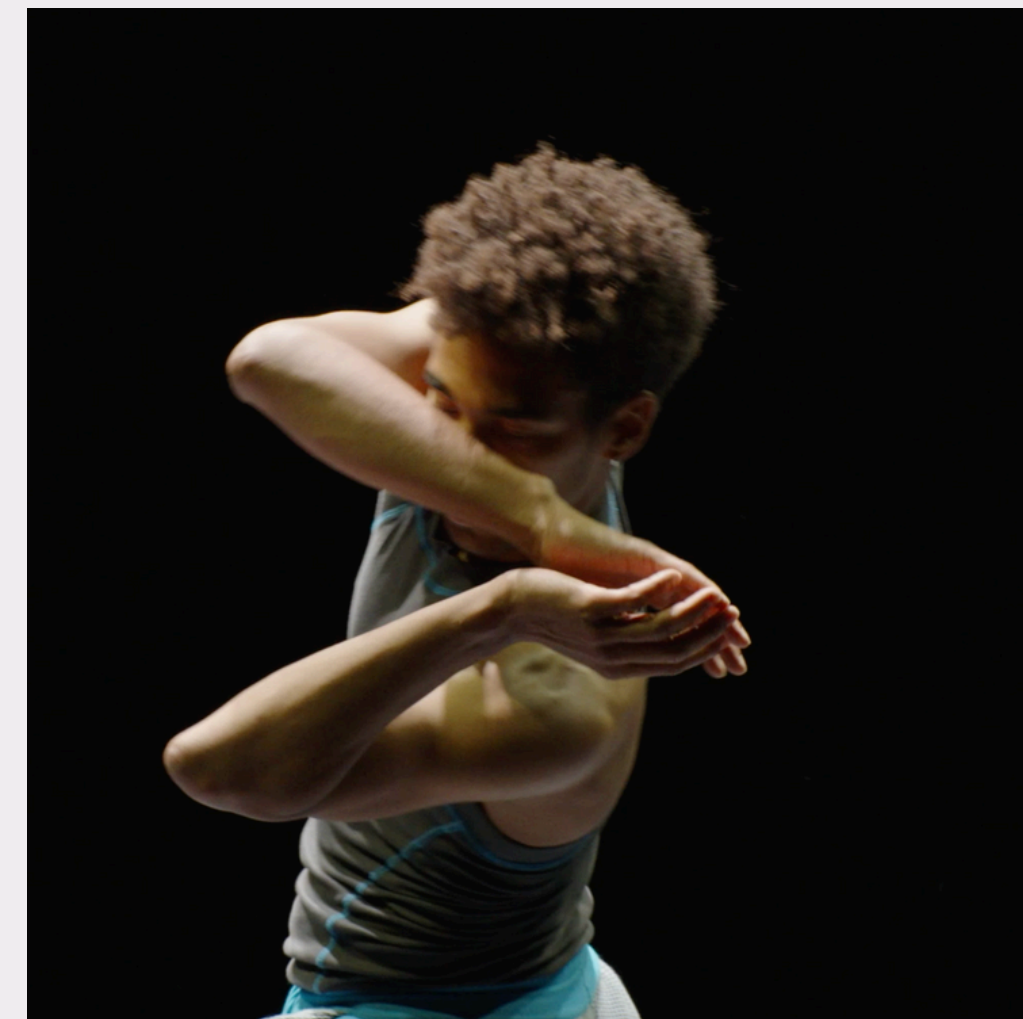
For 2025, Francis aims to extend "Mixtape" into a 30-minute piece to be presented as part of a mixed bill program.

"Mixtape" extended version is co-commissioned by **The Place** and **Théâtre de la Ville** for a world premiere at **Théâtre des Abesses** (Paris) in September 2025. Francis is receiving production support from **Danse Elargie** and the **CNDC Angers** with a two-week residency, and is currently in conversation with UK and European venues who have shown interest in supporting the work in 2025-26.

**Liam Francis and team are currently looking for co-producers, partners and presenting venues to further support the making and touring of this work throughout 2025 and 2026.**







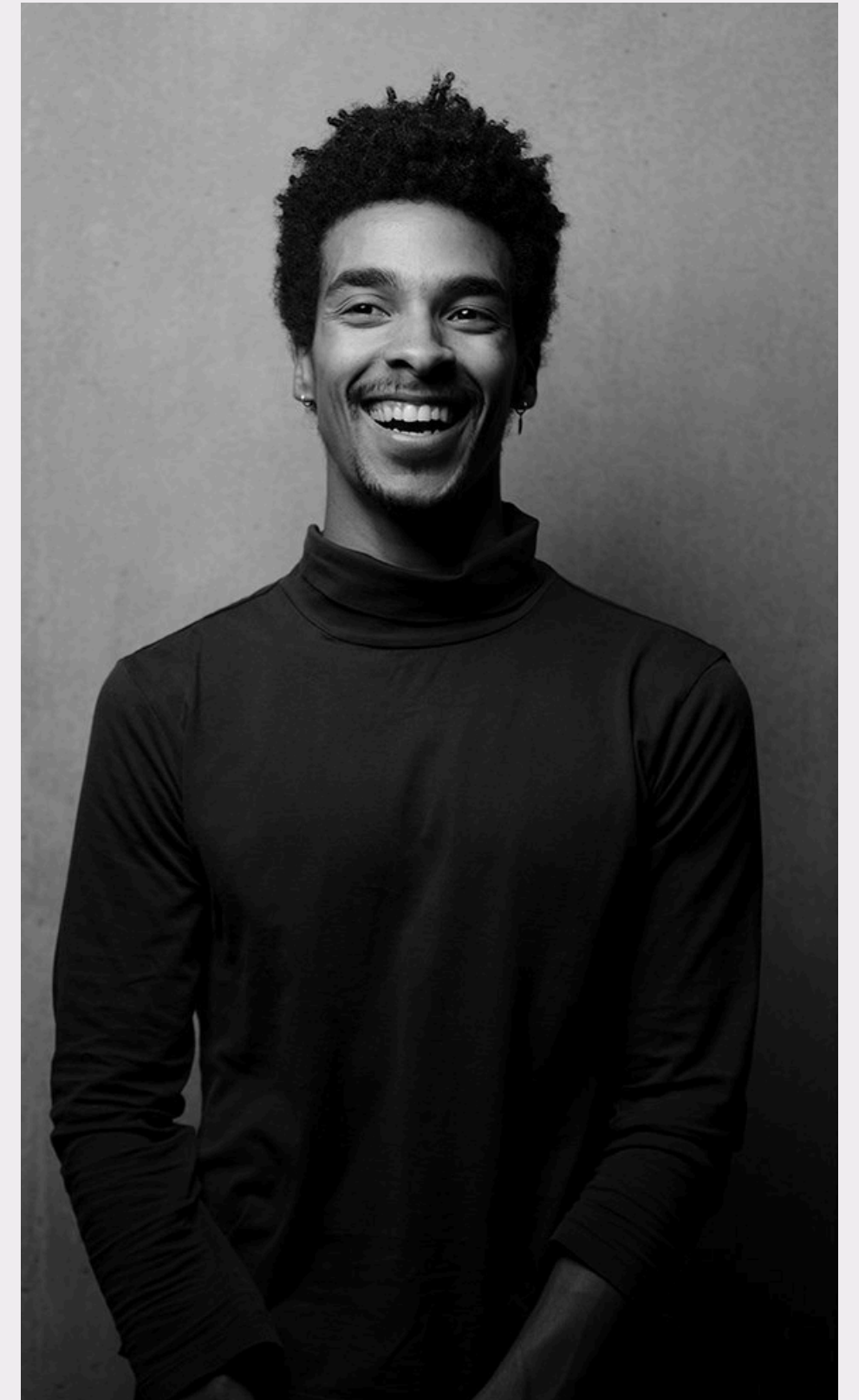


# LIAM FRANCIS

Liam Francis is an international dance artist and choreographer. Whether leading creations, or as a collaborator in other artists' work, he tries to let his passion for 'play' inform his contributions, decisions and performance. His practice currently seeks to authentically express the hybridity of information he contains; something he's acquired through working in both hip-hop theatre and contemporary dance. His practice is also informed by his interest in the relationship between Flow state and dance, which has been the focus of his recently completed research Master Degree at Rambert School.

His professional performance career began at Zonation Dance Company in 2009. Between 2014 and 2021 he was a leading dancer with Rambert Dance Company; performing and creating roles in works by internationally renowned choreographers such as Mark Baldwin, Christopher Bruce, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Merce Cunningham, Ben Duke, Sharon Eyal, Wayne McGregor, Marion Motin, Patricia Okenwa, Hofesh Shechter, Wim Vandekeybus, Didy Veldman and Alexander Whitley. In 2021 Liam was nominated by Dance Europe as 'Dancer of the Year' and Tanz magazine as 'Best Male Dancer'.

Liam's own choreographic work has been performed in London, Massachusetts, New York, Oxford, Paris, Rotterdam and Rome. In 2022 Liam's duet, *Dual Till the Death*, received 4 partnership awards at the Rotterdam International Duet Choreography Competition and another award at the Choreography Competition Hannover. He has made works for graduating students at The Place, London Studio Centre and Rambert School, as well as dance companies Ballet Theater Trier, Rambert, SALLY, Shechter2 and Skånesdansteater. Liam is the founder and director of dance company FranDanCo.

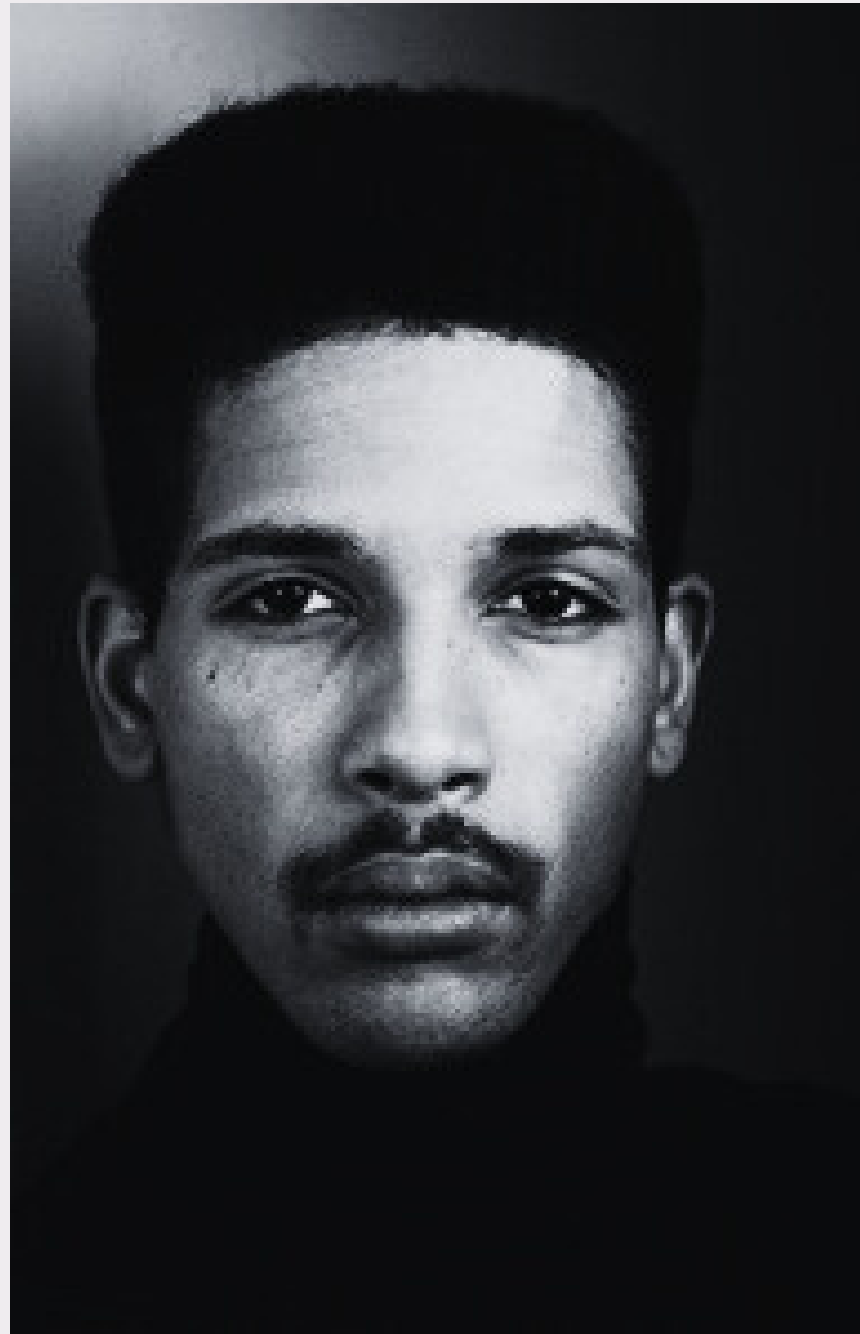




## COLLABORATORS

### Stephen Quildan

*Danseur, performer*

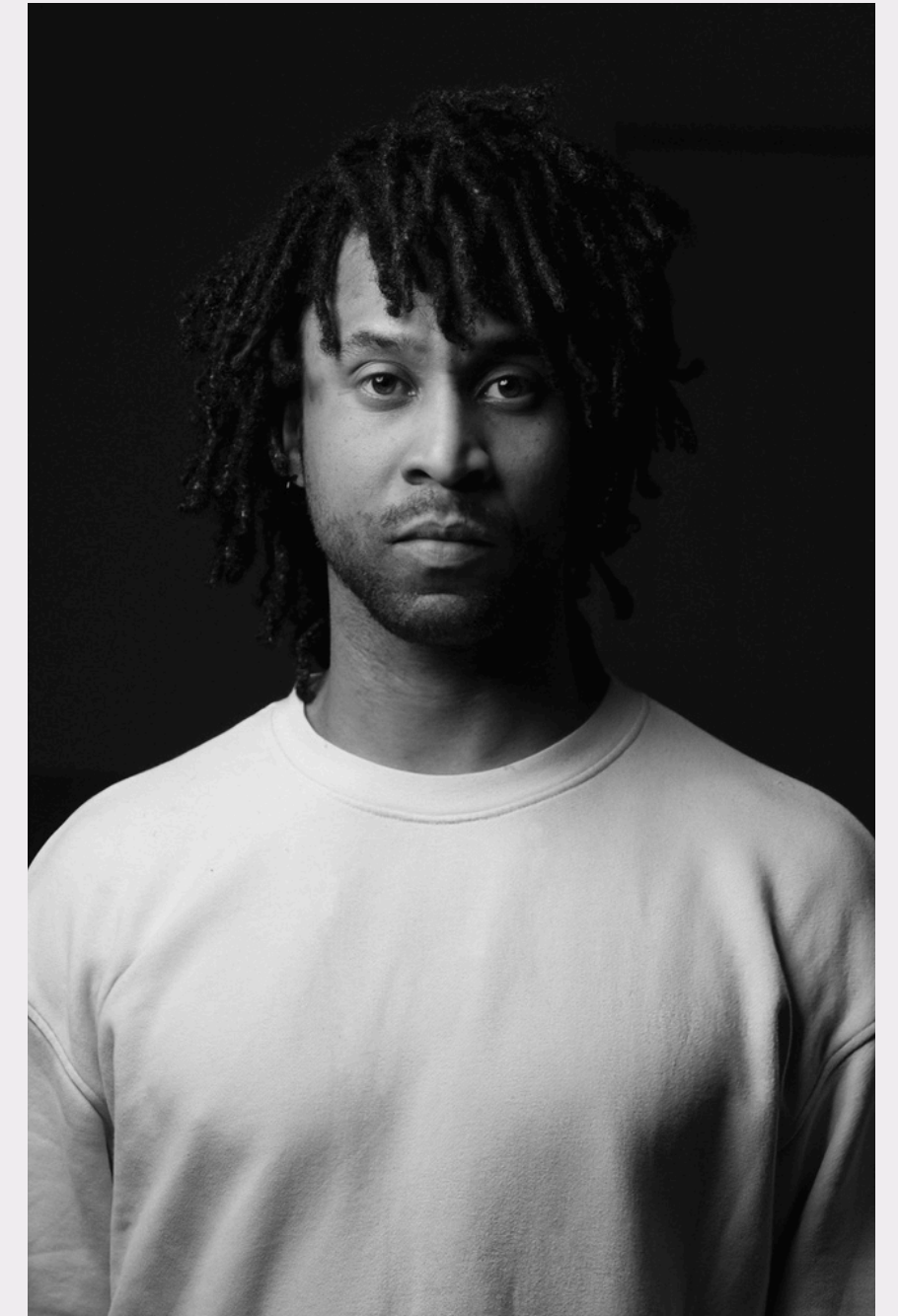


Stephen Quildan trained at The BRIT School of Performing Arts and Technology, and later at Rambert School where he achieved a First Class (BA Hons) degree. His background spans Ballet, Contemporary and Street dance. As a dancer, he has worked for Rambert, English National Ballet, Phoenix Dance Theatre, Opera de Lyon, Noism Company Niigata(Japan), Peter Schaufuss Ballet and others. He has also danced in many works, both in collaborations and re-stagings including, Fukiko Takase, Mark Baldwin & Ben Duke.

Miguel trained at the National School of Art in Havana and performed for six years with the Cuban National Contemporary Dance Company as a principal dancer, before joining Rambert in 2007. There, he performed works by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Wim Vandekeybus and Ben Duke amongst others. Outside of Rambert, Miguel has worked with Mats Ek, Steve Paxton, Joaquin Sabaté, Jan Linkens, Julio Cesar Iglesias, Samir Akika and Exedia Dance Company (Greece).

### Miguel Altunaga

*Danseur, performer*





# COLLABORATORS

## Jacob Wye

*Danseur, performer & Music composer*

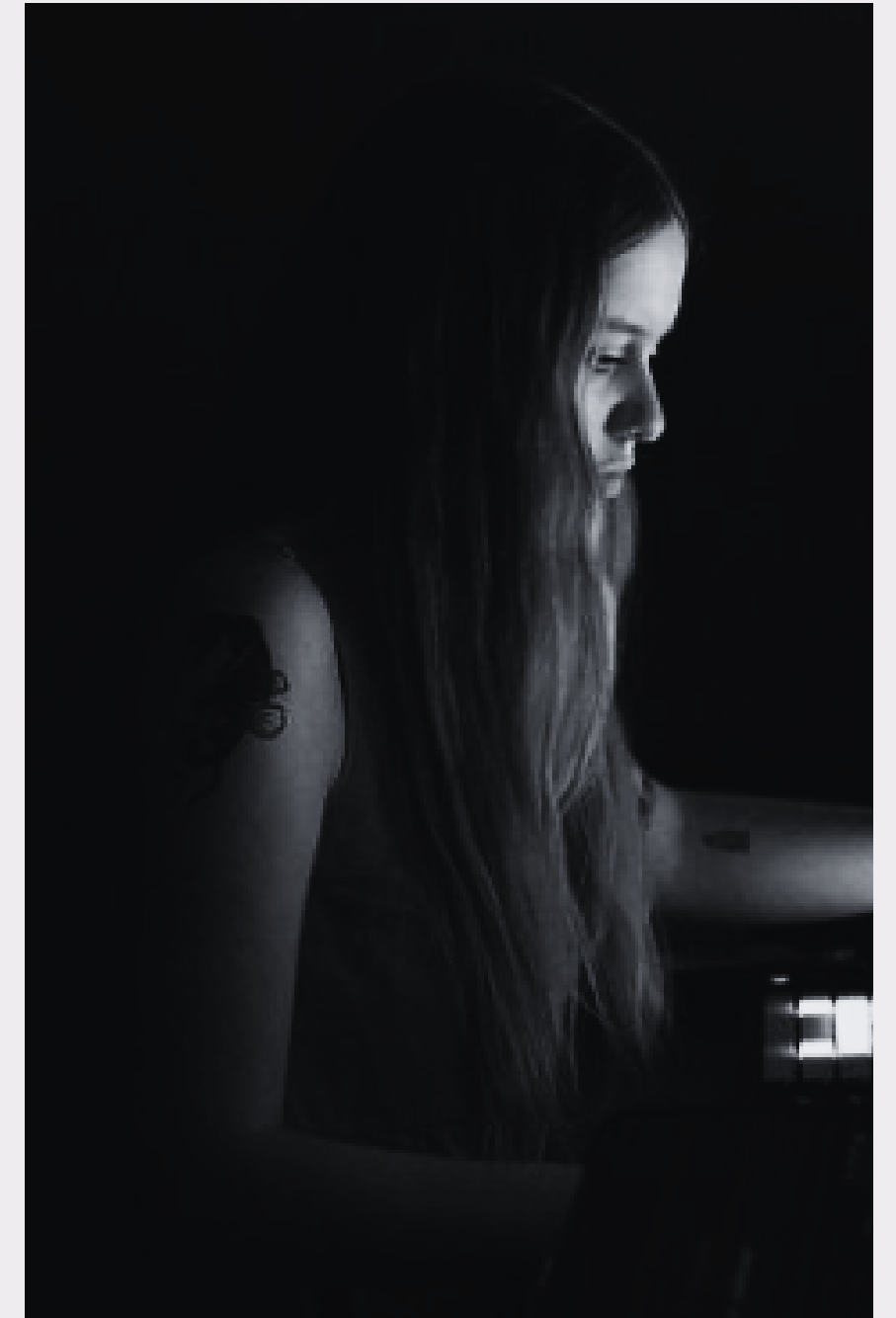


Jacob Wye trained at the Royal Ballet and Central School before joining Ballet Black (2012) and Rambert (2017). Featuring as “Siegried” in “Peaky Blinders”, he has also featured in music videos from Jessie Ware and Years & Years. He was rehearsal director for The Common Wealth Games Opening Ceremony and is currently a lead artist and ambassador for ROH’s, Chance To Dance program. More recently, Jacob was the assistant choreographer for Marcelino Sambe to create an immersive event for Hermès.

Chloe Mason is a young composer, performer, and sound artist, based between London and North Lincolnshire. She recently graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with a first in Electronic Music. Despite starting as a solo electronic performer, her work is now in collaborative performance making, from theatre and film to dance. She improvises with experimental microphone techniques, complex audio processing, and Ableton’s Push.

## Chloe Mason

*Music Composer & Music Artist*





# COLLABORATORS

**Joshie Harriette**

*Lighting Designer*

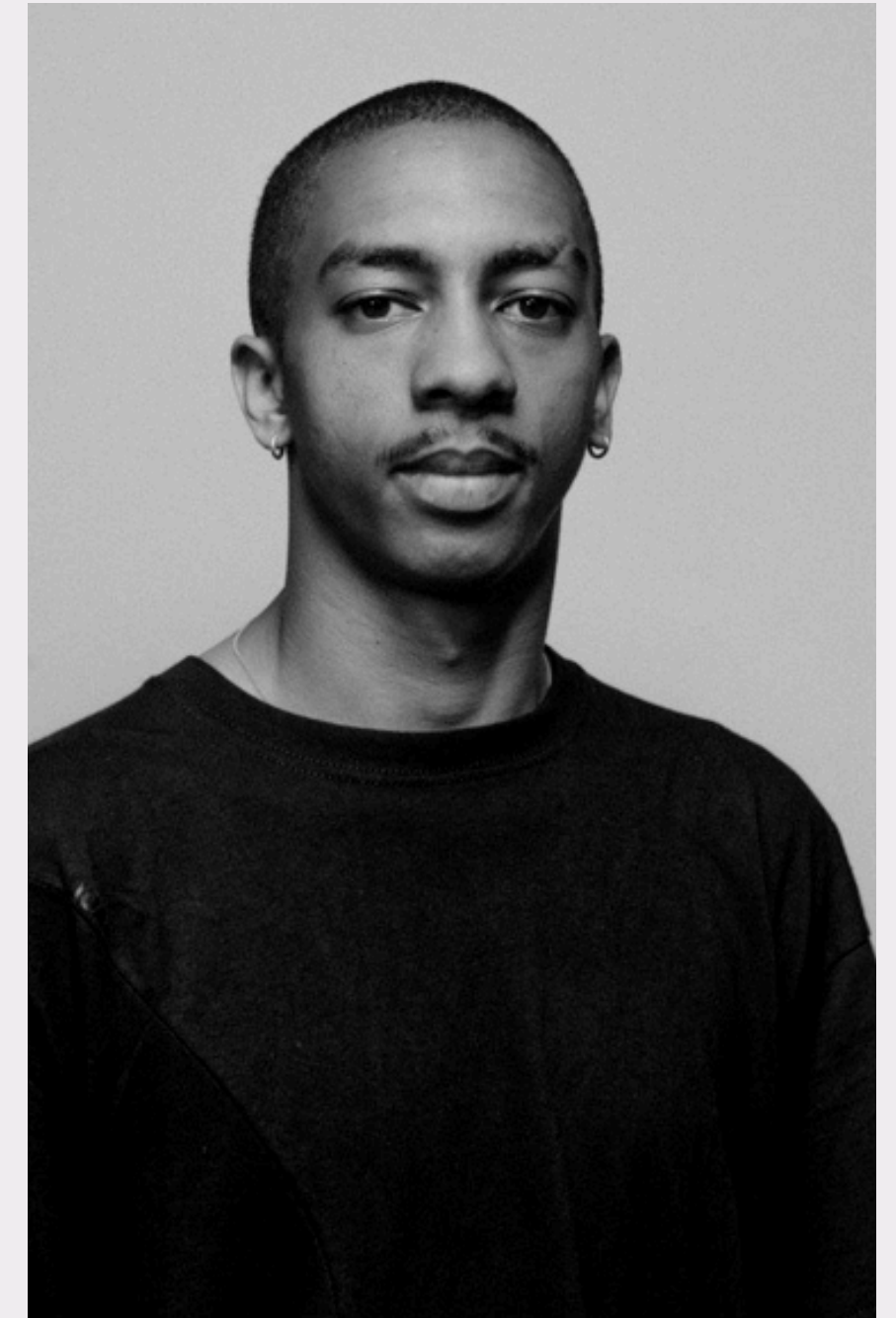


Joshie is a dance & light creative. Winner of the Black British Theatre Awards for 'Best Lighting Design' 2023 (nominated in 2022) and is a fellow with Manchester International Festival 2023. As an independent artist, they choreographs exclusively with lights. Fascinated with the physicality, musicality and emotionality lights can embody. They premiered 'The Lite of Spring' at The Place, toured with music artist Bat For Lashes, and often collaborate with Magnus Westwell - intersecting live music, live dance & live lights.

Saul Nash creates contemporary technical garments that are designed for the liberation of movement. Grounded in the ethos of community, he works with dancers who invigorate an essence of family whilst delving deeper into exploring the relationship between performance and technical menswear. An understanding of the complexities and subtleties of masculinity are informed by Nash's background as a self-taught dancer and choreographer growing up in London.

**Saul Nash**

*Costume Designer*





# FRANDANCO

FranDanCo is a project based dance company under the directorship of dancer and choreographer Liam Francis. The Brighton based company acts as a hub for the growth of Liam's choreographic voice, whilst also showcasing masterworks by renowned choreographers. The company aims to represent the eclecticism of the UK dance scene on local and international stages.

FranDanCo 5 core principles:


- **Investing in our neighbours:** Expand creative horizons by nurturing the spirit of neighbourhood. By engaging with diverse disciplines, individuals, and communities that enrich our own, we weave a vibrant tapestry of artistic collaboration.
- **Place Making:** Collectively creating experiential worlds that can be transported to an array of locations and audiences. This notion of Place Making extends beyond our performance based work and is also embedded in our outreach work.
- **Embracing Hybridity:** Utilising the full spectrum of our training, experiences and interests to create work. We see the borders of one genre, discipline or idea as the leap pad for further exploration. We approach these often fixed entities like water colours that can bleed into one another.
- **Advocating for Patient Art Making:** We seek to challenge the notion of 'fast art' and invest in the process of creation and the excavation of ideas. We endeavour to create art that honours present circumstances with a depth, width and breadth that will allow it to stand the tests of time and be a beacon for rich experiences in the future.
- **Historic Dance:** We want to honour the importance of the past and celebrate the legacy of those who have paved our journey. We want to find ways to make timeless wisdom accessible to fresh, receptive audiences.



# CONTACTS

## Liam Francis

 [www.liamfrancis.co.uk](http://www.liamfrancis.co.uk)

 [liamfrancis93@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:liamfrancis93@hotmail.co.uk)

 [liamfrancisdance](https://www.instagram.com/liamfrancisdance)

## Steph Be (Producer)

 [steph.be@icloud.com](mailto:steph.be@icloud.com)

 +44 778 467 0948

