



FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STABLE THEATRE PRESENTS

3RD **FLATFOOT**
access
FESTIVAL

25 - 30 NOV 2024

STABLE THEATRE

A week of performances, workshops and
dialogues that engage access, disability
and belonging in dance

COMPUTICKET

Programme



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National
Arts Council **NAC**
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Welcome and Thanks

As we enter our third annual edition of the FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL, I take this moment to acknowledge FLATFOOT's 21-year history of encountering disability through our dance education and development work, and more profoundly in our professional development work.

Our history intertwines with local and international practitioners like Gerard Samuel, Jürg Koch, Gladys Agulhas, UNMUTE DANCE THEATRE, Joseph Tebandeke and Adriaan Luteijn. The journey to thinking about and working toward access and training for dancers living with both intellectual and physical disabilities lies at the heart of FLATFOOT, and this small festival (which seems to be growing!), is a wonderful moment of celebrating not just incredible dancers, dance makers, and choreographers, but of the truly transformative power of dance to bind us all together.

DANCE MOVEMENT. Choreography Jarryd Watson. Dancer Michelle Rosewall 2024. Photo Val Adamson.

I thank the eThekweni Stable Theatre team for partnering with us and quite literally opening their doors! I acknowledge that this festival would not be possible without the support funding from PESP 5, the National Arts Council, and the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture in South Africa who have put their faith in FLATFOOT and the work we do for a second year - thank you! I also acknowledge Prof. Yvette Hutchison who, alongside the URKI funded African Disability Dance Network (ADDN), has supported and encouraged our dance work and helped us grow - in practice, pedagogy, and philosophy.

Finally, I thank all the dancers, their families and their communities for the love and support that allows each and every one of us to be in the studio dancing. Long may it continue!

**Lliane Loots
Artistic Director:
FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY**





FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY. Choreography Lliane Loots.
Dancers Siseko Duba and Zinhle Nzama 2024. Photo Val Adamson.

FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY's home is nestled in the heart of the warm ocean facing city of Durban/eThekwini, on KwaZulu-Natal. Our sense of geographical location is important as it offers a distinctive flavour to this African contemporary dance company.

Often working with memory and history, FLATFOOT has developed a unique identity as a contemporary South African dance company that is known to offer artistically and socially charged dance theatre work.

Lliane Loots began FLATFOOT in 1994 as a part-time training programme that aimed to offer contemporary dance training to any Durban/eThekwini-based dancers who were able to attend the classes. The company began with no funding and simply the goodwill and political and artistic impulse to offer dance training to primarily Black dancers who have historically and economically been denied access due to the apartheid systems. In 2002 a decision was made to secure a more permanent base for some of the exceptional dancers who were coming through

the training and so, in 2003, the company became a fully registered and now internationally recognised contemporary dance company.

FLATFOOT prides itself on not only offering dance theatre work that has won numerous awards, commissions and invitations from all over the world, but also on the vast amount (21 years) of dance development and dance education work that they run in both rural and urban areas of KwaZulu-Natal. The FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL (now in its 3rd year) is a space created to showcase the large integrated and disability dance portfolio sustained by FLATFOOT as it breaks ground in the dance work it does with dancers living with both intellectual and physical disabilities. This year we are delighted to also welcome our sister dancers from WACO's DANCE MOVEMENT (under the guidance of Jarryd Watson) and very special guests: Amanuel Solomon, from Ethiopia and Gladys Agulhas from Johannesburg. The initial impulse of creating FLATFOOT - the idea of growing dance and dancers in South Africa - is something that the company still remains true to, almost 30 years since its inception.

FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY. Choreography Lliane Loots. Dancers Shonga Ndlovu and Siseko Duba 2023. Photo Val Adamson



FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY



DANCE COMPANY



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3RD FLATFOOT
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FESTIVAL

2024

STABLE THEATRE

115 Johannes Nkosi
(formerly Alice Street) Durban

BOOK @ COMPUTICKET

Tickets: R80 each

<https://computicket-boxoffice.com/org/flatfoot-dance-company>

DANCE MOVEMENT. Choreography Jarryd Watson.
Dancers Michelle Rosewall, Nelisiwe Sibiya
and Rondean Hughes 2024. Photo Val Adamson.



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Daily Programme

FLATFOOT DOWNIE DANCE COMPANY.
Choreography Lliane Loots. Dancers Sifiso Khumalo
and Kevin Govender 2022. Photo Val Adamson.

MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER

09:00 - 13:00 REHEARSAL/WORKSHOP #1 with Gladys Agulhas (Johannesburg)

TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

09:00 - 13:00 REHEARSAL/WORKSHOP #2 with Gladys Agulhas (Johannesburg)

WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER

09:00 - 13:00 REHEARSAL/WORKSHOP #3 with Gladys Agulhas (Johannesburg)

14:00 - 16:00 DIGITAL ON-LINE WORKSHOP with AMANUEL SOLOMON and KATIM
DISABILITY DANCE (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER

09:00 - 13:00 REHEARSAL/WORKSHOP #4 with Gladys Agulhas (Johannesburg)

14:00 - 16:00 *the dancer in me* open workshop with Gladys Agulhas (Johannesburg)
- booking essential as places are limited

15:30 - 16:00 All participants are invited to stay on and share in a discussion and open
forum with Gladys [facilitated by Lliane Loots]
Light refreshments will be served afterwards



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D A I L Y P R O G R A M M E

FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER

18:30 **FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL (PERFORMANCE #1)**

- 1 *Song of the Soul* with FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY and the FLATFOOT ACCESS PANTHERS. Choreography by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers
- 2 *the dance in me* - a collaboration with festival guest, Gladys Agulhas
- 3 *Coloured boy* with DANCE MOVEMENT. Choreography by Jarryd Watson
- 4 *time spent ...* with FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY and the FLATFOOT DOWNIE DANCE COMPANY. Choreography by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers

SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER

18:30 **FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL (PERFORMANCE #2)**

- 1 *Song of the Soul* with FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY and the FLATFOOT ACCESS PANTHERS. Choreography by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers
- 2 *the dance in me* - a collaboration with festival guest, Gladys Agulhas
- 3 *Serendipity* with DANCE MOVEMENT. Choreography by Jarryd Watson
- 4 *time spent ...* with FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY and the FLATFOOT DOWNIE DANCE COMPANY. Choreography by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers





FLATFOOT ACCESS WORKSHOP run by
Jürg Koch 2023. Photo Val Adamson.

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Open Workshops

WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER

**14:00 - 15:30 DIGITAL ONLINE WORKSHOP
(SAST)
WITH AMANUEL SOLOMON
AND KATIM DISABILITY DANCE**

(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

In this workshop, Amanuel Solomon will introduce the ground-breaking dance work he does in Ethiopia focusing on how dance links with monologues as a way of creating a sense of identity and belonging. His dancers from KATIM DISABILITY DANCE will also join and showcase their work in a spirit of sharing.

- To join on Zoom go to:

[https://ukzn.zoom.us/j/96475074379?
pwd=Ep5T4aFpg3t0l0y0DVsW35JbjrlbaZ.1](https://ukzn.zoom.us/j/96475074379?pwd=Ep5T4aFpg3t0l0y0DVsW35JbjrlbaZ.1)

Meeting ID: 964 7507 4379

Passcode: 036010

- Booking essential to participate live at The Stable Theatre

Contact: Lootsl@ukzn.ac.za

**FREE but booking is essential
Contact: Lootsl@ukzn.ac.za**

THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER

14:00 - 16:00 *the dancer in me ... what does it say?* LIVE WORKSHOP WITH GLADYS AGULHAS

(Johannesburg, South Africa)

STABLE THEATRE

In this inclusive workshop, veteran South African disability dance pioneer, Gladys Agulhas, takes participants on a journey that engages some important principals around self-care, the sense of touch, resistance and receptivity within both personal space and general spaces.

- Booking essential

Contact: Lootsl@ukzn.ac.za

Gladys Agulhas in teaching mode 2024. Photo Val Adamson.





PARTICIPANTS
Special Guests

FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY. Choreography Liane Loots.
Dancers Sbonga Ndlovu and Siseko Duba 2024. Photo Val Adamson.

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GLADYS AGULHAS is a multi-award winning South African dance-maker with a special focus in inclusivity in the contemporary dance sector.



S P E C I A L G U E S T

GLADYS AGULHAS

(Johannesburg, South Africa)

GLADYS has a consistent and continual interest in the body as a visual, tactile, spatial, emotional, healing mechanism, and auditory medium. Her integrated dance studies and choreographic skill started with renowned teacher Adam Benjamin. She is the recipient of a Global South Scholarship from the prestigious London Contemporary Dance School (UK). This MA Dance Participation Community activism course also pushed Gladys into screendance, and gave her opportunity to collaborate with MA screen dance student, Hannah Myers. Her studies made her pay attention to her community in Eldorado Park and now she has initiated Foundation for Community Arts - a community arts project which aims to create platforms where the community families can participate, explore dance, and experience its transformative strengths. Gladys is one of the pioneers of integrated dance in South Africa.

As part of Gladys's work with the FLATFOOT ACCESS FESTIVAL, a workshopped collaboration made with four Durban dancers (two from FLATFOOT and two from DANCE MOVEMENT) will have a special premiere on 29 and 30 November.

Gladys Agulhas in teaching mode 2024. Photo Val Adamson.

the dance in me

A collaborative creative process between Gladys Agulhas and the dancers.

Dancers: Ndumiso 'Digga' Dube, Siseko Duba (FLATFOOT) and Bheki Khotsholo and Pinky Khotsholo (Dance Movement)

A journey of moving bodies gently excavating treasures of dance from within the archives of the dancer's bodies. Individuals, duos, groups meet and depart, intertwining through conversations of dance, about dance, for dance. And the "dance" itself speaks in and through these bodies...

DANCE! What is it?

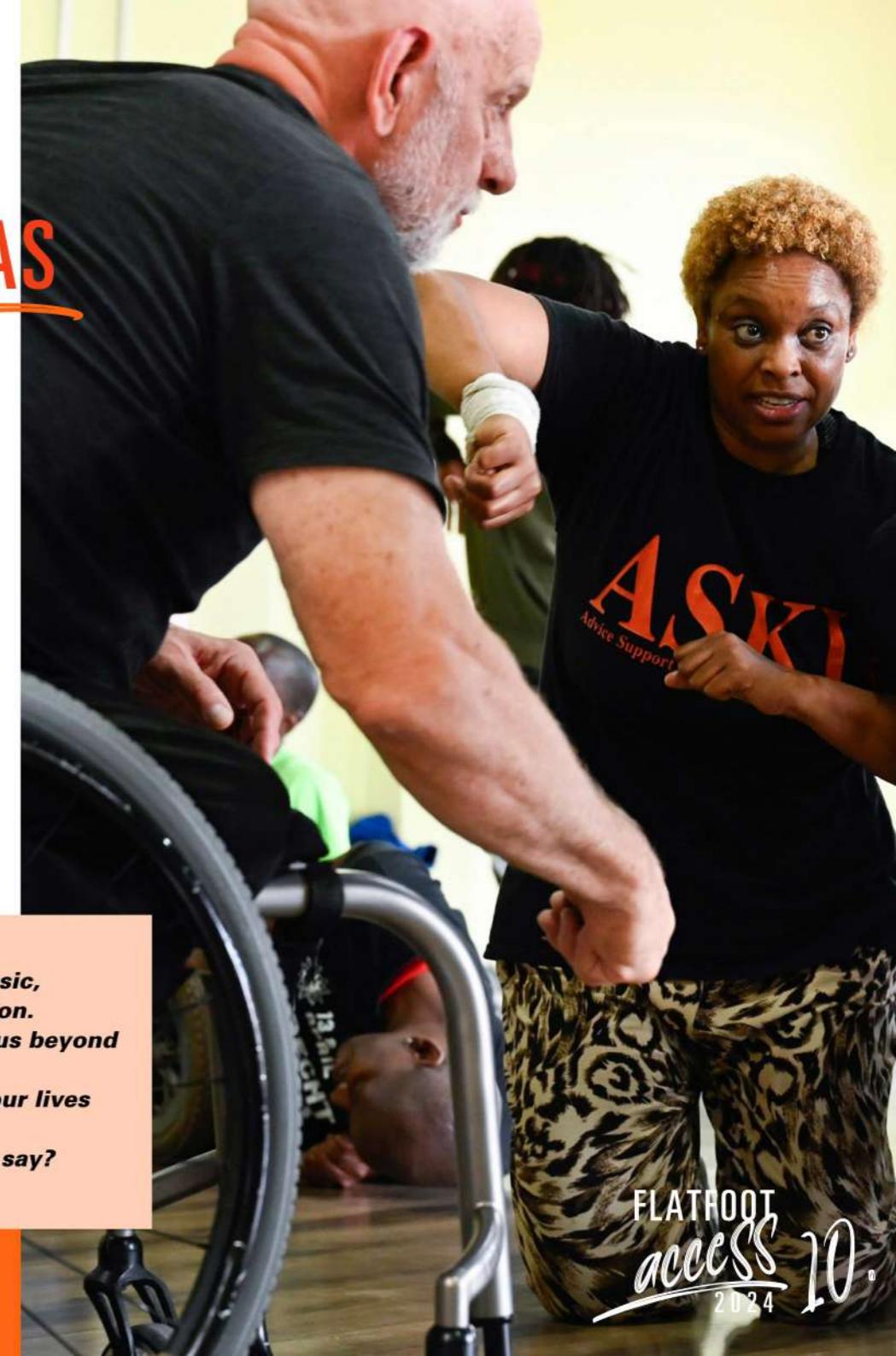
*It has an external form and like music,
it has elements that defy description.*

*It moves us in profound ways that takes us beyond
the boundaries of words.*

*We dance to celebrate the passage of our lives
from birth to death.*

The dance within me ...what does it say?

- Greta Mendez



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DANCE MOVEMENT is a dance project administered under the Wentworth Arts & Culture Organisation and is run in the South Durban Basin of the Wentworth community.

Dance Movement celebrated 30 years of existence, coinciding with our country's 30 years of democracy in 2024. The Dance Movement project has created many platforms giving access to artistic opportunities through youth outreach programmes, professional development for young emerging dancers to launch a career, inclusive arts and performance training where people living with disabilities have access to train dance and create careers. Dance Movement also hosts and participates in various exhibitions through dance festivals, productions, theatre performances and international dance festivals and competitions that contribute to the growth and sustainability of dance in the arts sector.



S P E C I A L G U E S T

DANCE MOVEMENT

(Wentworth, South Africa)

ABOUT JARRYD WATSON

JARRYD WATSON is a professional contemporary and hip-hop dancer, artistic director, and entrepreneur who has worked in the arts and dance industry for 17 years. He received his dance education from Dance Educators of South Africa (DESA) and the Performing Arts Centre of Education (PACE) where he also trained and developed his skills as an actor, theatre musical singing, and direction. He has performed in local and national shows and productions as a lead dancer/actor in *New Beginnings* (Playhouse), *Fame* (Courtyard Theatre), *One Voice* (Sneddon Theatre), *Bollywood/Hollywood* (Suncoast Zone), *East meets West* (Emperor Palace in JHB), *South-South - A free mind* (Sneddon Theatre), *Funk it up* (Barnyard Theatre) and internationally he has danced in the Bollywood film *Race* in India. During 2007 he was appointed the Artistic Director of the Wentworth Arts and Culture Organisation and created the Dance Movement project that he has run ever since, creating platforms and access to the arts for disadvantaged youth, dancers, artists, people living with disabilities and people in rural areas.



DANCE MOVEMENT. Choreography by Jarryd Watson. Dancers Kyle Bowles and Cole Walljee 2024. Photo Val Adamson.



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Coloured boy

Dancers: Denise Greeves, Kyle Bowles and Cole Walljee

Choreography by Jarryd Watson

Coloured boy is a performance that explores the stereotypes surrounding the masculinities of a boy growing up in a Coloured township in South Africa, and what it means to be man in a community that is faced with many challenges and riddled with social ills. Young coloured men have been left with tough decisions in how to sustain a certain lifestyle for survival. Combined with poetry and dance this contemporary dance work is performed by three artists who all bring their unique artistry and creativity to this performance.

Serendipity

Dancers: Kyle Bowles, Michelle Rosewall, Michael Paul and Tayla Beattie

Choreography by Jarryd Watson

Serendipity is a performance that portrays two dancers who are wheelchair users, and who were friends growing up during the apartheid era. But when the Groups Areas Act of 1950 law was passed and imposed on racial groups in South Africa, these two friends were divided and forced to live towns which separated them because of their different races. 1994 marked a pivotal time in our history and the commencement of our "freedom" in equality and fairness. Through the celebration of 30 years of democracy and after not seeing each other for 30 years, by a chance encounter, they reunite, rekindle their friendship and embrace their new journey in life together.



DANCE MOVEMENT. Choreography Jarryd Watson. Dancer Michelle Rosewall and Rondean Hughes 2024. Photo Val Adamson.



KATIM DISABILITY AWARENESS AND SUPPORT was founded with the mission of transforming societal perceptions of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) through the powerful mediums of art and sport.



Recognising that self-esteem, creativity, and self-acceptance are critical for PwDs to fully engage with society, Katim are dedicated to unlocking their potential. Their efforts align with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which promotes the development of talents and abilities for achieving independence and full societal participation. Through dance, art, and performance, Katim strive to inspire PwDs to embrace their hidden talents while challenging societal stereotypes. Since 2010, their team of experienced dancers and performers with disabilities has worked to foster inclusion and reshape public attitudes.

ABOUT AMANUEL SOLOMON

AMANUEL SOLOMON is a professional dancer and choreographer and founder of Katim Disability Dance, the first company in Ethiopia led by a disabled dancer. He first encountered integrated dance as an orphan with Adugna dance, then with Jackson, whose formal name is Tadesse Gebre, and later he went on to work with other companies like Destino Dance Company and on Addis Guzo. He now leads Katim Disability Dance, a mixed ability company who have performed at the National Theatre in Ethiopia and the Alliance Française. They have run an integrated dance festival, and also work on a dance therapy project in eight disabled schools, engaging intellectual (Down) disability, deaf, blind, and mobility-limited students.

S P E C I A L G U E S T

KATIM DISABILITY DANCE

(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)



Katim Disability Awareness and Support Ethiopia 2024.

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FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY offers a now 8-year-old integrated dance programme working with dancers with Down Syndrome.

FLATFOOT have begun to explore and develop a partnering working/training methodology that opens up participation working with dancers living with intellectual disabilities. This unique dance programme is unprecedented in South Africa and is a celebration of the power of dance to shift lives and to negotiate difference and inclusivity. FLATFOOT has - as one of its core values - the practice of dance (in education and in performance) as a tool towards what it calls "living democracy". This particular dance programme celebrates community across the divides of race, gender and ability. The company owes its original formation to work started in 2017 by Dutch choreographer and teacher, Adriaan Luteijn from INTRODANS (Arnhem, The Netherlands).

time spent ...

Choreography by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers

Dancers: Sifiso Khumalo, Zinhle Nzama, Jabu Siphika, and Sbonga Ndlovu (FLATFOOT) and Charles Phillips, Kevin Govender, Karl Hebbelmann and Sofia Jameson (FLATFOOT Downie Dance Company)

In honouring an eight-year dance programme working with a group of eight unique dancers, *time spent ...* is a dance journey into the intricacies of friendships and relationships, and the ever-changing nature of social circles. Choreographed by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers, this dance work is a tender and sometimes painful reminder that we are each other's mirror in our search of a common humanity.



FLATFOOT DOWNIE DANCE COMPANY.
Choreography Lliane Loots. Dancers
Michaela Munro, Charles Phillips,
Kevin Govender and Karl Hebbelmann
2023. Photo Val Adamson.

FLATFOOT DOWNIE DANCE COMPANY

(Durban, South Africa)



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FLATFOOT ACCESS PANTHERS

(Durban, South Africa)

With the success and growth of the FLATFOOT Downie dance programme and wanting to stretch inclusivity, and with request from more and more dancers wanting space to train, at the beginning of 2023, FLATFOOT set out to start a new intake of dancers. After a series of workshops, and not excluding anyone, a group of five amazing dancers stuck it out and the group - now referred to as the "FLATFOOT ACCESS PANTHERS" - was born. The group was named by Kelly Louw - one of the participants. This is their second public performance together alongside the FLATFOOT company.

SONGS OF THE SOUL

Dance is the hidden language of the soul
- Martha Graham

Choreography by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the dancers
Dancers: Sifiso Khumalo, Zinhle Nzama, Siseko Duba, Jabu Siphika, Sbonga Ndlovu, and Ndumiso 'Digga' Dube (FLATFOOT) and Kelly Louw, Danielle Spangenberg, Kyle Myers, Thomas Ras and Lindokuhle Ndlovu (FLATFOOT ACCESS PANTHERS)

FLATFOOT ACCESS PANTHERS. Choreography Lliane Loots.
Dancers Sifiso Khumalo and Kelley Louw 2023. Photo Val Adamson.



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Festival Credits

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR Lliane Loots

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Wesley Maherry

LIGHTING Lisa Goldstone

TECHNICAL AND FESTIVAL SUPPORT PROJECT TEAM

Marcia Mzindle and Clare Craighead

PUBLICITY AND MARKETING Versfeld & Associates

GRAPHIC DESIGN CreativeSTUFF

FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHER Val Adamson



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(Right) FLATFOOT DOWNEY DANCE COMPANY. Choreography Lliane Loots. Dancers Ndumiso Dube and Sofia Jameson 2023. Photo Val Adamson. **(Below) FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY.** Choreography Lliane Loots. Dancer Siseko Duba 2023. Photo Val Adamson.



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<https://www.facebook.com/flatfootdancecompany/>



[@flatfootdanceco](https://www.instagram.com/@flatfootdanceco)



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrA8hRbbZyEKCsDJqt9Un2O>

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