

SIOBHAN DAVIES STUDIOS

Siobhan Davies Studios (SDS) announces today the appointment of Annie Pui Ling Lok and Kat Bridge who will job share the role of Artistic Director from April 2021.

The new directorship marks a dynamic time for Siobhan Davies Studios both artistically and organisationally. This change arises from Artistic Director Siobhan Davies' desire to hand on leadership of the organisation and ensure a strong future, bringing the wealth of independent dance practice to audiences. In conversation with artists in the dance sector, SDS have had the opportunity to reflect on current practice and plan a future in which they can meet changing needs. SDS wants to respond flexibly to the needs of a diverse community of artists pushing the boundaries of dance and choreography. This will involve a shift from producing toward a more flexible approach that redirects resources in support of a greater number of artists.

Annie Pui Ling Lok and Kat Bridge comment:

"We want to acknowledge the huge point of change for Sue, the whole Siobhan Davies Studios team and the wider dance community and we extend our appreciation at being trusted to join them for this chapter. Our vision builds on Siobhan Davies' uncompromising spirit; always exploring where dance can go next."

"Percentages of Black and People of Colour professionals working in the arts and in leadership and academic roles are still incredibly low and our appointment is an opportunity for change to pick up some much-needed pace, particularly for underrepresented and marginalised individuals and groups who are working, who want to work and want to participate in dance and the arts."

"These are complex and urgent times where we must collectively imagine and secure a future for dance working alongside artists, neighbours and peers. We are advocating for a dance space where anyone feels welcome crossing the threshold and for the necessity of real presence, human contact and physical interaction especially in these times of increased disembodiment and distancing."

"In the next 8 months, prior to taking up the post in April 2021, we will be spending some time with Sue, the team and Board to begin a radical process of transition for the organisation along with forward-looking change for the sector and beyond."

SDS 1988-2020 Artistic Director Siobhan Davies said:

"I am delighted that Annie and Kat have been chosen. They are a great partnership. I have already experienced their far-sightedness, attention to detail, commitment to hard work and good judgement. They are generous in spirit and sensitive listeners. I have also experienced Annie's delicious sense of humour while working with her."

“I would also like to mention the incredible commitment to dance that the other applicants, and their supporters, demonstrated during this process. I wish to thank them very much for their hard work and contributions. I was very moved by how each of them have both a distinctive and collective sense of what dance can be for now and in the future.”

“A new generation of dance artists are addressing contexts very different to those I needed to when I began to dance in 1967 — and I feel an acceleration in artists’ need to negotiate the complexities we all live within now. I wish Annie and Kat well with all my heart and will be there for them if and when needed.”

Emma Gladstone, Chair of the Board Siobhan Davies Studios said:

“Together with the Board of Trustees, I am truly delighted to welcome Annie Pui Ling Lok and Kat Bridge as the new Artistic Directors of Siobhan Davies Studios. As befits a major change such as this, with founding Artistic Director Siobhan Davies leaving her leadership of the organisation after decades of creativity and invention, it has taken time and much valued input from artists, colleagues, trustees and our partners in Independent Dance to get to this point. We are excited about Annie and Kat’s vision for the future in these challenging times and look forward to working with them as SDS launches into the new chapter of its journey.”

Siobhan Davies Studios announced in February 2020 that Siobhan Davies will step down from her role as Artistic Director. More than 30 years after founding this pioneering and investigative contemporary art organisation, Siobhan Davies Studios is today widely regarded as the UK leader of investigative and interdisciplinary work in dance and choreography. They will announce their Autumn programme soon.

Editors' Notes

Annie Pui Ling Lok

Annie has been working for the last 20 years as an independent dance artist and as a bio-dynamic craniosacral therapist (BCST) since 2014. Her work as a BCST practitioner underpins and supports her work as a maker, performer, facilitator and teacher working specifically with experimental live performance in contexts that are interdisciplinary and collaborative. As a British born transnational female Chinese/Other, her practice is contextualised by the wide geographical and emotional scattering of cultural and artistic identities.

Annie has directed over 30 works with professional and non-professional performers ranging in age, training, social and cultural backgrounds in the UK and abroad. She was part of the tutor team at the CTET student clinic and has lectured at a number of HE institutions including Trinity Laban, LCDS, Goldsmiths, Bedfordshire, Surrey, Lincoln, Brighton and Roehampton University on the MA, PG and undergraduate programmes.

Kat Bridge

With over 20 years' experience in the cultural sector, most visibly as Artistic Director of Greenwich Dance (2013-2018), Kat works independently as a producer, curator and consultant. Continuing a career-long passion in supporting dance artists and artistic practice, she has recently worked alongside artists Amy Bell, Janine Harrington, Julie Cunningham, Rachael Young, Stuart Waters and Theo Clinkard and with organisations Artists4Artists, Dance4 and Trinity Laban. Beyond producing 16 years of programmes, projects and events at Greenwich Dance, her portfolio has included evaluating, mentoring, teaching, lecturing at London Southbank University and collaborating with fellow Producer Lydia Wharf. Kat is particularly engaged in quiet activism, developing work outside of expected routes and supporting visibility for under-represented identities and / or practices.

Siobhan Davies Studios

Siobhan Davies Studios connects artists and audiences through investigative, collaborative and interdisciplinary activity at their studios and beyond. Their studios are an incubator for new ideas — their activities concentrate on supporting and showcasing new work by experimental artists, and they bring this same spirit of experimentation and investigation to all areas of their work.

Founded and led since 1988 by pioneering choreographer Siobhan Davies CBE, Siobhan Davies Dance (SDD) evolved from a national and international touring dance company into an investigative contemporary arts organisation. When departing from a permanent company model, Davies took the bold step of moving the focus of her choreographic work away from the stage toward museums, galleries and other alternative spaces that allow for a new intimacy between audience and performers. SDD is widely regarded as a national leader of investigative and interdisciplinary work in dance and choreography, and specifically for presenting original and inventive dance in galleries and visual arts settings nationally and internationally.

In 2006, the RIBA award-winning Siobhan Davies Studios opened in London, UK, realising Siobhan Davies' long-standing goal of establishing a permanent base for the organisation and for independent dance artists. The Studios are a vibrant arts space in central London where artists make dance and where audiences engage with a regular programme of performances, exhibitions, discussions, classes and workshops.

Siobhan Davies Studios is also the base for Independent Dance (ID), with whom they share consortium funding from Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation. ID is the UK's leading artist development organisation in contemporary dance.

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