LOUISE RICHARDS | FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Louise is the driving force behind Motionhouse’s trailblazing journey and global success. Her vision shapes the company’s activity and strategic direction.

Louise’s skill for recognising opportunities for the company has enabled Motionhouse to set rather than follow trends, initiating the expansion of our repertoire to include outdoor work, to appeal to a range of festival and other audiences, and producing many of the acclaimed large-scale productions that have made us a well-respected player in the UK arts sector. She is instrumental in developing the many partnerships that Motionhouse enjoys and is the producer of the company’s extensive programme.

Under Louise’s direction Motionhouse has developed a wide reaching education and training programme, reaching annually nearly 10,000 young participants. Committed to the development of the sector as a whole, she also acts as a mentor for young performers and arts organisations, as well as developing a range of apprenticeships and professional development strands for the Motionhouse programme.

Originally a dancer and choreographer, Louise remains closely involved with the performing company and creative process. A recognised leader in her sector, Louise is regularly invited to attend and speak at seminars and conferences. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

KEVIN FINNAN MBE | FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kevin is known for his dynamic, highly visual productions integrating dance, circus and digital technology. He is responsible for the distinctive style that Motionhouse is renowned for.

H2017 Ee is passionate about exploring and questioning the traditional use of space in performance, which has led to the creation of an extensive body of work developed over three decades. He is regularly commissioned to develop extraordinary dance spectacles most notably as Choreographer and Movement Director of the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

He is currently developing Watermusic, a large-scale outdoor spectacle for the Aarhus 2017 European Capital of Culture celebrations in Randers Harbour, Denmark in September. Kevin has created major productions celebrated globally, including more than 30 theatre and outdoor festival productions and large-scale outdoor spectacles, bespoke performance events to mark cultural capital celebrations in Copenhagen and Marseille-Provence and the launch of the London 2012 Festival with The Voyage in Birmingham city centre.

Committed to collaboration, he has worked with artists including writer A.L. Kennedy, installation artist Rosa Sanchez, film-makers Logela Multimedia, set visionary Simon Dormon and international companies such as Legs On The Wall and Vancouver’s Headlines Theatre.

Kevin has an MA in Contemporary Performing Arts from University College Bretton Hall and a PhD in Theatre from Warwick University. He is a Research Fellow at the University of Warwick and Associate Artist of Greenwich+Docklands International Festival. In 2013 he was made an honorary Doctor of Letters at the University of Warwick in recognition of the importance of his work and his service to the arts. He was awarded an MBE in 2013 for his services to dance.

**DANCER BIOGRAPHIES**

JUNIOR CUNNINGHAM, REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Junior is Motionhouse’s Rehearsal Director. Originally from Birmingham, UK, he was encouraged to study contemporary dance by his sister when he was 17 years old.

He joined the Northern School of Contemporary Dance in 1999 and graduated in 2002 with a BPA (Hons) Degree in Contemporary Dance.

In Autumn 2002 Junior joined Motionhouse as an apprentice. He then joined the company full-time in January 2003 and has since performed in Volatile, Perfect, Driven, Run!, Renaissance, Dreams and Ruin, Road to the Beach, Dancing Inside, Scattered, Underground, Cascade, Chaser, Waiting Game, Traction, The Voyage, Fragile, Tigress, The Voyage, Lost, Torque, Captive and Broken.

MARTINA KNIGHT

Originally from Torino, Italy, Martina began dancing at early age, studying ballet and modern at Centro Danza Arkè.

After graduating with a BSc in Sport Science from the University of Torino, Martina moved to London in 2006, where she trained at the London Contemporary Dance School and graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Performance in 2008. In 2010 she completed an MA in performance.

Before joining Motionhouse, Martina worked with Henri Oguike Dance Company and Tom Dale Company.

Martina joined Motionhouse in 2012 and has performed in Broken, Scattered, Lost, The Voyage, Underground, Captive, Cascade, Traction, Chaser, Fragile, Tigress and Torque.

CHRIS KNIGHT

Chris is from Hereford, UK. He completed a Foundation Course at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance in 2009, and graduated with a degree from London Contemporary Dance School in 2012.

Prior to joining Motionhouse, he toured with companies including 2Faced Dance and Protein Dance.

Chris joined Motionhouse in December 2013 and has since performed in Scattered, Captive and Underground.

LUKA OWEN

Luka is from Coventry, UK. She began dancing at a very early age and at 16 won the title of Britain’s Most Talented Performer.

She graduated from The Laban School of Contemporary Dance with a BA (Hons) and trained for a year to perform as an aerialist in Godiva Awakes, a Cultural Olympiad project created by Imagineer productions. This was followed by an apprenticeship with Motionhouse on the 2012 production The Voyage.

Luka joined Motionhouse in 2013 to tour Captive, and has so far also performed in Broken, BLOCK, Fragile and Scattered.

DANIEL MASSARELLA

Daniel is from Cheshire, UK. He started dancing aged 14 and joined Cheshire Youth Dance Company.

Daniel went to Middlesex University before transferring to The Northern School of Contemporary Dance. He graduated from NSCD in 2010 and was awarded their Annual Performance Prize. He then went on to become a member of Verve11, the Post Graduate performance company of NSCD. Whilst with Verve11, Daniel worked with a variety of choreographers and graduated in 2011 with a Distinction.

In September 2011 Daniel joined EarthFall Dance to tour with the comany’s award winning show At Swim Two Boys. In May 2012 he joined Simon Birch Dance Company for the creation and tour of Terranium-Dance in a Bubble. He also performed Willis Dorner’s Bodies in Urban Space as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

Daniel joined Motionhouse in 2013 for the first American tour of Scattered. He has since performed in BLOCK, Broken, Captive, Underground, Lost, Fragile and Tigress.

NAOMI TADEVOSSIAN

Originally from Hampshire, UK, Naomi learned a variety of dance disciplines at Southsea School of Dance. She continued her training at London Contemporary Dance School completing with a First Class BA Hons Dance Degree in 2011, followed by an MA distinction in 2013.

She joined National Dance Company Wales as an apprentice for one year and later Guest Dancer for two seasons.

Since joining Motionhouse in 2016, Naomi has performed in Broken, BLOCK and Scattered.

ALASDAIR STEWART

Alasdair is from The New Forest, UK. He began his dance training at Barton Peveril College and then joined Hampshire Youth Dance Company and worked as an apprentice with Full Force Dance Company, under the direction of Helen Parlor.

He began advanced pre-vocational training at The Place’s Centre for Advanced Training and went on to graduate with First Class BA (Hons) from London Contemporary Dance School.

Since graduating Alasdair has performed with Hofesh Shechter Company and Dance United. He graduated with an MA in Contemporary Dance Performance from the London Contemporary Dance School in 2010.

Alasdair joined Motionhouse for Scattered in 2009 and has since performed in BLOCK, Broken, Torque, Lost, Captive, Cascade, Underground, Fragile, Traction, The Voyage, Tigress and Waiting Game.

REBECCA WILLIAMS

Originally from the West Midlands, UK, Rebecca was first introduced to contemporary dance while studying at Kidderminster College.

She graduated from The Northern School of Contemporary Dance in July 2010 after completing a three year degree. During two years as a freelance dancer she worked for choreographers and companies including Sandra Harnisch-Lacey, Anna Watkins, Wayne Stable and Joon Dance.

Rebecca joined Motionhouse in March 2012 and has since performed in The Voyage, Scattered, Lost, Broken, Underground, Captive, Traction, Torque and Chaser.