**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.

He 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.

More recently he developed Watermusic, a large-scale outdoor spectacle for the Aarhus 2017 European Capital of Culture celebrations in Randers Harbour, Denmark in September 2017 and Lumen, a large-scale outdoor spectacle in the lead up to the TM2021 European Capital of Culture celebrations in Timișoara, Romania in October 2018. Kevin has created major productions celebrated globally, including more than 35 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.

In 2017 Kevin became first Visiting Professor of Dance at Birmingham City University’s Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. He 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 has been Motionhouse’s Rehearsal Director since 2009. 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 Broken, Captive, Cascade, Chaser, Dancing Inside, Dreams and Ruin, Driven, Fragile, Lost, Midwinter Magic, Perfect, Renaissance, Road to the Beach, Run!, Scattered, The Voyage, Tigress, Torque, Traction, Underground, Volatile and Waiting Game.

**BERTA CONTIJOCH**

Originally from Barcelona, Spain, Berta studied contemporary dance at the Institut del Teatre, Conservatory of Dance (2010-2016), before performing as a member of the Postgraduate Company VERVE at Northern School of Contemporary Dance (2016-2017). She graduated with an MA in Contemporary Dance in 2017. Afterwards she joined Motionhouse as an artist in training for 6 months.

Berta has performed and toured with choreographers and companies including Southpaw Dance Company directed by Robby Graham, performing Carousel and Erimus; and the last site specific creation by the artistic director Hansel Cereza, choreographer of Cirque du Soleil’s “Love”.

As well as performing, Berta has been teaching and training other disciplines including Hand to Hand (circus discipline) among others.

Berta joined Motionhouse in February 2019. She has since performed in Charge, Gravity, Lost, Starchitects and WILD.

**CHRIS KNIGHT**

Chris, originally from Hereford, began performing with 2Faced Dance. He completed the Foundation Course at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, and graduated with a BA (Hons) degree from London Contemporary Dance School in 2012.

Prior to joining Motionhouse, he worked in the UK and abroad on productions for Protein Dance, 2Faced Dance, Hélène Blackburn, Company Decalage, Balletto Civile, Matthias Kass, Maura Morales, Shumpei Nemoto, Robin Dingemans and Sweetshop Revolution.

Chris joined Motionhouse in 2014 for their USA tour of Scattered. He has since performed in BLOCK, Captive, Charge, Lumen, Midwinter Magic, Starchitects, Underground, Watermusic and WILD.

**CHARLOTTE HANNAH**

Charlotte started training at a young age in gymnastics before delving into contemporary dance. She first performed at Sadlers Wells and The Royal Festival Hall as part of U. DANCE and Youth Dance England. Charlotte continued training at The University of Chichester where she gained a BA (Hons) in Dance and also took part in an exchange to York University, Canada.

She was a member of 3Fall Dance Company 2015, touring theatres nationally with works by Detta Howe, Stuart Waters and Ceyda Tanc. In 2016 she joined Dillon Dance and performed at Resolution Dance Festival, London. As a member of JV2 in 2018, Charlotte worked on developing her technique alongside building theatrical skills.

In-between projects Charlotte has choreographed and performed in music videos and has interests in community dance, acrobatics and travelling.

Charlotte joined Motionhouse in February 2019. She has since performed in BLOCK, Captive, Charge, Happy Hour and Starchitects.

**DANIEL MASSARELLA**

Daniel is from Ellesmere Port in 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 and graduated in 2011 with a Distinction.

Prior to joining Motionhouse, Danny worked with Earthfall, touring with the company’s award winning show At Swim Two Boys.

Daniel joined Motionhouse in 2013 for the first American tour of Scattered. He has since performed in BLOCK, Broken, Captive, Cascade, Charge, Fragile, Knot, Lost, Lumen, Midwinter Magic, Tigress, Traction, Underground, Watermusic and WILD.

**BETH PATTISON**

Beth joined Motionhouse in September 2017 as an apprentice through Northern School of Contemporary Dance, becoming a full company member in March 2018.

Following completion of the Dance City Centre for Advanced Training programme (2008-2014), Beth trained at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance (BA Hons Contemporary Dance, 2014-2017). Before joining Motionhouse, she undertook a residency at balletLORENT.

Her performance experience includes: movement-image – BA3 Commissioned Works, Bonnie Bird Theatre (2017); ACT|BALANCE – Collaboration with Tuli Litvak, Central Saint Martins (2017); Tracing Gestures: Stephanie Schober – BA3 Commissioned Works, Bonnie Bird Theatre (2016); everyBODY, Selfridges London – choreographed by Maxine Doyle and commissioned by Wayne McGregor (2016), and Rude Health Festival, Trinity College (2015).

Since joining Motionhouse, Beth has performed in BLOCK, Captive, Charge, Lost, Lumen, Midwinter Magic, Starchitects and WILD.

**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 prevocational 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 gained 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, Captive, Cascade, Charge, Exo, Fragile, Happy Hour, Lost, Lumen, Midwinter Magic, The Voyage, Tigress, Torque, Traction, Underground, Waiting Game, Watermusic and WILD.

**SHANNON KATE PLATT**

Originally from Wigan, Shannon started dancing at the age of 6 years old. At the age of 14 she became part of the CAT scheme at the Lowry in Manchester, where she trained in Ballet and Contemporary.

Shannon started her full time dance training at Centre Pointe Vocational College achieving ISTD teaching qualifications and also gained a huge variety of performance experience. Shannon graduated from Centre Pointe in July 2016 and was awarded a place at Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, some of her highlights included working with Mark Baldwin, Kim Brandstrup and Jason Mabana, whilst also performing Linear Remains choreographed by Rafael Bonachelor restaged by Paul Liburd.

Shannon joined Motionhouse in February 2019. She has since performed in Captive, Charge, Starchitects and WILD.