

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 Dornon 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, Watermusic and Waiting Game.

DANIEL MASSARELLA, CREATIVE ASSISTANT

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

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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, Nobody, Tigress, Traction, Underground, Watermusic, WILD and Wondrous Stories.

ALEX DE LA BASTIDE

Alex is originally from Northwich in Cheshire in the UK and started contemporary dance and the age of 14 at the Lowry CAT scheme. She then joined Rambert school when she was 17, where she graduated in June 2021.

Alex joined Motionhouse in June 2021 and has performed in Captive, HENGE, Knot, Nobody and Wondrous Stories.

OLLY BELL

Born in Leeds, UK, Olly began his dance training on the Northern Ballet CAT Scheme, later transferring to the CAT Scheme at Northern School of Contemporary Dance. He completed his BA(Hons) Contemporary Dance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and joined the EDGE Postgraduate Company in his final year. Whilst with EDGE, Olly toured the UK and Europe in works by Tamsin Fitzgerald (2Faced Dance Company), Ben Wright, Athina Vahla and Phillipe Blanchard.

After graduation he went on to join Rosie Kay Dance Company for the creation and UK Tour of 10 Soldiers and perform in a UK and USA Tour of 5 Soldiers. Olly has also performed the principal role of Jaschui in the Royal Opera House production of Death in Venice, directed by David McVicar and choreographed by Lynne Page. As well as performing in theatre work, he also enjoys being part of dance in film, recently starring in the TV Series of Brave New World choreographed by Maxine Doyle (Punch Drunk), and also performed in music videos for artists such as Groove Armada, The Ninth Wave and Low Island.

Olly joined Motionhouse in February 2020 and has since performed Captive, Happy Hour, Knot, Nobody, WILD and Wondrous Stories.

LLEWELYN BROWN

Llewelyn is from South Wales, he got into dancing through gymnastics and with a connection to a local theatre school, learning dancing, singing and acting.

He joined the National Dance Company of Wales Associates Programme at the age of 13 then moved on to Rambert School where he graduated in June 2021.

Llewelyn joined Motionhouse in June 2021, and has performed *Captive*, *Nobody*, *WILD* and *Wondrous Stories*.

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*, *Nobody*, *Starchitects*, *WILD* and *Wondrous Stories*.

KATE HOOLEY

Kate is originally from Cramlington, Northumberland, UK. She began her dance journey as a gymnast and started dancing through the Dance City CAT scheme when she was 14. Kate then trained at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance graduating in July 2021.

Before joining Motionhouse full time in September 2022, Kate was a Professional Placement Scheme Dancer from the Northern School of Contemporary Dance with Motionhouse. Kate has performed in *HENGE* and *Wondrous Stories*.

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, Knot, Lumen, Midwinter Magic, Nobody, Starchitects, Gravity, Underground, Watermusic, WILD and Wondrous Stories.

BETH PATTISON

Born in Durham, Beth started dancing at a young age. In 2008 she was introduced to Contemporary Dance at the Centre for Advanced Training Programme at Dance City, Newcastle, where she trained for 6 Years.

Following this, Beth went on to study for a BA(Hons) Contemporary Dance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Her highlights included performing alongside Punch Drunk as part of the everyBODY Project in Selfridges and being a part of the creative processes and performances of work by Stephanie Schober and Maciej Kuźmiński.

Beth joined Motionhouse in 2017 as an apprentice dancer through the postgraduate diploma programme at Northern School of Contemporary Dance. In 2018 she joined the company as a full time company member and has performed in BLOCK, Captive, Charge, Happy Hour, Lost, Lumen, Midwinter Magic, Nobody, Starchitects, WILD and Wondrous Stories.

JOEL PRADAS REGUILL

Originally from Spain, Joel studied contemporary dance at the Institut del Teatre, Conservatory of Dance, in Barcelona (2010-2016), before performing as a member of the Postgraduate Company VERVE at Northern School of Contemporary Dance (2016-2017). He graduated with an MA in Contemporary Dance in 2017.

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His previous credits include Leviathon (Autumn Tour, 2017), various shows at the Edinburgh Festival and on tour with VERVE (2017), and Momentum (2015).

Joel joined Motionhouse in 2018, and has performed in BLOCK, Captive, Nobody, Starchitects, WILD and Wondrous Stories.

RIKKAI SCOTT

Born in Hamilton, Bermuda, Rikkai first trained at United Dance Productions. He performed tap solos as an opening act for Beyonce and Alicia Keys' concert at Bermuda's National Stadium. After moving to London to complete his studies at London Contemporary Dance School, he graduated in 2012 with a BA (Hons) in Fine Arts. He has worked with De Kiss Moves Fusion Dance Company, Avant Garde Dance, Boy Blue Entertainment, Michaela Cisarikova Dance Collective, Jean Aberu Dance, Far From The Norm and he was the hip hop tutor at DanceEast.

In 2016 he founded Rhythmflow and has been commissioned by Artists4Artists and Bermuda Cultural Affairs. His duet SENSE was shortlisted at Festival Sentidos and his film TAPOUT won best film at The Artists Creative Award Platform in 2021.

Rikkai joined Motionhouse in June 2021 and has performed in Captive, HENGE, Nobody and Wondrous Stories.