



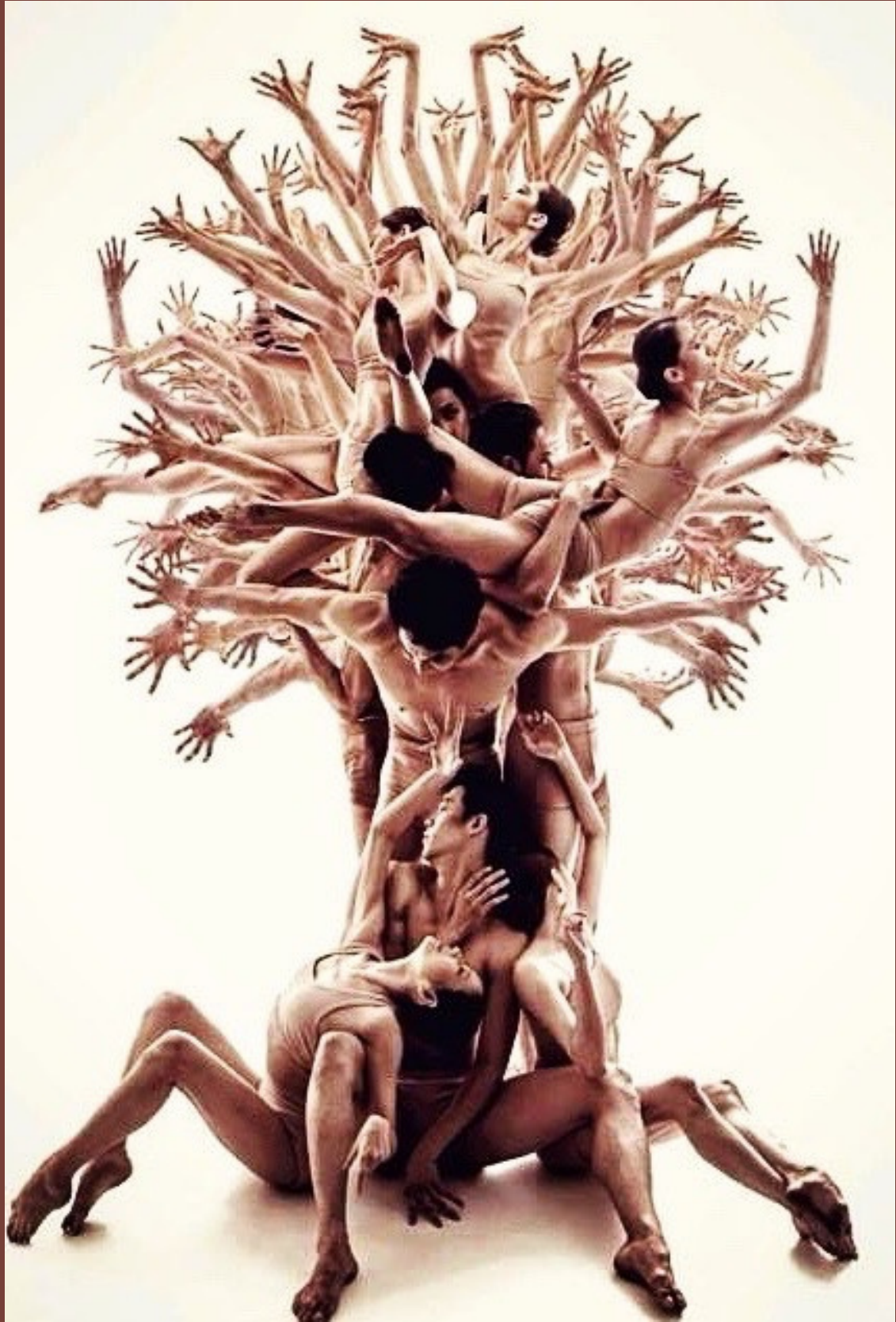
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# Jazz Theatre Arts.UK

A Platform that advocates for the advancement of UK Jazz Arts & Artists

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Prepared by  
Dollie Henry & Paul Jenkins





# A Vision for UK Jazz Theatre Arts



**JAZZ THEATRE ARTS.UK aka JTA.UK** has been established to provide an essential platform to advocate, promote and support the collective voices of our UK Jazz creatives, performers, practitioners, and teachers.

**By sharing, shaping and solving we are better able to represent and celebrate the spirit and expression of the Jazz Art form.**

**JTA.UK** is on a mission to secure a legitimate space and pathway, that offers our UK Jazz dance theatre practitioners and the wider jazz arts community an opportunity to, get involved in, connect with, access and explore, the real representation and value of the Jazz Dance Theatre Art form.

**JTA.UK** will provide a much needed dais to **Discuss, Deliberate and Deliver.**

Open to industry professionals and the performing arts sector, dancers and educators, to help widen the perceptions and delivery of the jazz art form and share our lived experiences, knowledge and expertise as a jazz tribe.

**JTA.UK** aims to establish a long overdue UK jazz arts legacy, supporting the movement towards greater equality and diversity within our British Arts sector, by which we can serve and access the historical and cultural lineage of the Jazz idiom, through an EDI portal that supports the future of jazz arts education and jazz theatre performance.

## REIGNITING THE JAZZ IDIOM

**JTA.UK** recognise the importance of bringing together a community of like-minded jazz practitioners, partners and supporters, to develop a powerful voice that can speak to and for the UK Jazz Arts community.

We also recognise as UK based jazz artists, that now is the time, to instigate real and long-lasting **CHANGE**, so this incredible art form and its unique expression is not lost to all completely.

The drive for **JTA.UK**, is to raise the platform and visibility for our jazz practitioners, dancers and teachers and all who express through the Jazz idiom.



**success**  
isn't just  
about what you  
accomplish  
in your life  
it's about what  
you inspire  
others to do





Photography of BOP Company Dancers ©bopjazzuk

# The First UK Jazz Arts Consortium

## Aims & Objectives

**JTA.UK** has been initiated to create and sustain a UK based Jazz Consortium that will provide an essential voice and platform for UK Jazz artists, practitioner, dancers and teachers.

**JTA.UK** Consortium will instigate and develop a series of strategies to begin to address and support the UK Jazz dance community. We will lobby on issues such as; UK Jazz Dance Theatre legacy, artistic visibility, creative representation and equal opportunities within our British dance sector.

**JTA.UK** will introduce a space and platform for the UK and International Jazz dance community. The purpose, to serve as a professional artistic and creative Jazz Hub, to access practical resources, discussion forums and live/online events and advocate for UK Jazz Dance Theatre Arts.

By **Sharing, Shaping and Solving**, the Jazz Arts Consortium's mission is to support and further develop, the visibility of the art form, revise Jazz dance education and curriculums, so to further promote the historical and contextual lineage of the jazz dance theatre art form.



## Main Areas of Pursuit

- *To build a coherent and consolidated UK Jazz Dance, Music & Theatre Arts Community.*
- *To offer industry representation for UK Jazz Artists & Jazz Practitioners.*
- *To create a platform for artistic and creative development and performance opportunities.*
- *To Increase visibility and links of UK Jazz Dance creativity and creatives, both nationally and internationally.*
- *To align and validate representation of the Black jazz dance aesthetic, lineage and historical context within PA/HE Education, Awarded Dance Bodies and Dance Curriculums that provide jazz dance in education and training.*
- *To create and embolden, an accessible Resource Service & Archival Hub for the UK and international Jazz Dance Theatre Community.*
- *To foster and sustain relationships with organisations to access Funding and performance opportunities for UK Jazz Theatre Arts and Artists.*
- *To establish a legitimate Legacy for UK Jazz Dance Theatre Arts.*



# JTA.UK Pathways & Goals

The purpose of this non-profit **Jazz Arts Consortium** is to provide a space for the Jazz dance theatre community to ... **DISCUSS, DELIBERATE and DELIVER.**

As a team of jazz creatives, we believe there is a requirement to encourage and enable a pro-active network for the Jazz dance theatre narrative. By providing a legitimate space and visible platform we can further promote and steer positive changes, that advocates and celebrates the legacy of UK Jazz Dance Theatre and that of our many Jazz creatives, practitioners, dancers and teachers. We look to work with and build partnerships with the dance and educational sectors, collaborate and connect with the wider UK and international dance arts sectors.

*The initial goals for development and delivery will be structured into **FOUR PATHWAYS.***



Jazz Theatre in the UK  
Visibility & Representation



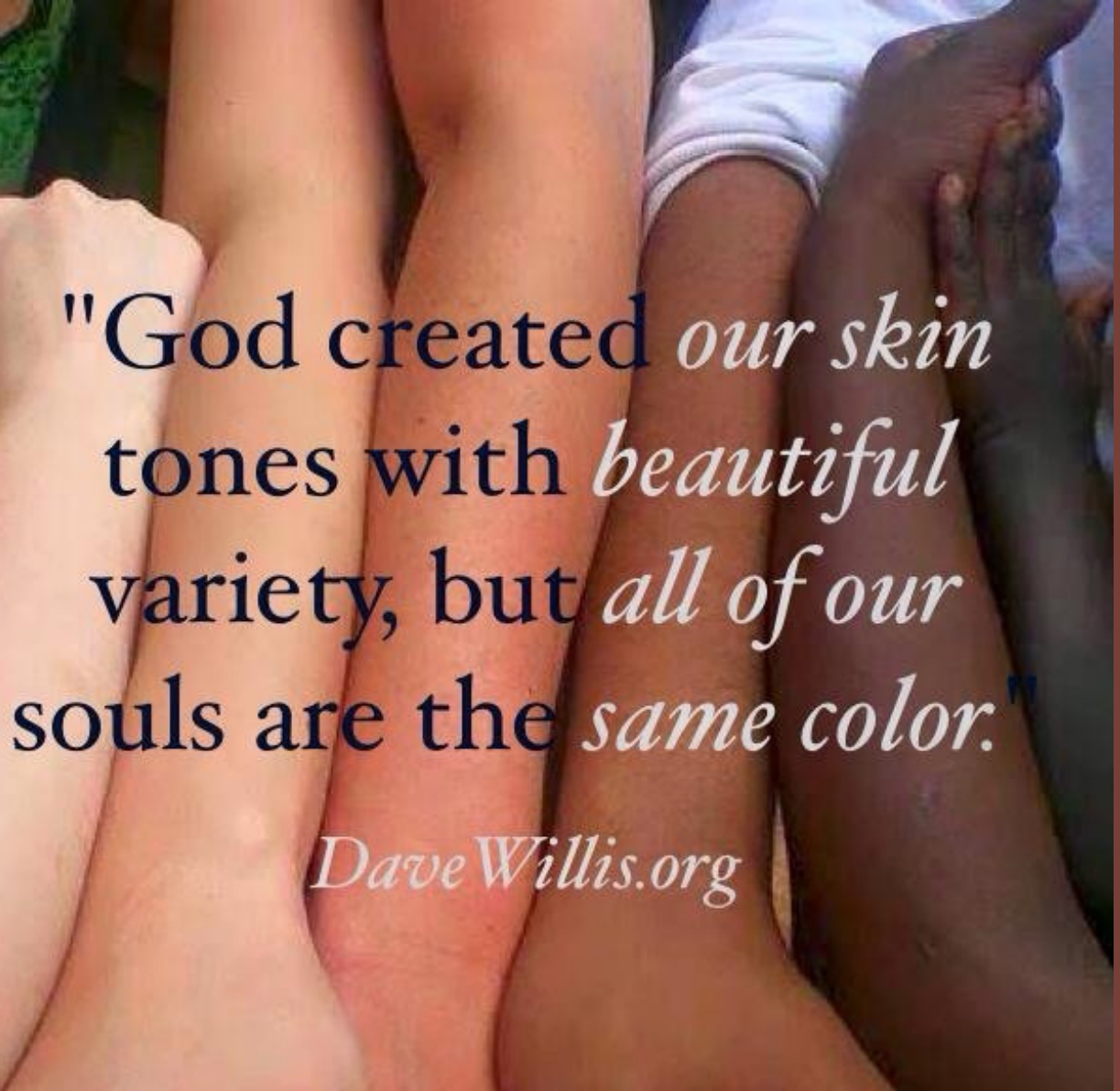
Jazz Artists & Jazz Theatre  
Performance Development



Jazz Dance Theatre & Jazz Music  
Resources, Education and Curricula



Jazz Theatre Arts  
R&D, Advocacy & Legacy



"God created *our skin*  
tones with *beautiful*  
variety, but *all of our*  
souls are the *same color.*"

*DaveWillis.org*



# Introducing the JTA.UK Tribe

*The JTA.UK Tribe, is a diverse and multi-cultural, professional cohort of UK jazz arts practitioners. Forging ahead, they bring a wealth of expertise, knowledge and experience as creative leaders, jazz artists and educators. Together they will help raise a platform that represents the Jazz expression, placing it firmly into our British Dance Theatre Experience.*

**'TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER'**

**DOLLIE HENRY** - Founder/Co-Artistic Director

**BOP Jazz Theatre UK** - [www.bop.org.uk](http://www.bop.org.uk)

International Jazz Dance Artist and performer, Choreographer & Theatre Director, Creative Producer, Performing Arts Practitioner, Musical Theatre & Dance Lecturer. Creative Arts Mentor, Judge and Jazz Arts Author. Diverse Dance Arts and Theatre Curriculum advisor and consultant.

**LORRAINE LEBLANC** - Principal Lecturer & Head of Opportunities and Inclusion at **The Institute for Contemporary Theatre**. Tap/Jazz Dance Specialist, International performing artist. Dance Theatre Director, Choreographer, Music and Theatre Dance Educationalist and creative arts mentor.

**MELISSA GUMBS** - Co-Founder of **MM Jazz Arts - Manchester** International Theatre performer, Choreographer, Dance teacher and practitioner of Musical Theatre & Jazz theatre dance.

**MARTINA GUMBS** - Co-Founder of **MM Jazz Arts - Manchester**, International Theatre performer, Choreographer, Dance teacher and practitioner of Musical Theatre & Jazz theatre dance.

**CHRISTIE LEE MANNING** - Founder/Artistic Director of **House of Jazz Company** [houseofjazzcompany.com](http://houseofjazzcompany.com) and sister company **Jazz House Theatre** [www.jazzhousetheatre.com](http://www.jazzhousetheatre.com) International Musical Theatre artist, Jazz Choreographer, Movement Director, educator, creative mentor and leader of dancer well-being program **Inside Out Theory**.

**PAUL JENKINS** - Co-Artistic Director & Musical Director **BOP Jazz Theatre UK** - [www.bop.org.uk](http://www.bop.org.uk)

International Jazz Music artist. Composer, Music Producer and Arranger. Creative theatre and Concert music producer. Music Composition & Music Technology lecturer. Jazz arts and Jazz music lecturer, Jazz Arts Author, Education sector Curriculum developer & consultant.

**STEWART ARNOLD** - Founder/Artistic Director of **Souls in Motion Jazz Company UK**. International Jazz Theatre performer and creative artist. Dance Theatre Director, Choreographer & Movement Director, Theatre Dance Educationalist and creative mentor.

**NAHUM MCLEAN** - Founder/Director of **African Dance Diaspora Associates UK**. International dance theatre performer, creative artist, choreographer, dance teacher, curriculum facilitator for World Dance Arts of Black Diaspora.

**JAMES MICHAEL HARRIS** - Assistant Director of **House of Jazz Company & Jazz House Theatre**. Theatre Choreographer, Dance & Movement Director, Photographer, Film Maker and Founder of **Film by Harris**. [www.jamesmichaelharris.com](http://www.jamesmichaelharris.com)







DOLLIE HENRY



PAUL JENKINS



LORRAINE LEBLANC



STEWART ARNOLD



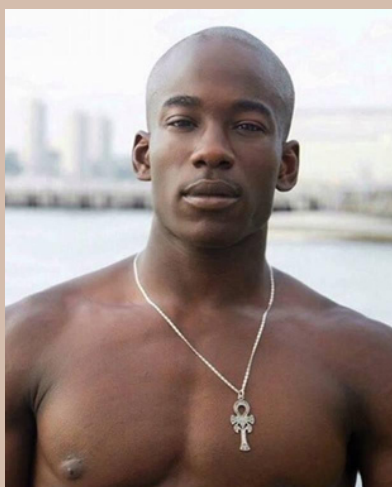
CHRISTIE LEE MANNING



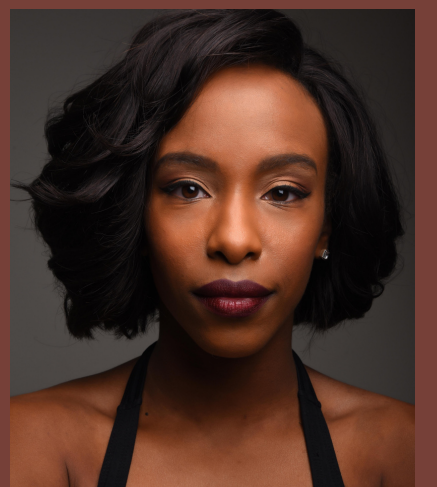
JAMES MICHAEL HARRIS



MELISSA GUMBS



NAHUM MCLEAN



MARTINA GUMBS



# The Art Form of Jazz Theatre

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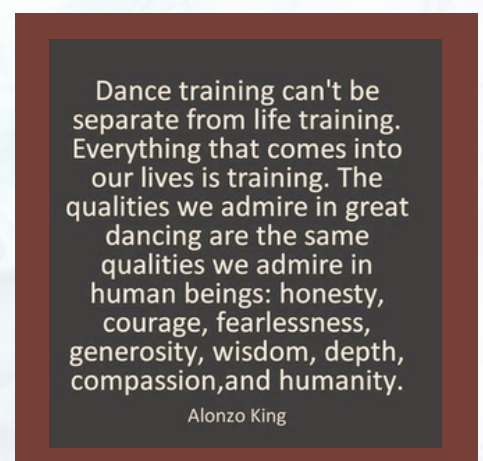
**At its root JAZZ**, is a celebratory art form stemming initially from the creative aesthetics and expression of African culture. In turn, Jazz dance can be celebrated as a representation of popular culture, with artistic layers that display a myriad of influences, juxtapositions and amalgamations that continue to enrich its form and structure today. That ability and freedom to express oneself through, artistic creation and performance, to represent life, culture, experiences and emotions through dance and through music is the root and essence of the Jazz idiom.

**Jazz Dance**, cannot exist without its inherent partner, **Jazz Music**. The link binding the original jazz dance was the music, Black music. The rhythms, syncopations and accents, from the African creative expression fused with folkloric dance traditions to create the only original art form of the 20th century,.. **JAZZ**.

As jazz dance is very much an expression of the individual creator, it lends itself to a great variety of interpretation and creative output. Choreographers and performers throughout the last 120 years, have assimilated the jazz genre into their own creative work and name. The influences of the Jazz expression, is now seen throughout all forms, Ballet, Contemporary, Commercial, dance and many others. This fact, is the greatest **Legacy** of the JAZZ Dance Theatre Art form.

As a dance and music form, jazz takes its uniqueness, characteristics and expressions from the techniques that have endured the test of time. The exceptionality of the Jazz idiom is in its **inclusivity and diversity**. Unlike any other creative art form, the connection and community strength of the jazz expression, lays within its authentic ability to be able to integrate different cultural aesthetics, personal and social experiences to create art of the moment.

Ever evolving and changing, **JAZZ** is the most contemporary of all artistic art forms. The immediacy of Jazz makes it the most exciting of art forms. Its link to popular culture and music makes it the most accessible of all art forms. It does not rely on gimmicks or pastiches, on lighting effects or lavish sets, but on the greatness of artists collaborating and producing art, that is relevant and appropriate for the continuation of **UK JAZZ THEATRE ARTS** in the 21st century.







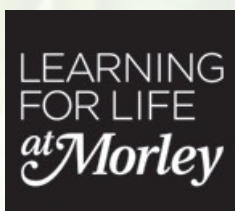
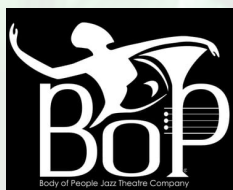
Photography by Simon Richardson ©bopjazzuk

**JAZZ**  
**IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A**  
**FOUR LETTER WORD**  
**IT IS A UNIQUE**  
**ART FORM**  
**THAT SHARES REAL LIFE**  
**THROUGH CREATIVE**  
**SELF EXPRESSION**  
**AND THE DISCOVERY OF**  
**ONES**  
**TRUE SELF!**

DOLLIE HENRY

For further information contact JTA.UK direct at  
[jazztheatreartsuk@gmail.com](mailto:jazztheatreartsuk@gmail.com) | [www.jazztheatreartsuk.org](http://www.jazztheatreartsuk.org)

*JTA.UK - Partners & Supporters*



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