



# DOLLIE HENRY

Dollie has led a respected career of over 39 years as a performer, choreographer, director, creative Jazz artist and educator and is recognised as one of the most formidable exponents of artistic and creative Jazz theatre dance in the UK, Europe and internationally. She has shared her passion and philosophy of creative dance in every continent of the world, with a reputation that is widely revered and respected.

Dollie started dancing at the age of four and went on to professionally train at *Laine Theatre Arts (UK)* receiving her teaching qualifications with ISTD for Ballet, Modern and Tap, her LAMDA Drama Certificates (Bronze-Gold Medals) and was awarded '*Most Outstanding Student*' in performance and choreography.

At 17, she was invited to join **The Olivier Briac Dance Company** based in France as soloist dancer, later becoming resident choreographer/assistant director for the Briac Company. Returning to England at 19, Dollie was invited by director & choreographer *Dougie Squires* to join his company **The Second Generation Dancers** for TV and Theatre work in the UK and Europe, numerous dance/musical productions, leading imminently to her position as Assistant to Mr. Squires over a further 3 years.

Dollie was mentored in the USA, by Jazz choreographers and theatre directors *Charles Augins, Dianne McIntyre, George Faison, Louis Johnson, Frank Hatchett* and worked and performed opposite renowned film actress *Lynn Whitfield* in *Zoraesque*, playing the younger lead character role of *Zora Neale Hurst* in the NYC theatre production. Produced/Directed by **George Faison** (Tony Award Winner of the Broadway production *The Wiz*) performed at his Faison Firehouse Theatre in New York.

## As a Performer & Choreographer credits include:

**West End Musicals:** *Sophisticated Ladies - Guilgud Theatre • King the Musical - Piccadilly Theatre • Stop the World I want to get off starring Antony Newley - Lyric Theatre • Angels from America - Shaftesbury Theatre • Tribute To Sammy Davis Jr - Theatre Royal, Drury Lane • The Russ Abbot Madhouse Show - The Palladium* and numerous West End Charity performances.

**Provincial Repertory Theatre:** includes musicals: *'Helene' in Sweet Charity (UK Tour) • Hold Tight it's 60's Night (UK Tour) • The Crucible* playing the role of *Tituba (Royal Theatre - Northampton)* and numerous pantomimes nationwide.

**Films & TV includes:** Supporting cast and dancer in the Feature Brit flick - *Film Finding Your Feet - 2018 • Dancing Grandma, in the Netflix Film Jingle Jangles – 2020 • Jo in the David Putnam film Knights & Emeralds (Enigma Films) • The Girl in 'Memories in Mind', (BBC Documentary) • The Tales of Anansi (Carlton TV).*

Dollie has worked and performed on many dance productions and TV shows including *The Russ Abbott Madhouse (BBC) • The Leo Sayer Show (BBC) • The Royal Variety/Command Performances • The BAFTA Awards (BBC)* and dance Videos and light entertainment TV shows, both nationally and internationally.

**As a Choreographer & Director projects include:** *Sweet Lorraine - Old Fire Station Theatre, Oxford • Ain't Misbehavin - The Verin English Theatre, Frankfurt Germany • The Sun City Extravaganza, "Come to the Sun" Sun City, South Africa • The musical Ragged Child & Aladdin - Theatre Royal, Northampton • Salsa Celestina - Palace Theatre, Watford • The musical Big Nose and pantomimes Cinderella & Snow White - Belgrade Theatre, Coventry • Up Against The Wall - Tricycle Theatre, London • The soul musical Blues Brother, Soul Sister - The Bristol Old Vic, Bristol • Tribute To Sammy Davis Jr. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane • The Russ Abbot Madhouse Show - The Palladium & National Tour • Sophisticated Ladies – Lyric Theatre (now Guilgud), London. • Godspell (Tour) • Oh What A Lovely War, Cochrane Theatre, London • Oliver – The Play for Giant Olive Productions • King the Musical Concert - Hackney Empire Theatre.*

**Alongside, Musical Theatre and Theatre Dance projects:** *The Wiz, Wizard of Oz, Annie, Chorus Line, Blues in the Night, and Little Shop of Horrors.* Dollie also choreographed & directed the European Tour of '*Fire of Dance*' for *Ulrich Schiller of Gastpiel - Und Theatre Productions Germany*, the 70's Musical Extravaganza *Abbadabado* at Blackpool Royal Opera House and the *Diamond Jubilee Show* at the North Pier Theatre, Blackpool starring *Alvin Stardust & the BOP Dancers* and was original choreographer & co-director for the 1997 hit London off west end musical - *Inner City Jam - Cockpit Theatre, London.*





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In her role as **Co-Artistic Director | Choreographer | Educator**, Dance Companies include:

*The Bill Louther Company (UK), Jazzxchange Dance Company (UK) and Malmo Dans City (Sweden).*

Dollie has directed & choreographed over 15 National pantomimes for *Paul Elliott of E&B Productions Ltd, (latterly Qdos Productions).*

She has also choreographed/staged for Opera and Ballet productions including, *Cry of Innocence and Carmen, 'I Got Rhythm' with Northern Ballet Theatre - National UK Tour. The Jazz Ballet 'Voyages' with Artistic Director Stephen Jefferies (Hong Kong Ballet & Suzhou Ballet Companies China).*

As a co-producer, with music producer & composer *Paul Jenkins* and lyricist/writer/performer *Ray Shell*, Dollie co-created, directed and choreographed the original RnB musical *White Folks - A Musical Fable*, with successful productions at Nottingham Playhouse, The Cochrane Theatre, The Tricycle Theatre and the off West End, Pleasance Theatre (UK)

In 1996, Dollie put her true artistic and creative passion into evidence and founded her own Jazz Theatre Company **Body of People aka BOP**. In partnership with Composer and Jazz musician *Paul Jenkins*, the company, now in its 25th year, has created and produced an array of productions and dance concerts that have been performed both in the UK and internationally.

A selection of BOP productions and theatre works include: *I, You, We ... Rise, Daughters of Eve, Touches of Miles, Sacred Space, Trumpet Trilogy, Dizzy Heights, Duke's Place, A Journey of Jazz, Up Close and Personal. Miles Ahead - A double-bill program featuring new company works with Footprints in Jazz and their inaugural jazz theatre production Touches of Miles, was presented at the off West End, Cochrane Theatre and subsequent UK tour supported by the Arts Council of England.*

The company's most recent production **Spirit of Jazz** was filmed and performances streamed from the *Curve Theatre Leicester* as part of the the *LDIF nternational Dance Festival (May 2021).*

Through the company's international recognition, Dollies' creative and commissioned works have been performed at dance and theatre venues worldwide. As part of her ongoing Educational Philosophy, Dollie has initiated The BOP Jazz Dance Education Programs '*Jazz Dance for Life*' in the UK, Europe and The Caribbean and over the last 32 years has presented her ever popular Jazz Dance Residencies, workshops, mentoring programs and masterclasses at dance venues throughout the UK & Ireland, Africa, The Caribbean, Austria, Croatia, China, Poland, Germany, Israel, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and USA.

Dollie has achieved creative commissions from the *State of Lithuania (The Baltic States)*, as the first international jazz artist to be invited by the State to present lectures/workshop and devise a jazz program and performance projects for the *Klaipeda Music Theatre*, alongside Jazz commissions with the *Austrian Youth Ballet - (Graz Austria), Rytmix Dance - Konin, and Kielce Dance Theatre Company - (Poland), Malmo Dance City (Sweden) and Jazz Arts International Festival 2018 at Wellington College - Shanghai, China.* Recent BOP international dance projects, include collaborations and commission with *EBB Contemporary Dance Company (Madrid), Associacoa Nos da Danca (Portugal).*

As an advocate for the Arts, Dollie is on the panel of the *The Black Brithish Theatre Awards*, an appointed Patron of *The Hammond School, Cheshire* and *Ignite Dance Theatre Company UK*. Artistic Guardian and Diversity Advisor for the *CGO Institute*, working with the next generation of International Theatre Producers. Creative Advisor with *Audition Circle*, supporting and mentoring dancers and performers to attain and sustain a professional career in the Arts.

Dollie is a recognised advocate and voice for *Black Dance and Jazz Theatre Arts*, working to improve EDI and dance arts of Black origin within performance education and our UK dance curriculums. As a consultant, Dollie is a facilitator of progressive changes for equality and with BOP Company, sits at the table with the Advisory & Consultant Team of *The Tired Movement (UK).*





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Ms Henry is resident Jazz Practitioner and choreographer at *Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance, Mountview and Performance Preparation Academy (PPA Guildford)* and continues to be in high demand as guest Jazz practitioner/mentor at established UK and international dance and performing arts institutions. Dollie is an *Associate Teacher of ISTD* and *Honorary Member with IDTA (International Dance Teachers Association)*. Head judge and creative associate for the international dance events -, *Dance World Cup - International and Dance World Cup-Spain* and is a sought after judge worldwide in her capacity as a specialist and advisor in Jazz and Musical Theatre.

Dollie is a regular guest Jazz choreographer/teacher at *Broadway Dance Center, Dance Space Inc and Faison Firehouse Theatre (NY)* and can still be found teaching her spirited open Jazz dance class in London at *Pineapple Dance Studios*.

As an experienced dance and theatre practitioner, Ms. Henry is instrumental in mentoring the careers of many dancers, now performing in established dance companies, musical theatre and concert dance shows all over the world. Dollie continues to mentor the next generation of Jazz dancers and professional performers, through the educational, artistic development programs provided by BOP Company.

Aside of all her commitments, Dollie alongside Paul Jenkins are the authors of the new dance book **The Essential Guide to Jazz Dance**, published by *Crowood Press (Oct 2019)*. This unique book about Jazz Dance and its inherent partner, Jazz music, offers a practical guide and insight to the history, lineage, practice and creative expression and so much more of Jazz dance art form.

In January 2022, BOP Company launched a new platform with **One Dance UK** to initiate a new Member Led Network - **Jazz Theatre Arts UK (JTAUK)**. The aim of the network, to advocate, advance and align greater visibility, development and delivery for our UK Jazz Theatre Arts and Artists and all practices of the form within our British Dance sector.

Dollie has recently been nominated for the **AWA Dance Charity - Women in Dance Leadership Award 2021** and was a nominee for the **Black British Theatre Awards 2020** for *Best UK Performing Arts Teacher*.

Dollie Henry epitomizes all it is to be a consummate, all-encompassing creative dance theatre artist and educationalist who continues to work in all aspects of the performing arts industry and crosses between both the artistic and commercial landscapes. A fusion of immense expertise and genuine expression of creative spirit, allows this Lady to sustain her position as the catalyst for the Jazz dance art form and its legacy in the UK & Europe, enabling her to share her passion and creativity not just on her home ground, but all over the world.

**For Further information to view and read more about Dollie and BOP > Scan the QR Codes**

