

Monday 25 February 2019
Gosforth Civic Theatre, Newcastle
11:45am – 1:00pm

NEIDN Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Rob Huggins (RH) – Liberdade/ Gosforth Civic Theatre, Martin Wilson (MW) – TIN Arts, Rachel Jean Birch (RJB) - NEIDN, Hannah Marshall (HM) - NEIDN, Pauline Heath (PH) – Independent Artist, Mia Rawlinson (MR) – Headway Arts, Mark Adamson (MA) – Headway Arts, Paula McClain (PM) – Headway Arts, Karen Anderson (KA) – Indepen-dance, Eliot Smith (ES) – Eliot Smith Dance

Apologies from:

Lynn Campbell – Dance Connect, Debbie Waistell – D-Project, Ann Fletcher Williams – Arts Council England, Kristian Pellissier – Arts Council England, Michael Heatley – Independent Artist, Becki Parker – TIN Arts

Agenda Items:

- Welcome & Apologies
- Approval of last meeting's Minutes
- Think Inclusive 2019 – ideas and suggestions
- NEIDN 2019 – ideas and suggestions
- NEIDN Ambassador
- Partner updates / sharing of opportunities and events for the Network – 2019 Calendar
- Next meeting date and location
- AOB

Minutes:

The meeting was opened with a sharing of a film by KA about Indepen-dance. Indepen-dance4 were performing their work Four Go Wild in Wellies at Gosforth Civic Theatre on this day (25/02/19)

<http://indepn-dance.org.uk/>

- Approval of last meeting's Minutes

We briefly touched on the minutes from the last meeting, but as the meeting was in February 2018 it was agreed that the information would be mostly out of date and it wasn't necessary to discuss them in detail. (Please note: all NEIDN minutes can be viewed on the NEIDN Website under Useful Links and Documents)

- Think Inclusive 2019 – ideas and suggestions

HM and RJB of Moving Art Management (MAM) gave a brief overview of the 2018 Think Inclusive Event. The event was developed from a re-working of a FRESH scratch platforms which had been aimed specifically for disabled dance artists with a focus on feedback. Think Inclusive was successful in bringing together approx. 60 artists, companies, organisations and funders to discuss the role of the network and its members and to explore future thinking for the NEIDN and sector. The day also consisted of an Arts Council England Easy Read presentation of their National Lottery Project Grants, sharing's by Becki Parker and Liberdade and a practical workshop by Lynn Campbell. We opened up the conversation to discuss options for a follow up event in Autumn 2018 and what we would want this event to achieve.

It was agreed that a continued focus on getting people to be more involved with the network is important and to continue to inject momentum into the network which can wane at times. The success and take up at the event demonstrated that there is an appetite and need for similar events as a sector.

It was also commented on of the breadth of established artists as well as graduates who attended the event. This led on to a discussion from PH about the importance of embedding inclusive practice earlier in a dancers training and education to foster discussion and interest from artists as well as establishing pathways for disabled artists to make work. It can be easy for students with a learning difficulty to 'slip through the net'. RH and MW commented that actually a lot of disabled artists follow bespoke pathways for training which are created to support the dancers that are interested in pursuing dance.

- NEIDN 2019 – ideas and suggestions

Mentoring was discussed and it was agreed that an 'offer' and 'ask' system may be the best way to foster mentoring opportunities within the network. NEIDN Members could say what they are looking to find from a mentor as well as what you are able to offer.

- ACTION: HM & RJB to contact the network to gain this information from it's members.

PH mentioned that Vicky of Little Cog based in Stockton could offer support and expertise and PH is happy to make the introduction.

- ACTION: PH to discuss the NEIDN network with Vicky.

KA commented that disabled artists have a lot of hard work invested in their journey and development by them and the artists/team who work with them. This is something that doesn't just happen and we need to look at pathways, mentors and support for disabled dancers.

ES commented on his recent work with a community cast and his company dancers as well as a local charity Recovery and the value of this for all involved. ES is at the start of his involvement with the NEIDN but he is interested in integrate disability dance into his company. He is interested in observing the work of other network members. RH offered ES the opportunity to observe classes at Gosforth Civic Theatre

- ACTION: RH and ES to discuss convenient timing for observations to take place.

KA from Indepen-dance based at Tramway in Glasgow offered an open invitation to NEIDN network members to visit and observe there work to see the breadth of their offer, Wednesday's are a

particularly good day! NEIDN members are to contact Independence directly if interested:
admin@independence.org.uk

Any partnerships and success from the proposed mentoring opportunities could be shared as case studies at an event such as Think Inclusive.

- NEIDN Ambassador

Becki Parker has been in touch with RJB and HM about advocacy and ambassador opportunities for the network. Becki was inspired by the Think Inclusive event and was keen to do more to promote and discuss the work of the network.

We discussed that as members we are all responsible for raising the profile of the network, but that anyone who has a particular passion for an ambassadorial role should be encouraged and supported by the network (as the network doesn't have funding for activity this wouldn't be a paid role)

We discussed: what does being an ambassador mean? and what an ambassador's support would need to be? What does being ambassadorial look and feel like?

Maybe there is an ask in the mentoring call-out for support on this

- HM and RJB to include Ambassador support in the mentoring call-out

- Partner updates / sharing of opportunities and events for the Network – 2019 Calendar

Eliot Smith Dance

Eliot Smith Dance is touring "Triple Bill" across the North East in Spring 2019. The programme includes; Mathieu Geffre's [Froth on the Daydream](#), Rosie Kay's [Artemis Clown](#) and Eliot Smith's [POPPY](#) featuring live music on stage with Jason Holcomb, in collaboration with The Royal British Legion.

Gosforth Civic Theatre

Saturday 13 April (7.30pm)

Sunday 14 April (2.30pm)

Newbiggin Maritime Centre

Thursday 25 April (7.30pm)

Bamburgh Pavilion

Saturday 4 May (7.00pm)

Warkworth Memorial Hall

Saturday 11 May (7.30pm)

Spennymoor Settlement's Everyman Theatre

Saturday 18 May (7.30pm)

Book your tickets here: www.eliotsmithdance.com/tickets

Gosforth Civic Theatre

Presenting a platform on 3 April at 7pm which is an opportunity for Liberdade to share their work.
22 November - Freedom Moving

Headway Arts

Come on Down Festival 26, 27 and 28 March in Blyth. Headway are interested in any companies and artists who may want to present work at the event. KA says that Adam (Indepen-dance company member) has a film that he has created that can be shared at Come on Down.

- KA and MR to discuss Adam sharing his film at Come on Down.

Moving Art Management

Hand In Hand is a project Produced by Nicole Vivien Watson and Paul Miller inviting international deaf dance artist Chisato Minamimura to work with 20 volunteer dance artists. The week long project is at Dance City from Monday 18 – Friday 22 March and there is a sharing on the Friday evening at 6pm. <https://www.dancecity.co.uk/performance/103299/hand-in-hand/>

TIN Arts

25 March – Best Foot Forward

27 July – Includfest

October – Immersive movement based exhibition at Durham Gala Theatre.

30 November – Talent Hub Launch (possibility of this being tied in with some Think Inclusive activity?)

6 December - Talent Development Symposium in Yorkshire

- ACTION: HM, RJB and MW to discuss possible collaboration with Talent Hub launch and Think Inclusive.

Indepen-dance

June 2020 – Gathered Together Festival

North East Events

21 March - Culture Health and Wellbeing Conference at the Discovery Museum

- Next meeting date and location

Tuesday 7 May 2019

11am – 1pm

Headway ArtSpace, The Old Church, Waterloo Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 1BY.