



2022 - 2027

"INNOVATIVE, BOUNDARY  
PUSHING, EXCITING"

# TIPPERARY DANCE

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JUNE 2021 // PREPARED BY JAZMIN CHIODI AND ALEXANDRE ISELI



# IMPACT

## HOME TO AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF DANCE ARTISTS

"CREATING NETWORKS, THROWING BRIDGES AND ALLOWING ARTISTS,  
PRACTITIONERS AND THINKERS TO MEET AND EXCHANGE".

TIPPERARY DANCE IS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE, NO.715102 REGISTERED IN IRELAND, 2022, OLD POST OFFICE,  
KNOCKBRIT, FETHARD, COUNTY TIPPERARY, E91E782, IRELAND. DIRECTORS ALEXANDRE ISELI AND JAZMIN CHIODI



## THE TIPPERARY DANCE IMPACT **ECONOMIC**


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Attracted **€ 1,139,341** of investment into Tipperary, with an estimated local **economic impact of over €2.3 million**

Created, produced and disseminated professional choreographic work for the stage and for the screen

Built a unique, boutique festival attracting the very best of international dance artists to Tipperary

Positioned Tipperary as an International Centre for the development of Contemporary Dance



**“What they have accomplished and built out of nothing in a rural town in Ireland is completely unique”**



Presented 63 performances of original dance pieces from 13 countries including Argentina, Canada, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy and more.

Performed the artistic director's own original work, 127 times in 13 countries.

8 Symposia on Dance with 48 national and international contributors.

154 screenings of Dance Films 99 dancers in 9 Laboratories.

Built an international Network of dance organisations and agencies around the work in Tipperary

**Acknowledged by the European Dance Network as a case study of best practice for relevance in the European dance sector.**



Tipperary Dance Impact  
**INTERNATIONAL**

2628 children from 39 schools in 25 towns across Tipperary attended 332 dance sessions

1831 Tipperary People attended 126 classes with 59 dance teachers

41 Community Classes and 46 Masterclasses delivered by 51 international dancer/choreographers



Tipperary Dance Impact  
**COMMUNITY**

WHAT IS  
Tipperary Dance?



# HOME TO AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF DANCERS

We are an artist led, and art focused organisation, grounded in the practice and values of hospitality, community, collaboration and sharing.

The experience, connections, practise and artistic productions of the artistic director as dance artist and choreographer drive, inspire and enrich all aspects of our programme

We invite people to come together in Tipperary to create dance, to perform dance, to think about and develop dance, and to learn dance.

We are a rich network of people that includes school children and teachers, people in local community groups, professional dancers and choreographers in Ireland, and international dancers, choreographers, development agencies and producers.

For us dance is a way of thinking, a way of being, a way of connecting deeply with ourselves, with other people, with ideas, and with the realities of the world we live in.

We share our passion and understanding of dance with our local communities through our work in schools, with community classes and with older people.

- We create original dance performances and dance films.
- We offer a local and international programme of resources and residencies for dance artists.
- We deliver masterclasses mentored by leading international dance artists.
- We celebrate the work with an annual international boutique dance festival.
- We teach and create work in local communities to enrich artistic life and develop audiences.
- We support and advocate for the development of the dance sector.
- We commission new work.
- We work with other artists in different disciplines to test and enrich the work.

We are an artist led organisation, constantly searching and experimenting with our collaborators, to discover the most relevant and innovative way to create these opportunities.



***"They are forward thinking, connected internationally, they care about dance and dancers and have given much and have still **so much to offer** the dance community here in Ireland".***

CEPLATFORM.IE  
ONAL DANCE FESTIVAL

## ***“Atypical personalities in a cautious landscape”***

Tipperary Dance (previously known as Tipperary Dance Platform and the TDP<sup>1</sup> International Dance Festival) offer the people of Tipperary, dancers from all over Ireland, and the wider professional dance sector, creative opportunities, practical resources, and deep support.

From 2008 to today, we have developed and delivered an outstanding artistic programme in Tipperary that

- Engages with local and international communities and audiences,
- Builds and tends deep relationships with local people through our schools and community work,
- Supports professional dancers in Ireland with care, time, resources and money,
- Offers access to a network of international dance artists and dance agencies,
- Raises the visibility of professional dance by positioning County Tipperary as an international centre of contemporary Dance.

In partnership with Excel Arts Centre, Tipperary County Council Arts Office and The Arts Council of Ireland (An Chomhairle Ealaíon), we have developed our original dance residency into a robust infrastructure for engagement, development and performance of dance.

The infrastructure is an innovative framework of bursaries, residencies, international relationships, original performances, classes and a unique, boutique annual Dance festival.

It is a framework that supports the presence of the artistic director in Tipperary as artist and choreographer, to research, create and disseminate work.

It is a framework that understands and responds to the needs of dancers, and strives to create community, combat isolation, and give people time and space to reflect, develop and grow as artists.

It is a framework that understands that dance is a different way of being and a different way of thinking, and strives to give people of all ages and experiences the opportunity to experience their own creative life.

Tipperary Dance is now deeply embedded in an international network of dance artists, organisations and festivals, and has become a national and internationally visible showcase for Irish made contemporary Dance.

Our work, developing dance within the community, fosters public awareness and appreciation of the personal and community value of the arts, and contributes to community life and culture.

Through our commissions, residencies and masterclasses we have created and presented dance works of the highest quality. Work that provokes reflection and interaction through post show talks, symposia, public lectures and the trademark warmth, intelligence and hospitality that characterises all our work.

We promote and champion Tipperary internationally, both through our international touring and through the personal care and attention we offer to all our guests and contributors.

Over the last 12 years we have created a unique space in Tipperary, promoting national and international artistic exchange, developing cultural and artistic diversity by promoting new styles, new practices, intercultural exchanges, and the mixing of different art forms with dance. We have created a home for dance.



Tipperary Dance  
**WHO WE ARE**



In late 2008 Tipperary County Council, working in partnership with the Excel Arts Centre, appointed Jazmin Chiodi and Alexandre Iseli as Dance Artists in Residence at the Excel Arts Centre. This was a daring and courageous act on the part of the Local Authority and the Excel. There was no tradition of contemporary dance in the region and no infrastructure to support its development.

The two dancers responded to the challenge and set about creating the partnerships and programmes that would inject a new vibrancy into the cultural life of the county. They introduced new ideas, new ways of thinking and new possibilities, and created an innovative infrastructure that supported dancers from across the country.

In 2010 the Arts Council of Ireland (An Comhairle Ealaíonn) launched the Dance Artist in Residency Award and used this tool to invest in Tipperary Dance Platform.

In that same year, in an ambitious step, Jazmin and Alexandre launched The TDP' International Dance Festival. In a rural setting with no significant tradition of contemporary dance they built an artist-led and curated festival featuring leading international and national dancers and choreographers. The festival was distinguished by its intimacy, hospitality and scale and established itself as a vibrant networking event, distinguished by the quality and diversity of a programme that brought local and international dancers together to meet, reflect, work, and enliven the communities of Tipperary. They partnered internationally Trois C-L (Luxemburg), Le Grand Studio (Brussels), Compagnie Marie Lenfant (Le Mans), Festival Mouvements sur la Ville (Montpellier), EiMA (Spain), Acción Cultural Española, Tanztendenz (München), Tenerife LAV.

The TD' International Festival continues to attract the best contemporary dance artists across Europe, including Tânia Carvalho, Lost Dog, Alexandra Waierstall, Pierre Pontvianne, François Veyrunes, Moritz Ostruschnjak, Christian Ubl, and artists at the forefront of creation in Ireland, including Liz Roche, Oona Doherty, John Scott.

**In 2016, the Tipperary Dance Platform programme was acknowledged by the European Dance Network as a case study example on best practice for relevance in the European dance sector.**

As they continued to build an innovative infrastructure for contemporary dance in Tipperary they remained true to their core artistic principles: Everyone has a body, and dance is not exclusively a specialists' trade. Nearly three thousand children take part in their Dance in Schools programme, festival workshops or other events. Numerous local groups have been part of the creation of public dance performances, a group of women, some nearly eighty years old, have danced in public and their All Day Do Dance events bring people of all ages and abilities together to dance.

**In 2019, Tipperary Dance Platform was nominated for the National Age Friendly Ireland Recognition and Achievement Awards.**

Tipperary Dance has created something unique in Tipperary, a home for dance that gives people time, space and support. In Tipperary Dance we understand that we are all bodies in motion, complex, sensitive, filled with contradictions and an endless source for creation and discussion. All our work is about people and we are proud to embrace the great Irish traditions of hospitality, respect, and community that enthuse both audiences and participating artists.

**We embrace a vision for a future where the experience of embodiment and public space are vital in our ability for critical thinking, social interaction and civic behaviour.**



# TIPPERARY DANCE A BRIEF HISTORY

# STRATEGY 2022 - 2027

# MAKING A CREATIVE STRATEGY

This strategy emerged from an extended period of reflection and research throughout 2021 made possible by an Arts Council Capacity Building Award.

We had many long meetings and conversations to get to the heart of what we do and who we are; we mapped processes, built business models, stuck notes on a virtual wall, and experienced frustration and anxiety.


Over a period of three months we engaged with people we have worked with over the years: dancers, choreographers, funding partners, audience members, and many more. We listened to what they had to say in an effort to understand what we mean to our community in Tipperary, to our colleagues in the dance community here in Ireland and internationally.

To all of these people we say thank you for the time, the honesty, the support and the advice.

What we understood at the end of this is that we are artists, and we must be true to that: That everything we do, the choreographic work, the planning, programming and curation, the meetings and the logistics, the fundraising and the festival management, we do as artists. We do it with curiosity, with patience, with generosity and care.

We are all bodies in time, and we know that there is a need for what we do, a need for a place to meet remarkable people and see remarkable things, a need for a place away from big cities that is international, a need for a place for people to think, reflect, learn, be challenged, be welcome... and to dance.

Tipperary Dance is proud to be home to an international community of dancers



**"curious, open,  
hungry and present.  
I think that should  
be preserved...!!"**


## THE FUTURE

In the coming years our priorities are to:

- Reinforce the relationships, infrastructure and network we have built by putting in place appropriate governance, corporate, and funding structures;
- Deepen the local, national and international relationships across the network, improving the quality of what we do,

and

- Develop the value and impact of what we do by creating rich connections and overlaps between our current strands of activities.



**"Their programmes are conceived and delivered by artists (not administrators) so they really get to the heart of what is needed. They really understand dance, how it works, what dancers need, where dance is lacking in the community and what it can do"**



## OUR PURPOSE AND IMPACT

Tipperary Dance exists to:

- **be a home and framework for the Artistic director** to develop, create and disseminate their own dance works and choreographies.
- **Be a home for dancers** built on the practice of “embodied knowledge” to empower the voice of artists and citizens;
- **Create and tend a network** of international artistic practice and creation;
- **Challenge conservative** and conventional frameworks of thought and practice and shift our perceptions and ways of thinking.

## OUR MISSION AND OUTCOMES

- We support the Artistic Development of our Artistic director as dance artist and choreographer.
- We Connect People  
To generate creativity, develop creative relationships and international partnerships, and produce innovative work.
- We produce Work created by our Artisti Director and/or by guest artists: Dance Shows; films; documentaries; publications; festivals .
- We articulate and Share Experience: Artistic, social, and political ideas, through dialogue, collaborations across artforms, performance, showcasing, touring, symposia, and publication.



Tipperary Dance  
2022 - 2027



# OUR VALUES - HOW WE DRIVE CHANGE

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## **Hospitality**

If we are to be a Home for Dance and Dancers then making people welcome is vital. The conversations that happen over dinner after a day's work, late at night after the show is done, in the drive to the venue are essential to the unique value we create. Hospitality is how we tend our network, hospitality is how we encourage new ideas and rising voices; Hospitality is how we create a place where ideas can be challenged and ambition encouraged.

## **Patience**

Dance is a way of thinking, a way of understanding the world, a way of being. It is different from other ways of being, of thinking, of understanding. Creative practice takes time. It requires space, reflection, support, community - and patience. So we will be patient - with ourselves and with our collaborators.

## **Generosity**

Our creative economy is built on generosity. The international relationships, the domestic network, the community work are all built on generosity: of time, of talent. The meetings and exchanges of ideas between artists, the personal care and closeness, the attention to and care for the work of other artists that make our collaborations unique are shaped by generosity of spirit.

## **Joy, Fun and Trust/Passion, Integrity, Tenacity**

Dance is a serious undertaking, but it is a creative undertaking. Creativity requires and creates Passion and Joy, Integrity and Trust, and Tenacity and Fun.

HOW WE DELIVER

## Purpose

Be a home for dancers, built on the practice of embodied knowledge to empower the voice of artists and citizens.

Create and tend a network of international artistic practice and creation.

Challenge conservative and conventional frameworks of thought and practice and shift our perceptions and ways of thinking.

## Mission

**WE  
CONNECT  
PEOPLE**

**WE  
SUPPORT AND  
PRODUCE  
NEW WORK**

**WE  
ARTICULATE  
AND SHARE  
EXPERIENCE**

## Outcomes

***Creative relationships  
International partnerships  
between artists, and  
between artists and citizens,  
that generate creative  
thought and practice, bring  
vibrancy to our community,  
and lead to great work***

***Dance shows  
Films  
Documentaries  
Workshops & Laboratories***

***Sharing artistic, social and  
political ideas through  
dialogue, collaboration  
across art forms,  
performance, showcasing,  
touring, symposia,  
publications and festival***

## Actions

### - TD CREATES -

A model for experimentation, research and creation where the **artistic director** of TD develops choreographic language and new original dance works in collaboration with other artists.

### - TD INTERNATIONAL -

A place for international encounters, research, residencies, networking and artistic exchange. Inviting artists, producers, festival directors, and venue managers to open dialogue and foster new ideas and collaboration.

### - TD CONNECTS COMMUNITIES -

An inclusive and socially engaged creative programme, connecting artist and citizen, to practice, learn and create under the lead of highly experienced dance artists.

### - TD COMMISSIONS -

A programme commissioning dance artists and choreographers to create and premiere new dance works in Tipperary that make meaningful connections with the place and context.

### - TD PRO DEVELOPMENT -

A range of initiatives to nurture and stimulate the ongoing development of dancers' professional skills, and provide opportunities for interconnection and community-building among dance artists.

## - TIPPERARY DANCE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL -

A celebration of the work produced throughout the year and a challenging programme of cutting edge international artists.

An invitation to the audience to experience the diversity of dance, and an opportunity for professional encounters.

A platform for domestic work, connecting local artists and audiences with international talent and international resources.

Transforming Theatres, Libraries, Schools, Galleries, Cinema, Museum, Church, and the Open air into fora for discovery, encounters, discussions and the exchange of ideas.



The festival is our annual family celebration

It is a public event, transforming libraries, theatres, schools, churches, galleries, cinemas, museums and open air spaces across the entire county into fora for encounters, discussions and the exchange of ideas.

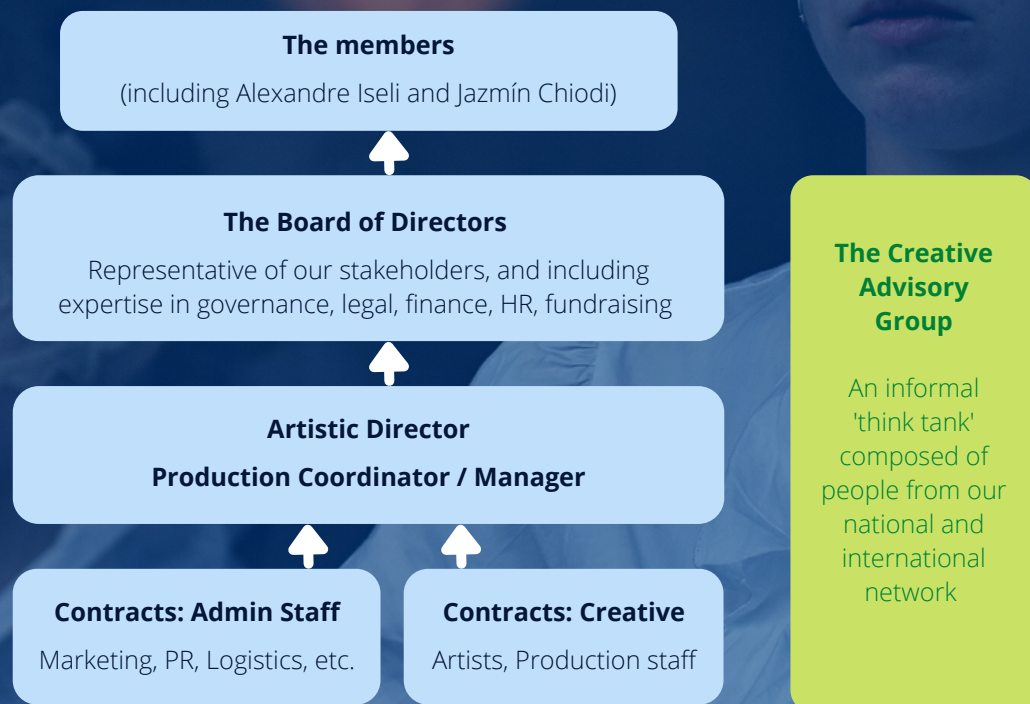
It is a celebration of the work produced throughout the year and a challenging curated programme of cutting edge international artists.

It is a platform for domestic work. It connects local artists and audiences with international talent.

It is an invitation to the audience to experience the diversity of dance, and an opportunity for professional encounters.



A Special Note on  
**THE FESTIVAL**



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Old Post Office, Knockbrit, Fethard, Tipperary, Tipperary, E91E782, Ireland

# Tipperary Dance

## PROPOSED GOVERNANCE AND CORPORATE STRUCTURE



"...attracts some of the best contemporary dance artists across Europe as well as artists at the forefront of creation in Ireland".

"They have managed to deepen and broaden how we perceive the contribution that dance can make to people's lives and to communities. They have successfully engaged with the public to shift views on arts and dance and to develop audiences, schools programmes and festival workshops".

"They're doing the work of two or three companies!"

"A growing number of people of all ages and social status attend dance activities across Tipperary, from urban to rural.

"...a much needed resource in Ireland to showcase dance work ...provides important opportunities for young dancers to train, be mentored and learn from international artists of calibre"

"Their choreographic work is innovative, intellectual & physical - combining intellect and highly physical movement".

"...the uniqueness of this festival is that people have to travel there to attend – so in essence can 'get away from it all' and really be fully present fully and attend more things. This is very special and offers an immersive experience vs going to a festival in a city".

"...there isn't anything else like it in Tipperary, so it provides an important focus for dancers in this area".

"A Major Event in the dance calendar year".

"The workshop series and artistic quality of the invited performers is phenomenal".

"Fostering exchanges between amateurs, the public and artists, children and older people".

"A huge resource for the county".

"...supporting dance at all levels from community/schools through pre-professional to professional".

"Redefining and challenging and cautious and conventional landscape".

