

Agency under Pressure

Round Table Discussion

Thursday 5th September 2018, 1.30-6pm at [Independent Dance](#)

Chaired by Heni Hale



Dear Colleague

We would like to invite you to our seventh [Higher Education Round Table](#) discussion for artist-teachers working in the academic sector.

After six lively HE Round Tables we asked previous attenders and some peers who have not attended before what they think the event can contribute as the HE sector and the wider picture of dance education change. Many of you gave us generous and thoughtful feedback, which we have used to shape this event.

All of our round tables have explored to some extent how we can apply forms of resistance to the pressures facing institutions within our teaching practices. These pressures are increasing constantly: cuts to funding, the uncertainty of Brexit and its impact on students and faculty, the drop in applicants for many dance courses. Furthermore, the need to argue for the value of our work within dance education often denies its complexity and subtlety, and its impact over time.

To preserve our agency under those pressures, this year we propose to come together to discuss how we can better communicate with impact and influence to the network of political relationships that we rely upon. How do we influence institutional management; funders and stakeholders; The Department of Education and our MPs; as well as the young people who need to create a vision for themselves in the dance field?

Decision-makers in institutions and in government often need to speak for dance in languages different to our own. How do we equip them to argue that learning through dance has benefits beyond employability? How can we articulate the value of the skills and knowledge dance artists bring to teaching that is hard to capture with metrics? How can we communicate the subject's relevance to the current socio-political climate, without falling into the trap of serving a purely economic argument?

The ID Round Table is a facilitated meeting space. Supporting and nurturing artists who in turn teach other artists is a key part of ID's mission, and we offer this gathering space for useful exchange in the context of higher education and the wider dance sector.

The event is free to attend, to ensure there is as little impediment to attending as possible. If you are able to make a suggested contribution of £10-20 towards the cost of running the event, we welcome this in the form of a donation on the day.

Please rsvp to clare@independentdance.co.uk by 23 August 2019.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Very best wishes,

The ID team



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