

**PHOENIX HISTORY 1981 - NOW**

Formed in 1981 by David Hamilton (Artistic Director), Donald Edwards and Vilmore James, Phoenix Dance Company quickly won support amongst audiences and critics thanks to the company's fresh approach to contemporary dance. Neville Campbell's appointment as Artistic Director in 1987 marked a major expansion of the company and its repertoire as, under Campbell's direction, the company employed female dancers for the first time and increased to a company of ten.



In the same year Phoenix moved out of Chapeltown and established a permanent base at Yorkshire Dance in Leeds city centre. Margaret Morris took over as Artistic Director in 1991. Under her, the company expanded its UK and overseas touring, notably when Phoenix were the sole representative of British dance at the 1996 Cultural Olympics in Atlanta.

Thea Nerissa Barnes became Artistic Director in 1997 and under her leadership the company set about preserving its heritage by establishing the company's first archive.

Darshan Singh Bhuller took over as Artistic Director in 2002 and immediately began reshaping, beginning with rebranding the company Phoenix Dance Theatre. Under his direction the company moved into larger scale venues and refocused itself as a multicultural company.

Javier De Frutos became Artistic Director of Phoenix Dance Theatre in 2006, under his leadership Phoenix won the 'Company Prize for Outstanding Repertoire (Modern)' at the Critics' Circle National Dance Awards.

Sharon Watson was appointed as Artistic Director in May 2009. Under her, Phoenix has re-introduced diverse mixed programmes of work by established and up and coming choreographers, including classic pieces from the company's extensive repertoire, and the company has refocused its ambitions, aiming to be the leading middle scale dance company of the UK. In October 2010 Phoenix moved into purpose-built new premises in the Quarry Hill area of Leeds alongside Northern Ballet.



### Celebrating 35 years of excellence, diversity and innovation in dance

We have been celebrating our 35th anniversary since the start of this year with the launch of our Give 35 for 35 Years fundraising campaign. This year Phoenix@Home, our annual showcase of past, present and future repertoire at our home venue, is being staged as a commemorative event to mark this special occasion.

#### Say Happy Birthday to Phoenix Dance Theatre today.

Complete our enclosed 35th Birthday Card and make your donation.

By supporting Phoenix Dance Theatre's Give 35 for 35 Years campaign, you are enabling us to reach a wider audience with our diverse and dynamic dance programme across the UK and internationally. Your donation assists in expanding our work into more deprived communities and to those with additional needs through our Access & Education programme.

We are the UK's longest standing contemporary dance company outside London. Therefore, with your help, the Phoenix flame will burn brightly for another 35 years.

Visit our website for further information and to see the names of our Give 35 donors so far: [www.phoenixdancetheatre.co.uk/support-us/give-35](http://www.phoenixdancetheatre.co.uk/support-us/give-35)

## DONATE NOW

