



POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS

SOWING THE SEEDS OF INTERNATIONAL TRAD DANCE

28 APRIL 2023

9:00 – 17:00

ST LEONARD'S LAND DANCE STUDIO

**THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
HOLYROOD RD EDINBURGH EH8 8AQ**

TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND

SUPPORTING DIVERSE TRAD DANCE IN SCOTLAND THROUGH
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POMEGRANATES

SOWING THE SEEDS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL DANCE

TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND

SPRINGTIME FESTIVAL CURATED BY ILIYANA NEDKOVA, ELEANOR SINCLAIR AND WENDY TIMMONS

[LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST](https://linktr.ee/pomegranatesfest)

WHY POMEGRANATES?

INTRODUCTION BY LIYANA NEDKOVA AND WENDY TIMMONS



We are delighted to welcome you to Pomegranates – the springtime festival initiated by the Traditional **Dance** Forum of Scotland. Established in 2022 as part of Edinburgh Tradfest, Pomegranates returns in spring 2023 to once again sow the seeds of international traditional dance in Scotland and culminate into a celebration of UNESCO's International Dance Day (29 April) with three days full of dancing around the world but also filled with art and music, films and poetry.

Just like our inaugural Pomegranates, the festival weekend in 2023 kicks off with an intensive day packed with professional development world dance workshops led by creative migrants based in Scotland. This year the line up includes not just 10 but 12 workshops taught by over 30 trad dance artists and choreographers with whom we circumnavigate the globe from Scotland to Zambia in just eight hours.

But how did pomegranates become a metaphor for the process of creative professional development? It was in the process of curating the pilot festival edition of Pomegranates when we came across the line “*Attracts me like a pomegranate*”. It was initially the second line of Beatles’ song *Something* (1969) written by **George Harrison**. “Pomegranate” was only used as a temporary filler before Harrison settled on the final lyrics, yet for us pomegranates came to stand for the process of workshopping and learning which often remains hidden from the public eye.

What else is new at Pomegranates 2023? This year we curated three nights of live dance shows, as well as *Duets* – the dance and drawing exhibition by our artist-in-residence **Gabriel Schmitz**, with a series of life drawing duets with traditional and contemporary dance in Edinburgh and Glasgow, alongside the free exhibition tours.

Another new feature of this year’s festival? Not one but two new publications commissioned and produced by Traditional **Dance** Forum of Scotland. *A Sequins of Poems to Dance To* by our festival poet-in-residence **Ian McMillan** is a booklet of 10 poems which comes alive at our festival finale. *Trad Dance Cast* is our new trad dance podcast which goes behind the scenes of our screen dance production *To Begin the Dance Once More* due to receive its world premiere at Pomegranates.

Do explore and enjoy all aspects of this year’s festival. Let Pomegranates begin once more!

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ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

[LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST](https://linktr.ee/pomegranatesfest)



PIA WALKER

[LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST](https://linktr.ee/pomegranatesfest)

I have danced from the age of four, including ballroom, ballet, acrobatics and jazz. I discovered the classes of Royal Scottish Country Dance Society as a 17-year old. Later, when living in Scotland, I realised that there are so many different aspects of Scottish dancing and I was hooked. Currently, I teach Scottish Country Dance and Ceilidh. I am very interested in Old Time as it is a dance form to be preserved. I will try my hand at any dance style, I just love to dance.

KEV THEAKER

[FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/MONSMEG](https://facebook.com/groups/monsmeg)

I am just one of the Mons Meg sword dancers – Edinburgh's finest exponents of Rapper Sword dance and English longsword. Rapper is a fast paced five-person dance using short flexible, two-handled swords and hard shoe stepping, originating in the mining communities of North East of England.

OKSANA SAIAPINA

[LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST](https://linktr.ee/pomegranatesfest)

I am a teacher of Ukrainian folk dances. I fled Ukraine in the summer 2022 and settled in Edinburgh where I teach dance. Back home, I worked for more than 15 years in a dance studio with children aged 3 to 15 years. The group under my leadership took part in international festivals winning many a high-level competition. I am delighted to join the Pomegranates line up of traditional dance artists from around the world

ANASTASIIA BOIKO

[LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST](https://linktr.ee/pomegranatesfest)

I have been dancing since I was three years old, including ballroom, Ukrainian, folk, modern, historical folk dances...This year I will graduate from Serge Lyfar Kyiv Municipal Academy of Dance, Ukraine. Currently, I am based in Edinburgh and teach Ukrainian dances for children at the Ukrainian Community Centre (AUGB Edinburgh).

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KARLIS CAUCIS

[FACEBOOK.COM/DINDARUDANDARU](https://facebook.com/dindarudandaru)

I am one of the founding members of Dindaru Dandaru – Edinburgh-based Latvian folk dance group. Currently, we are practising the classic dances that we would perform at the national Latvian song and dance festival held every five years. In July 2023 we will represent Scotland at this important event in Latvian culture and social life. As one of the Baltic song festivals, it is also on the list of the UNESCO Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity since 2008.

LARA RUSSO

[FACEBOOK.COM/ITALIANFOLKCONNECTIONS](https://facebook.com/italianfolkconnections)

*I am one of the founding members of Italian Folk Connections. Based in Edinburgh, our mission is to promote the interaction between individuals and the expressions of inner feelings through the cathartic sound and moves of traditional Italian folk music and dance. I am pleased to be joined by fellow member **Michela Furin** to share our passion for Southern Italian Tarantella, including Pizzica Pizzica with all at Pomegranates.*

SONIA MICHALEWICZ

[FACEBOOK.COM/ROMANECIERHENIA](https://facebook.com/romanecierhenia)

I am just one of the founding members of Romane Cierhenia – the folk dance and music group of Polish Romani community based in Glasgow. We have been immersed in the Romani dance culture since we were little. As we continue to cherish the dances passed down from generations of Roma people, we are delighted to share some of our unique living heritage with all at Pomegranates.

HEATHER RIKIC

[ED.AC.UK/PROFILE/HEATHER-RIKIC](https://ed.ac.uk/profile/heather-rikic)

I have taught a wide range of dance styles, including Cunningham Technique, to students of various ages and abilities in my 20+ years of professional dance teaching practice. I have taught in the USA, Serbia and most recently at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. In 2020 I earned my MSc in Dance Science and Education from the University of Edinburgh where I currently teach. I have danced in multiple contemporary dance companies in New York City an artists' collective in Belgrade and even a dance improvisation group in Edinburgh.

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OXANA BANSHIKOVA

COSMIC-DANCE.COM

*I am Bharatanatyam teacher, dancer and choreographer, originally from Kazakhstan. I am the Founding Director of Cosmic Dance Company and Associate Artistic Director of Beyond Bollywood (Hong Kong). In 2019 I moved to Scotland and I am currently working towards establishing myself, as well as my Cosmic Dance Company in Edinburgh. So pleased to be joined by **Sahana Lakshmi Venkatesh** (vocals) to share our passion for traditional dance and live music with all at Pomegranates.*

YIFENG ZHU

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I have many years of professional arts practice and experience teaching and training dance artists and teachers in both the UK and China. I graduated from the University of Edinburgh with MSc in Dance Science and Education and completed my PhD in Performing Arts at Canterbury Christ Church University. Currently, I am a lecturer at Sichuan Normal University. Delighted to be back in Edinburgh and teach one of my favourite Chinese folk dances at Pomegranates.

CHINYANTA KABASO

THECHINYANTA.COM/HOME

I am a performing artist, content creator and dance producer. I create both live and digital performances that draw from modern and traditional styles of Afro-Caribbean dance. I choreograph and perform for theatres and festivals worldwide, including Edinburgh International Children's Festival and Arts-Ability Festival in Cape Town. Most recently, I won the TED Idea Search: Africa 2022 and created The Dazzling Diversity of African Dance which resonates with the ethos of Pomegranates.



ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

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MARIANELLA DESANTI

MARIANELLADESANTI.BLOGSPOT.COM

I am a choreographer, dancer and teacher based in Edinburgh. I am currently with DannsEd Company while studying for my MSc in Dance Science and Education at the University of Edinburgh and lecturing at the Universidad Latina de Costa Rica. I gained my MA in Dance at London's Middlesex University. I was Principal Ballerina, First Soloist and Rehearsal Repetiteur at Danza Libre, Cota Rica, as well as ballerina at Washington National Opera. This is my first time teaching and second time performing at my favourite Pomegranates festival.

KEMONO L. RIOT

WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/KEMONOLRIOT

*I am a choreographer and dancer born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and raised in Glasgow, where I trained in all dance forms, including freestyle hip hop and Krump. I had the privilege to perform at the London Olympics 2012 and since then collaborated and toured with top recording artists such as **Jax Jones**.*

*I am pleased to see the pomegranates seeds grow from the seedlings of hip hop as a traditional dance style which we began sowing at Pomegranates 2022. This year I look forward to the challenge of choreographing, MCing and DJing the hip hop-themed festival finale fusing fun folk dance with funky hip hop rhythms and rhymes with the help of my fellow resident artists **Nemo Ganguli** (drums) **Ian McMillan** (poetry), **Gabriel Schmitz** (charcoal on paper) and **Barrie Barretto** (video). Join us.*



— POMEGRANATES —

SOWING THE SEEDS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL DANCE



SPRINGTIME FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL DANCE ACROSS EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW

LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST



WORKSHOPS AT A GLANCE

9:00 REGISTRATION

12:45 Q&A

9:15 Introducing artists-in-residence **Jon Bews** (fiddle), **Gabriel Schmitz** (charcoal on paper), **Nemo Ganguli** (drums), **Barrie Barretto** (video) and **Ian McMillan** (poetry) (in absentia)

13:00 LUNCH
Bring Your Own and Stay In

13:30 **WORKSHOP 7**
Sonia Michalewicz and team of Romane Cierhenia Poland

9:30 **WORKSHOP 1**

Pia Walker Old Time Scottish with **Bernie Hewitt** accordion

14:00 **WORKSHOP 8**
Oxana Banshikova of Cosmic Dance
Indian Classical Bharatnatyam

10:00 **WORKSHOP 2**

Kev Theaker and Mons Meg Sword Dancers
Rapper sword dance

14:30 **WORKSHOP 9**
Heather Rikic and Junko Inaba Japan

10:30 **WORKSHOP 3**

Oksana Saiapina and Anastasiia Boiko
Ukraine

15:00 Q&A

15:15 **WORKSHOP 10**

Chinyanta Kabaso Zambia

11:00 Q&A

11:15 **WORKSHOP 4**

Karlis Caucis of Dindaru Danduru Latvia

15:45 **WORKSHOP 11**

Marianella Desanti of DansEd Costa Rica

11:45 **WORKSHOP 5**

Lara Russo and Michela Furin of Italian Folk Connections Southern Italy

16:15 **WORKSHOP 12**

Kemono L. Riot Hip Hop with Congolese roots

12:15 **WORKSHOP 6**

Yifeng Zhu China

16:45 Q&A

17:00 BREAK

19:00 **POMEGRANATES TRIPLE BILL**

Scottish Storytelling Centre

43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR