



# Freelance Choreographer

## Contract available for People Power Passion

May 2019

Luton Council seeks an experienced freelance choreographer for People Power Passion, the July 19 event of the pilot year of culture programme.

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## Purpose of role

To work with the Creative Director and Music Director of People Power Passion to choreograph a participatory dance and music spectacular as part of Luton's pilot year of culture; People Power Passion.

## Fee/payment

£8000 flat fee. See 'Hours and days' below for further information.

## Hours and days

It is expected that the contract is for 20-25 days of work. Possibly divided as follows:

- Rehearsals: 10 days spread across evenings and weekends
- Supporting mini-commissions: 7 days spread across multiple evening and weekend attendance at local group rehearsals
- Choreography: 7 days self-directed choreography.

Please note that number of days are an estimate only and the contract is offered as a flat fee of £8000.

### Key dates:

Date	Time	Description
27 May – 5 July	Varied. Most likely weekday evenings and some weekends.	Attendance at local group dance rehearsals to advise on mini-commissions
Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 June	10am – 5pm	Mass choreography teaching
Wednesday 3 July	Evening	Mass choreography rehearsal
Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 July	10am – 5pm	Full show rehearsals
Wednesday 10 July	Evening	Full show rehearsal
Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 July	10am – 5pm	Full show rehearsals
Wednesday 17 July	Evening	Full show rehearsal
Thursday 18 July	Evening	Dress rehearsal
Friday 19 July	Evening	Show

## Role responsibilities

**Creative context:** In 1919, the Peace Day rioters stormed the Luton Town Hall and set it alight. As it burned, the rioters broke into a nearby music store, dragged out pianos and sang and danced as the riots continued. The July 19 event will draw inspiration from these historical acts. The event will be an 'opening ceremony' style integrated music and dance event outside the Luton Town Hall. The programme will loosely follow a timeline from 1919 – 2019, referencing historical acts of people power and protest around the world and the history of immigration into Luton.

**Brief:** We are seeking a choreographer to lead the dance elements of the production. This will include the following tasks:

- support local dance teachers to develop and teach their 'mini-commissions', including attendance at local dance classes/rehearsals
- choreograph and teach three mass participation pieces for all members of the community ensemble (up to 100 participants):
- attend and lead dance rehearsals in the weeks before the event
- support 2 x parkour/stunt performers to develop 5 minutes of freestyle/improvised dance on top of pianos.

**Choreographic approach:** The dance elements will be realised in two different ways:

- local dance groups will be awarded 'mini-commissions' to develop dance segments based on their group's expertise.
- the choreographer will develop bespoke pieces for the large-scale participatory elements.

The three mass participation pieces will be:

- a 3-5 minute piece inspired by Exodus/Leviticus music. Styles: 90's rave/reggae
- a 3-5 minute mass participation piece for female dancers about #metoo to a recent pop song (to be advised upon award of contract)
- a 10-15 minute mass participation piece that brings together all of the mini-commissions into one joyful celebration. Most of the choreography will be developed by the local dance groups, bringing them together into a cohesive, flowing piece will be the responsibility of the choreographer, including developing any required transition work.

Please note that the dancers for the mass participation pieces will be made up of people that attend local dance groups and the general public. There will be a range of expertise ranging from no previous dance experience to senior members of local dance collectives. There is no age limit and we do not expect that any dancers will be under the age of 13 however this is to be confirmed.

**Dance styles:** As the programme will follow timelines of protest and immigration there are multiple dance styles to be accommodated. The local groups will be experts in their specific styles, so the choreographer should be skilled in working with a diverse range of styles but is not required to

have expertise in all of them. They will need expertise in the styles required for the mass participation pieces which are 90's dance, jazz and contemporary. Styles explored through the mini-commissions are:

- Swing, Charleston, jazz
- Irish dance
- Bollywood, Pakistani and Bangladeshi dance
- Carnival, Afro-Caribbean
- African
- Folk dance
- Contemporary

## Background Information

**Background:** David Murphy of Luton-based orchestra Sinfonia Verdi, has been appointed as the Music Director of the July 19 music and dance event of People Power Passion. Michaela Nutt, Cultural Enabler, Luton Council, is creative director.

**Production vision:** The production will be delivered outside of the town hall in the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (exactly 100 years after the riots). A celebration of the music and dance of the people that call Luton home, responding to the vision of the rioters dancing and singing as the Town Hall burned in 1919. Examples of protest from around the world will form the framework of the piece. The production will draw together a large number of the musicians and dancers of Luton into a cohesive night time event that celebrates each of our cultures and communities. Situated outside of the Town Hall and into the high street, this night time celebration will draw audiences into the event, inviting them to participate, dance and sing along. The production will be representative of the super-diverse population in Luton and inclusive of the music and dance of all of the cultures that call Luton home.

**Themes:** People Power Passion, the 1919 Peace Day riots, music and dance as forms of resistance, super-diverse communities, inclusion.

**Vision:** An ambitious, spectacular production that immerses audiences and participants in a celebration of music and dance. Lights, sound and participatory dance create the 'opening-ceremony' of Luton.

**People Power Passion: setting Luton alight.** In 2019, Luton Council will collaborate with the people of Luton to deliver a series of arts events made by, with and for local residents. As part of our ambition to be named UK City of Culture in 2025, we are embarking on a pilot year of culture programme. Building on the themes of people power and community action and commemorating the centenary of the 1919 Luton Peace Day riots, a series of performances, events and artworks will reflect our diverse and vibrant communities. This is entitled People Power Passion and applicants are encouraged to review the People Power Passion [website](#) prior to applying.

**Harnessing Momentum**: Luton's strategy for the arts, cultural and creative industries in Luton 2017 – 2027 highlights the positive impact the arts can have on our places and spaces, skills and jobs, community cohesion and on our children and young people. This pilot programme will explore this impact whilst reaching audiences through ambitious, innovative and inclusive arts activity.

**Luton in 2019**: As part of our ambition to be named UK City of Culture in 2025 we have identified the following four themes as important to Luton: Voices, Journeys, Growth and Home. The commissioned project will explore these themes and consider how people power and community action are relevant to Luton today and to the town's journey over the past 100 years.

Luton Council is delivering People, Power, Passion as part of the Luton Investment Framework. Overseen by the Luton Investment Framework Partnership & Programme Manager, the Cultural Enabler will lead the delivery of People, Power, Passion supported by a Programme Producer, two Participation & Engagement Producers and an Arts Administration Apprentice (project team).

## Responsible to:

Michaela Nutt, Cultural Enabler, Luton Council.

## Team

The choreographer will work directly with the Creative Director and Music Director to realise the project. They will be supported by a producer, two participation producers, an assistant director, a trainee dance captain and an arts administration apprentice.

The trainee dance captain will be appointed in a skills-development capacity to support the teaching of the mass participation pieces. Depending on their skills they may also support with the choreography and visits to local groups as directed by the choreographer and the creative director. Please note that the dance captain will be a trainee, so a choreographer that is willing to provide mentorship will be highly regarded. The trainee will be supported by the participation producer (skills & volunteering).

## Other

The successful person should have the right to work in the UK.

## Application process

1. Please produce either covering letter (2 sides of A4 maximum) or film (5 minute video maximum) that conveys your relevant experience, your interest in the contract and your ability to work across multiple styles of dance. Please include reference to any mass participatory projects you have delivered.
2. Please provide links to a show reel or range of clips that evidence a broad range of expertise across dance styles.
3. Please submit CV with your relevant skills and experience.
4. Confirm that you are, or are willing to be DBS checked.
5. Confirm your availability for the key dates.

6. Please email your documents and links (via we transfer, dropbox or vimeo) to [AAApplicationsLC@luton.gov.uk](mailto:AAApplicationsLC@luton.gov.uk) by **9am Friday 17 May**.
7. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an informal interview at the Town Hall on Tuesday 21, Wednesday 22, Thursday 23 or Friday 24 May. Please indicate if there are any times within this period that you would *not* be available for interview.

## Contact details

Please contact Michaela Nutt, Cultural Enabler on [michaela.nutt@luton.gov.uk](mailto:michaela.nutt@luton.gov.uk) or 01582 54 6283 with any questions.

## Qualification Process

- The successful contractor must be able to invoice through either a company, organisation or as self-employed
- the successful contractor must hold public liability insurance to the value of £5m
- the contractor must be, or willing to be DBS checked
- the contractor must be able to commit to the timelines required.

## Selection

Please see the supporting document: [People Power Passion – Freelance choreographer evaluation criteria](#)