

One Dance UK and education partners have recently established a Decolonising the Dance Curriculum Roundtable. Cultural consultant and roundtable member Karina H Maynard studies this significance.

The 2020 Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement initiated one of the most transformative periods in recent history. We experienced unprecedented engagement and discourse about the historical mistreatment of the African Diaspora, contemporary challenges and the need for change.

The dance and education sectors engaged in conversations, issued public statements and developed plans for organisational reform. As a member of the Decolonising the Dance Curriculum Roundtable facilitated by One Dance UK, I have been working with colleagues from various settings including examination boards, dance companies, educational establishments and community organisations to further the decolonisation of dance education in the UK.

The roundtable focuses on three areas: teacher resources and continuing professional development (CPD), the youth roundtable, and dance history and context. With a focus on the developments of the last 18 months, here are my reflections on effective approaches required to improve race equity.



Photo Dani Bower for One Dance UK

Dance history and context

Understanding decolonisation is key to the contextualisation of historic and contemporary oppression. Race is often considered in relation to justice, diversity, equity and inclusion. However, we must consider how over the past 400 years, the impact of the western colonisation of Africa, Asia, North America, South America, Australia/Oceania and European regions shaped global perspectives. The ideology of white supremacy, wrongly used to justify the gross acts of violence used to seize people, nations and global resources, was upheld by belief systems that are deeply embedded in all aspects of our cultural fabric.

“Decolonisation is the process of recognising the exploitation of peoples, nations and resources and developing narratives that align with current values that support equity and justice.”

Young people

The effective decolonisation of dance education requires us to accept the truth about history and understand that we are not responsible for the oppressive actions of the past, but instead commit to developing anti-oppressive values. A common misunderstanding is that decolonisation erases history. Knowledge of oppressive belief systems that underpinned longstanding historic atrocities, such as, the transatlantic slave trade and apartheid in South Africa, enables us to understand which peoples have been omitted and misrepresented in creative and cultural history and why.

Decolonisation enriches and elevates dance. It allows us to tell the whole story, fully explore the cultural roots of our art and challenge the discriminatory norms that deny the full expression and celebration of unique identities. Decolonisation requires the research and development of honest narratives that are inclusive, diverse and equitable.

Centring the voices and experiences of young people is imperative to developing curricula, and more inspirational learning experiences. The youth energy that propelled the BLM movement helps us to understand the ideals and aspirations of our young people. Young people are highly adept at leveraging information online to champion accessibility and inclusion of diverse identities. They realise their cultural influence by establishing an online presence, sharing ideas and showcasing their talent to access unprecedented opportunities for success.

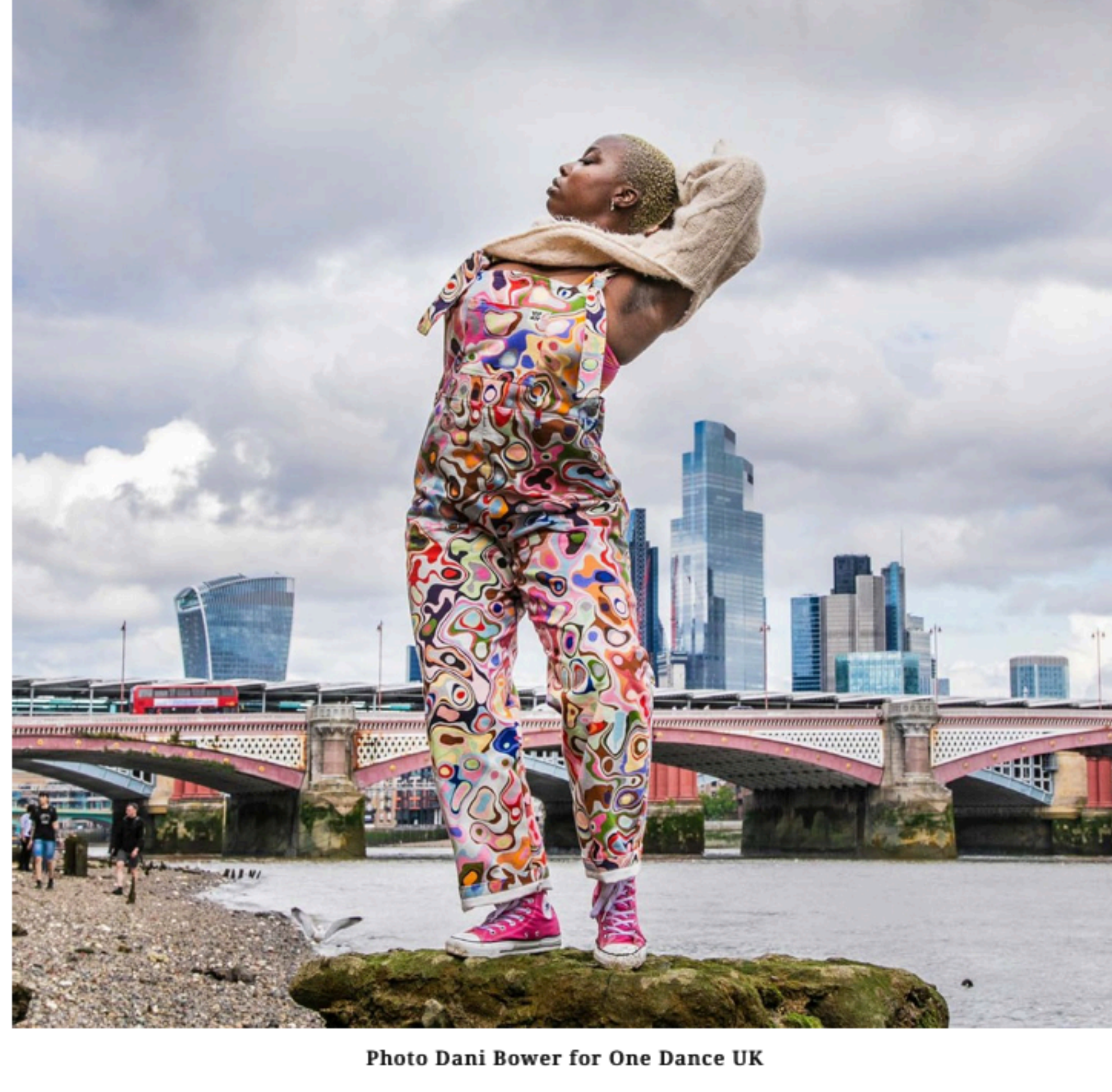


Photo Dani Bower for One Dance UK

Teacher learning & development

Positive change that lasts beyond the BLM headlines requires educators to practice the principles of learning and self-development that we teach. We need to expand our historical knowledge, immerse ourselves in diverse contemporary cultures and engage in challenging CPD that requires us to examine our identities, to develop reflective practice and critical skills.

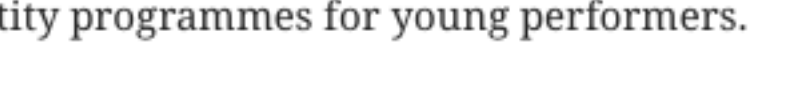
I am often asked to provide quickfix solutions of what to do and say to improve Diversity & Inclusion. This is necessary, but improving racial equity does not start with policies, it starts with personal responsibility in our role as changemakers. We are required to commit to visionary leadership, that is creative, uplifting and has the greatest impact on our decisions, connections and impact.

Further Information

For further information on the Decolonising the Curriculum Roundtable or One Dance UK's other work for young people and for equality, diversity and inclusion, contact:

info@onedanceuk.org

Karina H Maynard is a specialist in representation for the arts, heritage, media and education. She is a Board Member and Executive Director at the Urdang Academy. As a consultant, Karina develops CPD and race, culture & identity programmes for young performers.



More stories from this publisher:

from 'ONE Magazine | Autumn 2021'



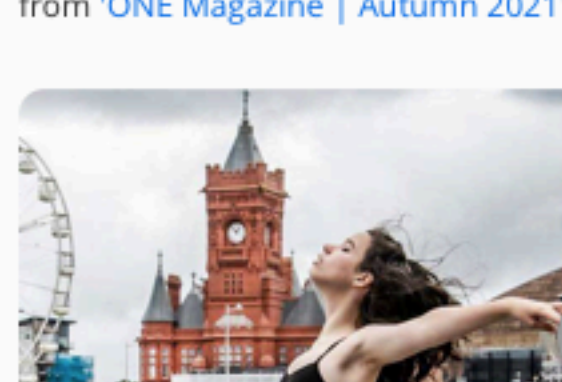
Dancing Parents

from 'ONE Magazine | Autumn 2021'



Casting: Come What May

from 'ONE Magazine | Autumn 2021'



Higher Education: Degrees of C...

This story is from:



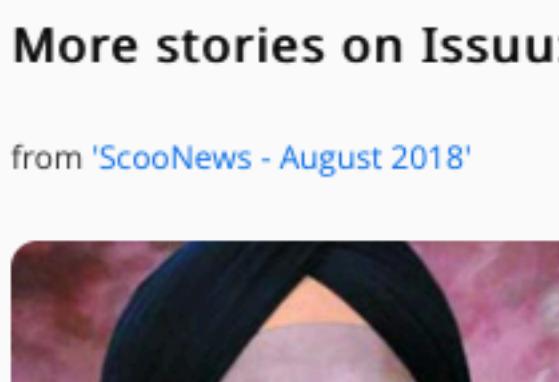
ONE Magazine |

Autumn 2021

by One Dance UK

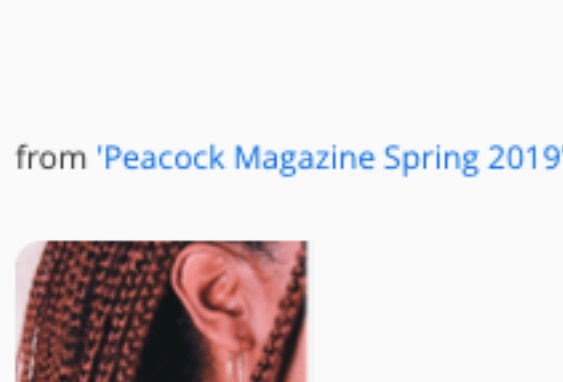
More stories on Issuu:

from 'ScoopNews - August 2018'



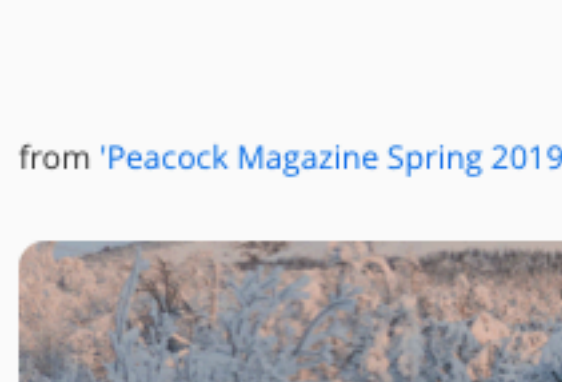
Making India a Global Educatio...

from 'Peacock Magazine Spring 2019'

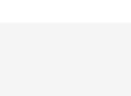


#Onlinewhileblack

from 'Peacock Magazine Spring 2019'



Are We "Over Techifying" Clima...



Connecting content to people.

Issuu Inc.

Company

- About us
- Careers
- Blog
- Webinars
- Press

Solutions

- Designers
- Content Marketers
- Social Media Managers
- Publishers
- PR / Corporate Communication
- Students & Teachers
- Salespeople
- Use Cases

Issuu Features

- Fullscreen Sharing
- Visual Stories
- Article Stories
- Embed
- Statistics
- SEO
- InDesign Integration

Industries

- Publishing
- Real Estate
- Sports
- Travel

Products & Resources

- Cloud Storage Integration
- GIFs
- AMP Ready
- Add Links
- Groups
- Video
- Web-ready Fonts
- Plans
- Partnerships
- Developers
- Digital Sales
- Elite Program
- iOS App
- Android App
- Collaborate
- Publisher Directory
- Redeem Code
- Support

Explore Issuu Content

- Arts & Entertainment
- Food & Drink
- Pets
- Sports
- Vehicles

- Business
- Health & Fitness
- Religion & Spirituality
- Style & Fashion

- Education
- Hobbies
- Science
- Technology & Computing

- Family & Parenting
- Home & Garden
- Society
- Travel

Explore Issuu Content

- Arts & Entertainment
- Food & Drink
- Pets
- Sports
- Vehicles

- Business
- Health & Fitness
- Religion & Spirituality
- Style & Fashion

- Education
- Hobbies
- Science
- Technology & Computing

- Family & Parenting
- Home & Garden
- Society
- Travel