

Big Top Collaboration Information for choreographers and musicians



Dance Blast is a community dance and aerial circus company based in Abergavenny. We are the home of three community performance companies, MYDC (Monmouthshire Youth Dance Company) MYCC (Monmouthshire Youth Circus Company) and our adult inclusive group MCDC (Monmouthshire Connected Dance Company). We are a registered charity established in 1998 and have been resident in our current home in Abergavenny since 2011. Approximately 500 community members of all ages and abilities come through our doors every week to enjoy a variety of dance, movement and aerial circus classes. In addition to this, we have an outreach programme providing regular classes and projects across Monmouthshire.

Dance Blast has been fortunate to receive project funding from the Arts Council of Wales, over a number of years, to deliver performance projects with commissioned artists chosen by dance company members. Please find below a link to a documentary film about 'Inspire', which was performed at Abergavenny Castle in April 2025

Inspire Abergavenny Castle 2026 url: <https://youtu.be/fHTwCz-JV1k>

Thank you for your interest in our 2026 commissions.

Please find the details below and don't hesitate to contact me on:
kathydanceblast@gmail.com or 07443 530127 if you have any questions

These commissions form part of our Arts Council of Wales Funded Big Top project, (as yet untitled).

This project will culminate in performances on Tuesday July 28th and Wednesday July 29th in a Big Top that will be in situ at Gilwern Outdoor Centre. There will be staging and lights in the Big Top.

In addition to these commissions for Monmouthshire Youth Dance Company, this event will include performances by each of our youth dance company groups, our adult inclusive dance company, MCDC, and our youth circus company members. Also invited to perform, will be our street dance group, boys dance group and at least one group from our outreach programme. The dance companies and youth circus will be choreographed by their regular Artistic Directors, Kim Noble and Elle Kate, respectively.

We are, therefore, looking for a dancer and musician to collaborate with each other and Monmouthshire Youth Dance Company to create an exciting piece of dance, approximately 10/12 minutes in length, on the theme of 'Circus, makes the impossible possible'.

It is the company members who will choose the artists for this project. We will invite you to lead a masterclass with the youth company members and present your idea for your piece.

Apply together

You can apply together, dancer plus musician with a joint idea

Apply individually

You can apply as a dancer or musician, and we can put you together

We are offering £3000 per artist for 6 to 10 days of contact time *(depending on factors such as travel and accommodation required as expenses are included in the fee)*

If travelling from a great distance, please contact us if the travel expenses would affect the number of days you can commit to the project. For long distance artists, there may be the potential to meet for fewer weekends with two sessions: Saturday afternoon/early evening and Sunday.

The days available to create the piece are:-

Sundays between June 14th and July 26th

Some days from Monday July 20th to Mon 27th July. *(It is anticipated that you will rehearse the dancers during this period and be available for the performance days)*

Masterclass/auditions

The fee for a full-day masterclass audition is £250 per day inclusive of travel expenses.

If travelling from a great distance, please contact us about further expenses.

The possible days for you to choose from for your masterclass auditions are:-

Sundays May 10th, 17th or 31st

During half term: Tuesday – Thursday, May 26th, 27th or 28th and Saturday 30th

(Saturday evenings are a potential for a half day audition, if these dates are not available to you)

This process gives our young people the opportunity to work with a variety of artists before coming to a decision. Having a full day gives everyone the opportunity to know how it will be to work together.

To apply please send your C.V to kathydanceblast@gmail.com and complete the relevant google form for the commission before noon on Friday 1st May 2026

Choreographer application form url: <https://forms.gle/sburjWE8XEKfGKn58>

Musician application form url: <https://forms.gle/Njf3mb9EuowpZhdZ8>

Please do not hesitate to call Kathy if you have any questions at all about this project before applying.

