

Bloom Festival

The Bloom National Festival explored and celebrated dance from Africa and its diaspora through performances, films, open workshops and discussions. The spirit behind the biennial festival was the desire to cultivate artists who are rooted, confident and flourishing wherever they find themselves in Britain – ‘blooming where they are planted’. With each festival the aim was to give a glimpse of the African diaspora dance talent flourishing in communities nationwide.

The first festival was held in June 2009 at the Southbank Centre and attracted the support of almost 1000 people over two days of events. In addition to the talks, films and workshops that were open to the public, the festival featured a mixed bill performance showcasing UK-based artists. With the success of the inaugural festival, Bloom grew through the years, with chapters occurring nationwide at other conferences and festivals, drawing in new and larger audiences.

The final Bloom event took place in 2017, spotlighting dance from Africa and its diaspora through performances, workshops and discussions across the UK. The festival highlighted the dance talent growing in communities and raised awareness of the art forms to new audiences and spaces. The 2017 festival launched with the Trailblazers Showcase on 10 May at The Place with three stunning performances by our Trailblazers Champion Fellows Adesola Akinleye and Ithalia Forel, and The Neriah Kumah Legacy Fund recipient Sara Dos Santos. Bloom unfolded as chapters in collaboration with key venues, studios, regional festivals and partners From May - November 2017.



An Evening of Jazz - Dance and Music by One Dance UK



Let's Move to More Visibility by One Dance UK

USEFUL LINKS

One Dance UK Archive:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170812054331/http://www.onedanceuk.org/event/bloom/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170826145136/http://www.onedanceuk.org/bloom-2017-blogs/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170826144114/http://www.onedanceuk.org/programme/dance-of-the-african-diaspora/regional-national-engagement/bloom-national-festival/past-bloom-festivals/>

ADAD Archive:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20110927035159/http://www.adad.org.uk/metadot/index.pl?id=23833&isa=Category&op=show>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20130909173330/http://www.adad.org.uk/metadot/index.pl?id=23833&isa=Category&op=show>

Photo album:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/140203191@N06/with/37432316044>



Afro Dance Xplosion performance at Moreley College, London by One Dance UK