

Jane Ralls, Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details

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DBS Enhanced Disclosure (Update Service)

Full clean driving license

Skills and Attributes

I am an extremely motivated person who is passionate about the arts and the positive impact they can have on communities.

My aim is to make the arts accessible to all and I do this through initiating and implementing strategic and creative projects, programmes and events.

I have a reputation for developing meaningful collaborations and true partnerships and a proven track record in:

- Initiating creative ideas and bringing them to fruition
- Sourcing and securing financial resources
- Liaising with key stakeholders
- Working strategically to link different aspects of an organisation
- Managing and directing teams, communicating with a wide range of people and nurturing individuals
- Using my background and experience in education to inform my creative work and deliver training opportunities
- Recruiting, contracting and working with artists
- Understanding the needs and interests of specific communities and developing bespoke projects to achieve them
- Working independently and as part of a team

I enjoy participatory arts, the magic of live performance – and have a particular interest in site-specific and location-based work.

Education and Qualifications

Feb 2016	Action Learning Associates, London	Accredited as an Action Learning Facilitator with the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM)
Dec 2015	Relational Dynamics 1st, Lancs	Accreditation (distinction) in Coaching and Leadership awarded by Culture at Work , which is approved by the ILM and recognised as ILM level 7 equivalent (N.B. I maintain membership of the Association for Coaching and International Coaching Federation and have successfully achieved the latter's ACC credential)
1996-1997	De Montfort University, Bedford	PGCE: Secondary Specialism (Dance with Drama) Undertaken during placement year, University of Surrey
1994-1998	University of Surrey, Guildford	BA (Hons) Dance in Society , First class degree
1992-1994	Royal Academy of Dancing	A level dance
1992-1994	Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School Aylesbury, Bucks	A Levels: Biology, Theatre Studies, General Studies. A/S Level Music

1987-1992 Tring Comprehensive School, Herts **GCSEs:** Business Technology and Communication, History, Science: double award, English Literature, Music, Mathematics, German, English Language. **Typing RSA:** Stage One. **Foreign Languages at Work (German):** Pass

I have also undertaken various qualifications for personal development, including **GCSE photography** and an Open University OCN in **Understanding Society**.

Other professional development

I have attended and organised many non-accredited professional development opportunities, conferences, seminars and training sessions to enhance my knowledge and keep up-to-date with best practice. Delivered by organisations such as Mental Health First Aid England, Foundation for Community Dance, Youth Dance England, Birmingham City Council, Swindon Borough Council, British Red Cross and Spearhead Training these have focused on the **Mental Health First Aid, Disability Discrimination Act, Emergency First Aid at Work, Safeguarding, Creativity, Youth Dance, Managing Conflict, Benchmarks for Quality, Facilitating with Ease**.

Current Employment

01/15 – Present

Self Employed (sole trader)

Offering services of partnership development, strategic planning, project management and coordination, coaching, mentoring and income generation.

My current portfolio of work consists of:

Coach for Young Women's Trust Work it Out Programme
Coach (B'ham) for Dancers' Career Development

I have recently completed contracts as:

Change Facilitator for Dancefest (April 2023-October 2023) supporting the team after their Founding Director retired

Arts Connect Associate (Artsmark) (2015-2023) - delivering development days for education settings that want to gain the Artsmark and demonstrate their commitment to the arts

Programme Manager for Furthering Talent, Awards for Young Musicians' (2017-18), working with partners across the country to enable children with talent to reach their potential

Executive Producer, Anjali Dance Company (2016-17) - a company that celebrates the unique creative abilities and artistic potential of people with learning disabilities

Business Development Advisor, Birmingham Dance Network - an artist-led organisation for independent dance artists

Mentor for Dash's *Cultivate* programme - a programme for disabled artists, most of whom work in the visual arts

Facilitator of Focus - an Action Learning and Peer Support programme for arts managers, producers and artists

Previous clients have also included:

Birmingham Royal Ballet (for B'ham Dance Hub, writing a position paper),

FRONTLINEdance (an integrated dance company based in Stoke-on-Trent, writing an organisational development plan),

Woking Dance and Flexus Dance Collective (facilitating Away Days).

I also **coach** numerous artists, managers and producers and engage in voluntary work (see below).

Previous Employment

05/04 – 12/14

Dance Development Director, DanceXchange

- To **direct, oversee and link up** all dance development, learning, engagement and audience development work across the organisation, including the Patrick Centre and International Dance Festival Birmingham (IDFB)
- To **Line Manage** relevant staff members (Community Engagement Manager, Class Programme Coordinator, Programme Manager for the *Centre for Advanced Training* (CAT) and Project Managers)
- To **initiate and develop strategic partnerships and projects** which create a healthy arts infrastructure in the West Midlands and increase access to dance. Examples include the *DAiR To...* Dance Artists in Residence project (in partnership with 5 regional venues), the Programme for Elite Students (a training programme in partnership with local universities), Belonging (in partnership with third sector charities such as Crisis and the Refugee Council), the Outdoor Dance Programme and Dancing for the Games Legacy work and The *Centre for Advanced Training for South Asian and Contemporary Dance* (resourced through the Department for Education's Music and Dance Scheme)
- To take responsibility for the **representation of DanceXchange** regionally (whilst the Artistic Director represents the organisation nationally and internationally)
- To initiate, develop and contribute to DanceXchange **policy**, with a particular emphasis on provision in the West Midlands Region
- To sit on the **Senior Management Team**
- To **fundraise** for relevant projects and ensure all activity meets agreed financial and statistical targets
- To **evaluate** and promote learning from all activity

05/01 – 02/04

Dance Development Officer, DanceXchange (promoted May 2004 after sabbatical)

An example project that I initiated, developed and managed was called *DAiR* (which stands for Dance Artists in Residence). Running throughout 2003, partners included Solihull Arts Complex, Malvern Theatres and Stoke-on-Trent Theatres. During this project Banxy and Luca Silvestrini were commissioned to create two separate performances for the four *DAiRs* (Dance Artists in Residence). These were toured around the West Midlands.

I also managed a series of Raising the Roof Roadshows which provided commissioned performances and participatory opportunities for non traditional spaces around the West Midlands.

02/01 – 05/01

Freelance Project Manager for various organisations (including Swindon Dance and Bucks Dance)

Work included the development of a directory of artists and companies for the region.

08/01 – 02/01

Swindon Dance, Dance Education and Access Officer (Maternity Cover)

Example projects include organising a schools dance festival and working on *The Main Ingredient*, a site-specific Hip Hop event.

04/99 – 08/00

Wycombe Dance Project, Project Manager and Animateur (Part time)

During these roles I managed a class programme and delivered classes and youth groups.

04/99 – 08/00

Bucks Dance, Project Manager and Dance Artist (Part time)

An example project that I managed, for the opening of the Milton Keynes Theatre, was called *Crossing Borders*. This involved Motionhouse Dance Theatre, 75 community participants of all ages (including some people with disabilities) and the Milton Keynes City Orchestra.

04/99 – 08/00 **Freelance Dance Artist for various organisations (including Chalfont Community College, High Society for Kids, The Dance Movement, and Stantonbury Campus)**
During this time I worked with young people and adults – and ran an inclusive/integrated performance project.

Voluntary work

2015-current **Co-founder (with Jenny Smith) of AMP (Independent Dance Managers and Producers) Network**, which now has 289 members (self defined as Producers and Managers) in it's Facebook group and provides peer support.

2010-2019 **Director on the Board of Trustees (Vice Chair in the final year) for the People Dancing: Foundation for Community Dance**, the professional (national) organisation for anyone involved in creating opportunities for people to experience and participate in dance

2015-2017 **Co-facilitator of an Action Learning Set in London**, formed of experienced managers and producers in the arts, museums and third sector. This group meets quarterly

2009-2012 **Member of the Management Group for Dancescape**, the sub-regional dance development project for Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire

2001 – 2007 **Director on the Board of Trustees for DanceFest**, regional dance agency for Worcestershire and Herefordshire

2001 – 2006 **Member of the Management Committee for Dudley Community Dance Consortium**

02/04 – 05/04 **Volunteer on a community development project with the Maasai** in the Rift Valley region of Kenya (through Madventurer). Work included building a school, promoting education and delivering seminars on HIV and AIDS (sabbatical from work)

Interests

I enjoy going to the theatre, music gigs and concerts, the cinema and art galleries, eating out and socialising with friends. I also like photography (particularly of a documentary nature) and attending exhibitions and outdoor events. After volunteering in Africa and having a family, I support various charities and, until recently, have sponsored a child through Plan UK. I swim and jog regularly, play the flute and also like to read. At Christmas time I often try my hand at various crafts to create gifts – though this has had various levels of success!

Referees

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