

CAGED



**A new outdoor work touring in
2025**

“I thought it was a brilliant piece, not just for the narrative and imagery created with the cage but also for the skill of the dancers, their commitment to the performance. You could see everything was in there for a reason and had meaning. I think this piece makes contemporary dance exciting, fresh and accessible to all, no matter what age or background.” Audience member

West Midlands dance company **Linden Dance** promotes positivity, individuality and empowerment, championing diverse perspectives, backgrounds and creative voices in a strong, physical movement language which brings together Afro-fusion and Contemporary dance styles. Their explosive new outdoor dance piece **CAGED** follows four characters on a journey from solitude to connectedness. Performing inside and around a 3m high metal “birdcage”, the four performers explore ambiguous worlds of entrapment and safety, a delicate balance that ultimately leads to feelings of hope and reconciliation. The emotive themes are reflected in an athletic, daring physicality and a punchy soundtrack.



Funded by Arts Council England, and supported by Pavilion Dance South West, Falmouth University, Lincoln University, 101 Outdoor Arts

“Powerful, athletic, sensitive, moving (in all senses)”
audience member



Linden Dance Company is an innovative professional dance company based in Birmingham, creating passionate and exciting original works. The company is committed to:

Positivity: Being positive and approachable so that individuals can thrive and feel seen

Individuality: Championing individual perspectives, backgrounds and creative voices

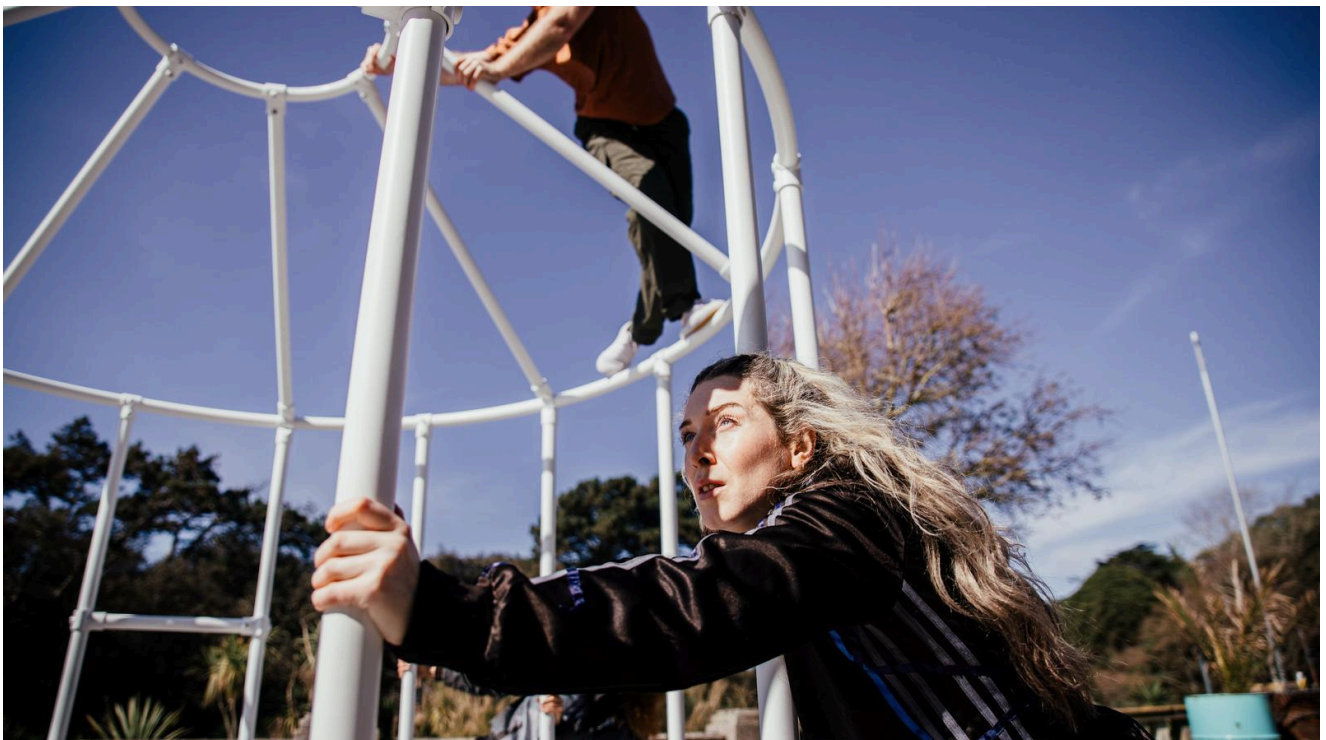
Empowerment: Providing spaces that allow people to appreciate their strengths and own voice

Linden Dance was formed by married couple **Christopher Radford** and **Sara Macqueen** in 2020, after over 10 years of artistic collaboration and successful individual performance careers. Chris and Sara draw on their different backgrounds and cultural identities to bring a diverse voice and perspective to the productions they create and the spaces they occupy. This is underpinned by their safeguarding policies and creative practices, in professional environments, community settings and in education, and supported by psychologists, counsellors and athletic trainers.

Linden Dance has been supported by Arts Connect, Arts Council England, HomeGrown31 to research, develop, and facilitate high-quality dance experiences that champions physical athleticism and emotional wellness, and are currently Associate Artists of Pavilion Dance South West (2024-26). Linden has been commissioned by FABRIC, Creative Academies Network, Birmingham International Dance Festival, and Agitart Festival, Barcelona to create socially engaged performance work. In 2024, their work 'UNBOXED' was performed 39 times nationally in 16 regions, including festivals such as Bell Square, Refract & Arts by the Sea, plus a 15-date schools tour engaging over 1700 students.

For more information about the company: <https://youtu.be/SOf2VWcqZng>

For more information about how Linden Dance work with youth: <https://youtu.be/q0HiaKngM1A>





Production Credits

Artistic Direction and Choreography: Christopher Radford and Sara Macqueen
Creative Producer: João Maio
Dramaturg: Eva Martinez
Composer: Azizi Cole w/ Sound Design by Azizi Cole & EIF Sound & Music
Set Design: Simon Dorman
Costume Designer & Maker: Andi Walker
Performers: India Rose Cox, Francis Hickman, Rosie Macari, Daniella May
Dance Artists in Development Phases: Rose Lewis
Apprentice Dancer: Ellie Waller
Academic Researcher: Dr Robert Dean

Christopher Radford

Director

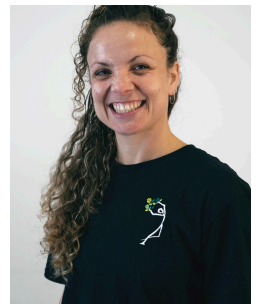


Christopher Radford is a Midlands based, professional dance performer, teacher and choreographer who works in the high energy styles of African, Afro-fusion and Contemporary. Originally from Birmingham, Chris started dancing as a member of ACE dance and music's youth company. He moved on to formal training at Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds receiving a First-Class BPA(hons) Degree. After graduating, Chris became a freelance artist; touring nationally and internationally with companies including: Scottish Dance Theatre, Autin DT, ACE dance and music, Heather Walrond Company, Corey Baker Dance and Sterran Dance Theatre. He has internationally performed works by choreographers; Damien Jalet, Anton Lachky, Rosie Kay and Fleur Darkin. He recently performed as a featured dancer for the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony, a stadium performance televised on the BBC.

Sara Macqueen

Director

Sara Macqueen is a contemporary dance performer, choreographer and teacher. She graduated from Northern School of Contemporary Dance with a First-Class Honours (2014) and has performed around the UK and Europe with companies including Sterran Dance Theatre, ME Dance Company, Earthfall, M Dance Company (Belgium) and SEH. She performed in the 2022 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony as a Featured Dancer, choreographed by Corey Baker. Sara is an established teacher for companies such as FABRIC, Performers College, Birmingham Hippodrome, Sense Charity, AutinDT, Birmingham Royal Ballet and within the freelance professional sector. Sara was awarded the 2024 One Dance UK Award for Health & Wellbeing, in commitment to her commitment to pioneering inclusive and supported spaces.



Azizi Cole

Composer

Azizi Cole began dancing at a young age at ACE dance&music's youth company. After training, Azizi spent several years as a session musician, touring venues including Royal Albert Hall, Hammersmith Apollo and Birmingham Symphony Hall and UK festivals Latitude, Reading and Leeds, Bestival and Electric Picnic. Azizi has worked as an accompanist at both Northern School of Contemporary Dance and Phoenix Dance Theatre. He has also been invited to play for touring companies such as English National Ballet, Rambert and VERVE as a guest musician. Azizi composes and records music for contemporary dance being commissioned by companies such as Phoenix Dance Theatre, Linden Dance Company and Kennedy Muntanga (KMDT).



Eva Martinez

Dramaturg

Eva Martinez is a performing arts curator, producer, dramaturge and coach, most recently Artistic Programmer at Sadler's Wells (2013-2020) where she curated distinctive UK based artists alongside international work, introducing new names to the theatre and supporting a new generation of artists. She was Dance and Performance programmer at Southbank Centre and at Dance4. A sought-after collaborator with an extended international network, she is known for her facilitative approach, championing experimentation and equity. Notable collaborations include dramaturgy for Siobhan Davies and Candoco Dance Company, Alexandra Waierstall and many more. She is a certified life coach (ICF), Clore Fellow and a chair of NPO Pagrav Dance Company.



BOOKING DETAILS

Touring	on request
Performers	4
Number on the road	6
Duration	25 minutes
Number of performances	two per day, with minimum 2 hour break between end of show 1 and start of show 2.
Technical Requirements	<p>Suitable for both urban and green outdoor spaces as well as indoor venues.</p> <p>Can be performed on grass, concrete or wooden surfaces.</p> <p>Performance space of 8m x 8m (Cage footprint is 4m x 4 m); 6m height clearance</p> <p>Audience view up to three sides</p> <p>Surfaces must be level (no dips, gaps or depressions) and be free from debris (eg. gravel/loose stones).</p> <p>PA system required (Linden Dance can provide its own speakers which require an electricity source).</p> <p>Technician to set up and operate PA.</p> <p>2 dressing rooms for 4 artists sharing with access to drinking water and toilet facilities.</p> <p>Warm up space prior to performance(s)</p> <p>Stewards need to ensure there is no audience cross over on the performance space, due to the physical aspects of the work.</p> <p>Parking for medium sized van no more than 50m away from performance area.</p>
Set up	Two hours minimum (The Cage is built so that it can be carried in one piece in and out of the performance space quickly - eg between shows)
England touring costs (per day):	£1950 for up to two performances a day; £3000 for up to four performances over two days (up to two per day) plus travel, per diem/catering and accommodation (four single rooms + 1 double).
Trailer:	https://youtu.be/xankN9hS0vQ
Full length performance video:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYaTkyJF1HY
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