

Sadler's Wells
**breakin
convention
2026**

THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF HIP HOP DANCE THEATRE

FEATURING GLOBAL CREWS:

Ivan Michael Blackstock's TRAPLORD UK
ILL-Abilities BRAZIL / NETHERLANDS

Femme Fatale FRANCE / MEXICO / SOUTH KOREA

PLUS LOCAL ACTS:

LOCO ACADEMY | DANCEFORCE STUDIOS | DANCE NUVO
AND Cyphers | Battles | Graffiti Art | DJs | Workshops

**BELGRADE
THEATRE**

WED 20 MAY
BELGRADE THEATRE
breakinconvention.com/tour



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

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BREAKIN' CONVENTION NATIONAL UK TOUR

Wassup people!

I am Jonzi D, founder and Artistic Director of Breakin' Convention. It's a privilege to bring this festival to stages across the UK in 2026, sharing the voices, stories and innovations of the hip hop theatre community.

Hip hop shaped me. Born from the creativity of Black and Brown communities in the Bronx, it taught me expression, resilience and connection. Back then, there were no formal pathways – no institutions or frameworks to validate what we did. We learned from each other, in cyphers, on streets, in communities. That spirit still lives at the heart of this festival.

Alongside my journey in hip hop, I trained in contemporary dance, navigating spaces where our culture wasn't always recognised as "art". But I never accepted that limitation. Hip hop is not confined to any one space – it is expansive, innovative and constantly evolving. It adjusts and fills every space, like air.

Breakin' Convention was created to platform hip hop theatre. What started as a dope idea has grown into an international movement connecting artists, audiences and communities across the world. This UK tour continues that mission, bringing together exceptional talent who are pushing boundaries and redefining what hip hop theatre can be.

This is more than performance – it's a gathering, a celebration and a statement. Our culture is limitless.

Let's start Breakin' Convention.

Jonzi D
Founder and Artistic Director, Breakin' Convention



BREAKIN' CONVENTION NATIONAL UK TOUR

RUNNING ORDER

- 5PM** **Doors open & foyer activities (see below)**
- 7.30PM** **Act 1:** Loco Academy (UK), Dance Nuvo (UK), Femme Fatale (France/Mexico/Korea), Danceforce Studios (UK), ILL-Abilities (Brazil/Netherlands)
- 8.15PM** **INTERVAL (30 minutes)**
- 8.45PM** **Act 2:** TRAPLORD (UK)
- 9.30PM** **SHOW END**

IN THE FOYERS from 5pm

Hosted by MC and Beatboxer Alexander Belgarion Hackett, the foyer will come alive with DJ Crazy on the decks, graffiti activity zone with Beat Fox, live cyphers, exhibition battles, beatboxing and performances from Marius Mates, Jamaal O'Driscoll, Tyrese Luciano McKenzie and more. Get ready for an immersive hip hop experience before the curtain even goes up.

Line-up and artists correct at time of publication

CONTENT WARNINGS & AUDIENCE ADVICE

Breakin' Convention is recommended for children over 12+.

The second half of the performance featuring TRAPLORD is recommended for audiences over 16+.

This age guidance is at the discretion of the accompanying parent/guardian. Above all, Breakin' Convention Festival is a celebration of the best hip hop has to offer, highlighting incredible artists from all over the world and we look forward to welcoming you.

Content warnings: This production contains strobe lighting, vaping and strong language and themes of violence, identity and mental health.

ARTISTS



Danceforce Studios (UK)

The Second Tide

Choreography: Yvette Owen-Salmon

Performers: Mia Wootton, Amelie Dipple, Tabatha Norton, Lucias Smith, Keisha Riley, Malachi Fraser James, Darcy Heath, Lacie Woodall, Jaikob Cox, Adriana Xiourrouppa, Aleisha Douglas, Beatrice Warrender, Kiranpreet Panesar, Lexi Addison, Sharntae-Leigh Kennedy, Summer Woodall

The Second Tide is a dance work that examines the feeling ambivalence that comes with being resilient when confronted with personal struggle and transformation. It reflects the determination required to keep moving forward through change, hardship, and moments of uncertainty. Through a blend of structured choreography and freestyle, the piece highlights how perseverance can give rise to new forms of self-expression. **The Second Tide** is both a recognition of struggle and a testament to the continual drive to adapt, rebuild, and begin again.



Dance Nuvo (UK)

Mother Hood

Choreography and Performers:

Lucie Talbot, Cole Talbot-Talbot Thatcher, Ziah Clarke, Issac Ibrahim, Ezra Fyfe-Matthews, Monroe Whitehead-Rattan, Stephanie Whitehead, Nina Mashori Mollart, Julie Harris, Kayleigh Fyfe

In 2005, Dance Nuvo bought us together through a shared love of hip-hop. What started as friendship through dance became lifelong bonds that carried us into adulthood. Now, our journey has come full circle. We return as mothers—stronger, united, and still connected by the same passion that first brought us together. This final piece is more than a performance. It is our story—of growth, of motherhood, of legacy. A moment where past and present meet, as we stand side by side with our children, sharing the stage and passing on everything dance has given us.

ARTISTS



Femme Fatale

(FRANCE/MEXICO/KOREA)

Visual Voice

Choreography and Performers:

Marie Poppins, Lily Frias, Dassy Lee

Three women, three countries, one shared passion. **Femme Fatale**, from Mexico, France, and South Korea, brings to life a stage performance scored by CloZee using instruments from their homelands. *Visual Voice* is a journey through their lives—showing the struggles, obstacles, and the many voices that society often tries to silence.



ILL-Abilities

(BRAZIL/NETHERLANDS)

Broken Source

Choreography and Performers:

Redouan “Redo” Ait Chitt & Samuel “Samuka” Henrique Silveira da Lima

International dance crew **ILL-Abilities** have reshaped physical adversity into a unique movement language. *Broken Source* is a raw and poetic duet by two of their world-class breakdance artists, Redouan “Redo” Ait Chitt (The Netherlands) and Samuel “Samuka” Henrique Silveira da Lima (Brazil). Drawing inspiration from the Japanese philosophy of repairing broken things with gold, this work is not about what was lost, but about what is discovered in the breaking.

ARTISTS



Age guidance 16+

Ivan Michael Blackstock (UK)

TRAPLORD

Director and Choreographer:

Ivan Michael Blackstock

Associate Choreographer: Chaldon Williams

Performers: DOMINANT, Kaner Scott, Kyron Nykro Jake, Magero, Wild G, Chaldon Williams

TRAPLORD is an Olivier Award-winning production by choreographer and cultural innovator Ivan Michael Blackstock, exploring cycles of life, death, and rebirth through a visceral fusion of dance, theatre, and spoken word. Suspended between dream and reality, the work takes audiences on a fractured heroic journey toward self-actualisation.



Loco Academy

(UK)

La Vida

Choreography: Faye Adams and Sophie Edge

Performers:

Cherrie Payton, Heidi Webb, Sienna Griffiths, Tianna Friend, Alannah Miles, Esme Williams, Alliyah Kaidalova, Emily Darby, Georgia Miles, Orla Cotgrave, Kamara Quarrie, Zion Ellis-White

La Vida means life. At the end of 2025 we merged our two older crews to create **La Vida**. This is a competition crew set that will be performed at our 2026 competitions. We thought this title captured our hearts exactly. We live for the memories we share together through dance. Our dancers, the studio, the stage... is our life.

ABOUT US

Jonzi D

Host & Artistic Director

An MC, dancer, spoken word artist and director, Jonzi is the foremost advocate for hip hop who has changed the profile and influenced the development of the UK British hip hop dance and theatre scene over the last two decades.

Since founding Breakin' Convention in 2004, Jonzi has triumphed in raising the profile and giving a platform to hip hop disciplines, which has gained worldwide recognition as being at the vanguard of the development of the art form. Through professional development projects Open Art Surgery and Back to the Lab, Jonzi has supported hundreds of hip hop dance and rap/poetry artists on their journey to creating theatre.

Marius Mates

Breakin' Convention Rep

Marius Mates is a Romanian-born dancer, creative producer and community artist based in Coventry. With over 20 years of experience in hip hop and breaking culture, he has performed, competed and taught internationally, collaborating with organisations including Breakin' Convention, FABRIC, BBC, The Place, Sadler's Wells and Coventry City of Culture 2021. His work explores themes of identity, heritage, immigration and social connection through dance, film and interdisciplinary practice. Alongside performing, Marius is passionate about community engagement and youth development, regularly delivering workshops and creative projects for schools, young people and underrepresented communities across the UK.



ABOUT US

Breakin' Convention represents the origins and evolution of hip hop culture from around the world and around the corner.

Since 2004, Breakin' Convention has represented the origins and evolution of hip hop culture from around the world and around the corner. Working with the most respected, innovative and inspirational artists, Breakin' Convention is at the vanguard of the development of the hip hop theatre genre, through its world-renowned festivals, international touring, professional development, youth projects and educational programme.

breakinconvention.com

BREAKIN CONVENTION TEAM

Artistic Director **Jonzi D**
Director **Michelle Norton**
Tour Producer **Lisa Parkes**
Assistant Producer **Natalie Thompson**
SW Marketing Manager **Natalie Zagaglia**
Marketing Consultant **Martha Quigley**
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Hebe Salmon
Social Media & Campaigns Officer
Dominic George Hamilton
Projects Manager **Shay Rafati**
Interim Assistant Producer **Kate Bodner**
Coordinator **Aliyah Reid**
Trainee **Yassmine Akebsi**
Press **ABSTRAKT**
Design & Logo **Benjamin Wachenje**
Local Rep **Marius Mates**

TECHNICAL TEAM

Production Manager & LX **Joe Pilling**
Company Stage Manager **Helen Lainsbury**
Deputy Stage Manager **Jasmine Smith**
Sound Engineer **Dan Harmer**
SW Technical Production Manager **Adam Carrée**

With thanks to Belgrade Theatre, Arts Council England and Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for their support of this tour. Breakin' Convention is based at and supported by Sadler's Wells. Registered charity number 279884 VAT number 649178496.