

TIN Arts Delivery Team

TESS CHAYTOR Artistic Director



Tess is originally from Peterlee, County Durham and attended a dance school studying ballet, tap, modern stage, acrobatics, and cheerleading. At the age of 14 Tess saw her very first contemporary performance by Phoenix Dance and knew immediately that this was the style she wanted to study and perform in.

Tess studied performing arts at Durham New College and then completed her HND in Dance Performance at Newcastle College. Following this she was lucky enough to gain a place at Northern School Of Contemporary Dance where she graduated with a Bachelor of Performing Arts Degree.

On 13th January 1999, Tess and partner, Martin Wilson, founded TIN Arts. The original aims of the company were the same as they are today; to provide high quality dance and arts provision to all regardless of age, ability or background.

Tess leads the Artistic team at TIN Arts overseeing all artistic planning, preparation and delivery.

TERTIA BRIGHAM Senior Dance Practitioner

Tertia has loved dance from a very young age and started ballet classes when she was just 2 years old in Devon where she was born. Over the years her love of dance grew as she discovered many different styles. At the age of 18 Tertia moved to Newcastle and did a HND in Dance at Newcastle College.

Tertia completed her dance degree at Northumbria University at the age of 21 and went on to teach dance at Dance City. She did school and community work, as well as performing.

In 2004, Tertia joined TIN Arts as a dance practitioner.

Tertia creates, plans and delivers on all of our activity strands.





MARIA MANDEHZADEH Dance Practitioner

Maria has always loved to dance, from a young age she began ballet tap and modern classes in her home town of Sedgefield, taking part in her first performance at just 18 months old! At the age of 13 Maria fell in love with contemporary dance after a TIN Arts workshop at school. She joined TIN Arts as a youth dancer attending the class now known as D+. At the age of 15 Maria was selected to become a member of Dance City's Centre for Advanced Training, which helped her refine ballet and contemporary dance technique.

After leaving college in 2012, at the age of 18, having gained a BTEC in both Performing Arts and music, Maria began volunteering at TIN Arts to gain teaching experience. This led to an internship with the company.

In 2017 Maria Graduated from Dance City with a 1st Class Degree, BA Hons Dance Professional Practice. Maria has been a member of the TIN Team ever since.

Maria creates, plans and delivers on all of our activity strands.

YUVEL SORIA Dance Practitioner

Yuvel is a diasporic artist; heritage, (dual) nationality, locality, ethnicity and culture are the central elements to his artistic enquiry whilst traditional Bolivian dance, Latin and contemporary dance are the main elements in his movement vocabulary. Born in Bolivia, Yuvel started dancing at young age. Training originally in traditional contemporary Bolivian dance he performed, taught and toured in Bolivia and South America for many years, and retrained in contemporary dance at Newcastle College graduating with a BA (Hons) Contemporary Dance.

Yuvel has worked on various different projects: with VAMOS! Festival since 2009, Carnaval del Pueblo in London, Billingham International Festival as well as leading dance workshops in schools in the North East. Yuvel is also an independent dance artist and choreographer performing and choreographing his own work regionally and nationally, and he has also worked as a performer for FLEX Dance company, Balbir Singh Dance Company, Kelly-Abbot Dance Theatre, Northern stage and Great North Run Millionth Runner Opening Ceremony.

Yuvel Joined TIN Arts in 2014. Yuvel creates, plans and delivers on Flex Dance Training Programme and various outreach projects for TIN Arts.



JEREMY WARR Combined Arts Practitioner



Jeremy is a theatre arts worker and uses drama, movement and creative writing to create unique projects, workshops and performances. He has over thirty years experience of running arts activities and facilitating groups and has worked with many different organisations including Sightlines Initiative, Equal Arts, Dance City, Northumberland Dance Project, Headway Theatre, Waddington Street Centre, Jack Drum Arts, Gateshead Arts Team, Manchester University, Sheffield Crucible Theatre, Common Stock Youth Theatre and at one time or another, almost all the special and mainstream schools in County Durham.

He works with people who are new to the arts through to people with professional experience. Developing people's creative expression and enjoyment is always his central aim. With all groups and projects he puts great emphasis on enjoyable group working, involving everyone's abilities, and the enthusiasm generated by everyone's creative involvement.

Jeremy joined TIN Arts in 2014. Jeremy creates, plans and delivers on our GeTIN2Arts and GeTINVolved programmes.

STACEY STEPHENSON Dance Practitioner

From a very young age Stacey has been Passionate about dance and thoroughly enjoyed all types of shows and performances, with experience in a range of styles. It wasn't until she completed her Dance GCSE that she was introduced to her most favourite style; contemporary dance. This opened up a whole new exciting way of viewing and creating choreography, the freedom and creativity of this style inspired Stacey to progress further. Stacey went onto achieve her BA (Hons) in Dance at Sunderland University in 2014 and following this completed a PGCE qualification specialising in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Although Stacey loved performing, her ambition and goal was always to teach and to help everyone to achieve their full potential. Her passion for supporting individuals and promoting inclusivity stemmed from her eldest Sister, who has autism. Stacey has an array of teaching experience, from working in the community in primary, secondary and theatre schools to teaching a variety of inclusive classes around the North East.

Stacey joined as a Dance Practitioner in April 2017 after several years of volunteering as a leader.



ELENA JOY MILLER Drama and Music Practitioner

Elena graduated from the University of Leeds with an MA in Performance Studies and has been running her own creative arts business, StarBrightArts for over 10 years in the North-East.

Her work includes drama and music facilitation with a broad range of ages and abilities, puppeteering and prop making for theatre companies such as Theatre Sans Frontieres and PuppetShip CIC , and storytelling and creative writing workshops with and for young people.

Elena is a Clown Doctor for TIN Arts and works as a Story Catcher at Seven Stories – Children’s Centre for Books.

Elena joined TIN Arts in 2014. Elena creates, plans and delivers on the GeTIN2Academy programme.



CARA PRINGLE Middlesbrough Projects Coordinator

A community project manager and marketing specialist with over ten years' experience, Cara has been providing a multitude of services to help organisations grow, prosper and develop. Over the years, her bespoke project support has enabled a range of organisations, from cultural public-sector departments to small and medium-sized companies, as well as business start-ups to flourish and develop.

Based in the Tees Valley Cara is powered by passion, enthusiasm and coffee! Starting out in Local Authority Culture teams she moved into the Area Tourism Partnership for Tees Valley concentrating on strategic marketing and events development then in a freelance capacity gained specific delivery experience in events and culture with recent projects such as Stockton Riverside Festival, The Palace Hub, Tuned In and Festival of Thrift.

Cara has worked on a number of Tees Valley-based projects with TIN Arts - her time is spent working on the ground building partnerships in the South of the region.



NURITZA DAGHLIAN Clown Doctors Programme Manager

Nuritza began dancing at a very early age and went on to train as a ballet dancer before discovering contemporary dance and subsequently graduating from Leicester Polytechnic (now De Montfort University) with a First Class Degree in Performing Arts, then one of the very few degree courses of its kind.

Nuritza has had a varied career in arts management, predominantly based in the north east of England. She has a wealth of experience of having run and delivered a wide variety of dance projects, including managing professional dance companies and developing community dance programmes. Over the years she has also taught dance to children and adults and is a Pilates teacher.

Nuritza is passionate about artist led projects that make a tangible difference at the point of delivery.

Nuritza joined TIN Arts in 2011 and is responsible for managing the Clown Doctor programme.



TIN Arts Delivery Support Team

TIN Arts' Delivery Support Team are responsible for providing sensitive and efficient, high quality personal support and care to participants that attend our activities.

They have a positive approach and understanding of person-centred care with people with a learning disability, autism or both. They work as part of a team and help support a creative safe environment for all participants.



MARY HOLCROFT Delivery Support Worker

Mary has worked in a variety of support environments from residential care to outreach work.

Mary also worked in a college for adults with learning difficulties as a Learning Support assistant.

Mary joined TIN Arts in 2013.

LYNNE HERBERT Delivery Support Worker

Lynne has provided health support for 25 years working within a learning disability community team and mental health hospitals.

Lynne is a good listener and provides a very caring approach to all participants.

Lynne joined TIN Arts in 2015.



KAREN JONES Delivery Support Worker

Karen worked as a Registered General Nurse in the NHS for 27 years, the last 18 years as a Diabetes Specialist Nurse.

Karen decided to leave the NHS in 2018 and started as a support worker at TIN Arts in April. She wanted to work here as working with the same groups of people each week and building up relationships with them is important to her. Also having done dancing for 10 years as a child Karen knows how important dance and performance arts is for personal development.

Karen joined TIN Arts in 2018.

