

Matthew Rawcliffe



he/him

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Enhanced DBS on Update Service

Profile

Matthew is a queer, neurodivergent dance artist based in Manchester, specialising in dance with/for autistic people and people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. He is currently a dance artist for Dance Syndrome (disability led dance charity) and UPLIFT artist at Company Chameleon.

Winner of the contemporary dance category of *BBC Young Dancer 2019*.

Education

Middlesex University - 2023 to 2024

MA, Dance (Inclusive Practice and Immersive Performance), Distinction.

Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance - 2017 to 2019

Foundation Degree, Distinction.

Experience

Hades & Persephone - 2025

Director and Project Lead

Sensory dance performance for young people with PMLD.

Funded by Arts Council England, The Classical Association, and the Institute for Classical Studies.

Delivered in partnership with Super Slow Way, Manchester City Council, Work For Change, Cheshire Dance, The Association for Theatre for Young People (Assitej) Denmark, and Concrete Youth.

<https://www.matthewrawcliffe.com/hadespersephone>

Narkissos - 2025

Director and Project Lead

One-on-one interactive performance for young people with PMLD or autistic young people.

Funded by Arts Council Denmark, Augustinus Foundation, Wilhelm Hansen Foundation, William Demant Foundation, and Gramex Foundation.

Delivered in partnership with Spektrum Shop, Dansekapellet, and Foundation for Integrated Modern Dance in Denmark.

<https://www.matthewrawcliffe.com/narkissos>

The Crisp Sandwich Cafe - 2021

Director and Project Lead

Autism-friendly dance performance.

Funded by Arts Council England.

Delivered in partnership with National Autistic Society, Kimpton Clocktower Hotel, Tramshed Theatre, Imperfect Pointes, Pavilion Dance South West, and Pooli Print.

<https://www.matthewrawcliffe.com/crisps>

Holstebro Dance Company - 2021 to 2025

Company Dancer, Rehearsal Director, Rehearsal Assistant, Choreographer and Dance Captain

In addition to working as a full time company dancer, I have worked on numerous productions as a rehearsal assistant, liaising with venues on tour and have returned to the company as a rehearsal director to re-stage old productions, working across the company's departments to ensure the performances are ready to go back on tour. I have also supported the artistic director in presenting new works at selling festivals.

Artistic Neighbourhoods at Nordisk Teaterlaboratorium / Odin Teater - 2023

Commissioned Artist

Lead artist working alongside local communities to create a new dance performance to be presented in the gardens of local residents at community garden parties.

The PappyShow Physical Theatre - 2018 to 2021

Associate Choreographer and Producer

Associate choreographer on three productions: *BOYS*, *GIRLS* and *CARE* - notably for *BOYS* at London International Mime Festival and working simultaneously on all three for VAULT Festival. I also produced a short film *George Nickel's 9th Birthday Party* as part of *What Do You See?*

Workshop Leading

Creating Autism-Friendly Dance Performances

For Pavilion Dance South West's Autism, Children and Dance Forum and Chichester Festival Theatre.

Inclusive Practice: Intimacy, Interaction, Consent and Touch

For Open University and Klap Festival - the world's largest festival for theatre for young audiences.

Sensory Performances for Young People with Disabilities

For International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People ASSITEJ Denmark.

Not Too Hard / Not Too Soft - making inclusive theatre that isn't afraid of pushing audiences.

For Danish National School of Performing Arts.

Teaching

Taught classes and workshops for organisations including Danish Dance Theatre, Company Chameleon, University of Central Lancashire, Danish Royal Ballet School, Omnibus Theatre / Stonewall, Motiv8 Lancs, The International Buster Keaton Fan Convention, Wired Aerial Theatre, Bregenzer Festspiele, Norrdans, and Norrlandsoperan.

Guest tutor, outreach artist and commissioned choreographer for The Lowry's Centre for Advanced Training in Dance (2017 to 2025) and worked as a commissioned choreographer at London Vocational Ballet School (2025).

Contemporary dance tutor at London Boys Ballet School in addition to devising a contemporary syllabus for London Boys Ballet Global digital platform (2017 to 2021).

Other Credits

Danish Royal Theatre - performing the title role in *Pinocchio* (2024).

Curious Seed - access consultancy for *A Land Beyond Winter* (2025).

Bregenzer Festspiele - stunt performer in *Der Freischütz* (2024 to 2025) - the world's largest lake stage.

The Lowry - Artist Advisory Board Member (2024 to 2025).

Betty Nansen Theatre - dancer in *Alice* (2023).

Kneehigh Theatre - guest artist for the UK tour of *Ubu: A Singalong Satire* (2019 to 2020).

Oval House Theatre - choreographer for *Kissing Rebellion* (2019).

Hockey (or watching the daisies grow) - touring solo performance to Southbank Centre (for One Dance UK) and Latitude Festival (for Sadler's Wells) (2019 to 2020).

Commissioned Choreography - leading commissions for organisations including Super Slow Way, The Arches Worcester Festival, Homotopia- The UK's longest-running LGBTQIA+ Festival, SICK! Festival, Tramshed Theatre, Merseyside Dance Initiative and Corn Exchange Newbury.

Testimonial

"Rawcliffe is a welcoming and guiding presence in the studio... In conversation, Rawcliffe is confident but errs away from any self-aggrandisement. His methodology is refreshingly thought-through and designed to be accessible to those that aren't the usual audience for dance."

- Dance Art Journal