

# SIOBHAN DAVIES STUDIOS

**Siobhan Davies Studios (SDS) is looking for an experienced Artistic Director/s to lead the organisation, bringing the wealth of independent dance practice to the widest and most diverse community of audiences.**

UK based **Siobhan Davies Dance** was founded in 1988 by pioneering choreographer **Siobhan Davies CBE**. Under her auspices Siobhan Davies Dance evolved from being a national and international touring dance company into Siobhan Davies Studios: an investigative contemporary art organisation, widely regarded as the UK leader of investigative and interdisciplinary work in dance and choreography. The organisation is especially respected for evolving relationships between dance and visual arts through the UK and internationally.

While she will continue to work artistically, Siobhan Davies will step down as Artistic Director of SDS. Among other projects for 2020 and 2021, she is producing a film with long time collaborator David Hinton to celebrate her seventieth birthday and the seventy works she has made so far. Based on her *Transparencies* practice, this film looks at a collection of images significant to her thinking and doing throughout her career. The premiere is planned for 2021.

In the current political and economic context of increasing challenge and rapid change a clear approach is essential. Siobhan Davies Studios believes that the resources of choreography are invaluable in navigating this moment. Siobhan Davies Studios is rooted in a community of creators and audiences who experiment and collaborate to investigate and create: in order to meet the demands of their community both now and in the future, Siobhan Davies Studios is currently working to reimagine the way in which they work in order to give artists the freedom and autonomy that they need. Most specifically Siobhan Davies Studios is considering a shift in their producing and programming processes to allow for a more flexible approach.

**Emma Gladstone, Chair of the Board Siobhan Davies Studios said:** “Siobhan Davies has decided to shift her creative focus and concentrate on her own independent practice, after leading Siobhan Davies Dance and Siobhan Davies Studios for forty years. For myself and my fellow Trustees this is inevitably bitter-sweet news, though typical of Sue’s brave and pioneering approach to life.”

**Siobhan Davies said:** “I feel very positive about this moment: change is exciting and necessary. I have been so lucky to witness the emergence of a new kind of dancing and making from a seam of independent artists. Although I know many of them, I also know they are accompanied by others whom I don’t know and all are working in ways I could not have thought about when I began in the late 60’s. The expansion of what dancers, choreographers, writers and curators are researching, thinking and performing about today are exhilarating to me. SDS is calling for a new leadership and a re-imagining of how to be creatively at work while recognising the complexity of challenging futures. I will be admirably curious about what a new leadership can open up to artists and the relationships they wish to make within and beyond the studios.”

## **Editors' Notes**

Siobhan Davies Studios connects artists and audiences through investigative, collaborative and interdisciplinary activity at their studios and beyond. Their studios are an incubator for new ideas – their activities concentrate on supporting and showcasing new work by experimental artists, and they bring this same spirit of experimentation and investigation to all areas of their work.

In order to help a generational cross-section of artists they provide time, space and money alongside other opportunities such as mentorship and a physical home. They are continually working to strengthen and extend this community to sustain a growing body of thinking and doing that adapts to the landscape around us.

Founded and led since 1988 by pioneering choreographer Siobhan Davies CBE, Siobhan Davies Dance (SDD) evolved from a national and international touring dance company into an investigative contemporary arts organisation. When departing from a permanent company model, Davies took the bold step of moving the focus of her choreographic work away from the stage toward museums, galleries and other alternative spaces that allow for a new intimacy between audience and performers. SDD are widely regarded as a national leader of investigative and interdisciplinary work in dance and choreography, and specifically for presenting original and inventive dance in galleries and visual arts settings nationally and internationally.

In 2006, the RIBA award-winning Siobhan Davies Studios opened in London, UK, realising Siobhan Davies' long-standing goal of establishing a permanent base for the organisation and for independent dance artists. The Studios are a vibrant arts space in central London where artists make dance and where audiences engage with a regular programme of performances, exhibitions, discussions, classes and workshops.

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