



# Dollie Henry

**Jazz Artist | Choreographer | Director | Creative | Educator | Author**

Dollie has led a respected career of over 39 years as a performer, choreographer, director, creative Jazz artist and educator and is recognised as one of the most formidable exponents of artistic and creative Jazz theatre dance in the UK, Europe and internationally. She has shared her passion and philosophy of creative dance in every continent of the world, with a reputation that is widely revered and respected.

Dollie started dancing at the age of four and went on to professionally train at Laine Theatre Arts (UK) receiving her teaching qualifications with *ISTD for Ballet, Modern and Tap*, her *LAMDA Drama Certificates* (Bronze-Gold Medals) and was awarded 'Most Outstanding Student' in performance and choreography. At 17, she was invited to join *The Olivier Briac Dance Company* based in France as soloist dancer, later becoming resident choreographer/assistant director for the Briac Company. Returning to England at 19, Dollie was invited by director & choreographer *Dougie Squires* to join his company *The Second Generation* for TV work in the UK and Europe, numerous dance/musical productions, leading imminently to her position as Assistant to Mr. Squires over a further 3 years.

## As a Performer & Choreographer credits include:

**West End Musicals:** *Sophisticated Ladies* - Geilgud Theatre • *King the Musical* - Piccadilly Theatre • *Stop the World I want to get off* starring Antony Newley - Lyric Theatre • *Angels from America* - Shaftesbury Theatre • *Tribute To Sammy Davis Jr* - Theatre Royal, Drury Lane • *The Russ Abbot Madhouse Show* - The Palladium and numerous West End Charity performances.

**Provincial Repertory Theatre:** includes musicals: *Helene in Sweet Charity* (UK Tour) • *Hold Tight it's 60's Night* (UK Tour) • *The Crucible* playing the role of Tituba (Royal Theatre - Northampton) and numerous pantomimes nationwide.

**Films & TV includes:** Supporting cast and dancer in the Feature Brit flick - *Film Finding Your Feet* - 2018 • *Dancing Grandma*, in the Netflix Film *Jingle Jangles* – 2020 • *Jo* in the David Putnam film *Knights & Emeralds* (Enigma Films) • *The Girl* in 'Memories in Mind', (BBC Documentary) • *The Tales of Anansi* (Carlton TV).

Dollie has worked and performed on many dance productions and TV shows such as *The Russ Abbott Madhouse* (BBC) • *The Leo Sayer Show* (BBC) • *The Royal Variety/Command Performances* • *The BAFTA Awards* (BBC) and dance Videos and light entertainment TV shows, both nationally and internationally.

**As a Choreographer & Director projects include:** *Sweet Lorraine* - Old Fire Station Theatre, Oxford • *Ain't Misbehavin* - The Verin English Theatre, Frankfurt Germany • *The Sun City Extravaganza, "Come to the Sun"* Sun City, South Africa • The musical *Ragged Child & Aladdin* - Theatre Royal, Northampton • *Salsa Celestina* - Palace Theatre, Watford • The musical *Big Nose* and pantomimes *Cinderella & Snow White* - Belgrade Theatre, Coventry • *Up Against The Wall* - Tricycle Theatre, London • The soul musical *Blues Brother, Soul Sister* - The Bristol Old Vic, Bristol • *Tribute To Sammy Davis Jr.* Theatre Royal, Drury Lane • *The Russ Abbot Madhouse Show* - The Palladium & National Tour • *Sophisticated Ladies* – Lyric Theatre (now Guilgud), London. • *Godspell* (Tour) • *Oh What A Lovely War*, Cochrane Theatre, London • *Oliver* – The Play for Giant Olive Productions • *King the Musical Concert* - Hackney Empire Theatre.

**Other Creative Theatre and Dance works include:** *The Wiz, Wizard of Oz, Annie, Chorus Line, Blues in the Night, and Little Shop of Horrors*. Dollie also choreographed & directed the European Tour of 'Fire of Dance' for Ulrich Schiller of Gastpiel - Und Theatre Productions Germany, the 70's Musical Extravaganza *Abbadabado* at Blackpool Royal Opera House and the Diamond Jubilee Show at the North Pier Theatre, Blackpool starring Alvin Stardust & the BOP Dancers and original choreographer & co-director for the hit musical *Inner City Jam* - Cockpit Theatre, London

Dollie was mentored in USA, by many Jazz choreographers and theatre directors including, *Charles Augins* (American School of Performing Arts) *George Faison* (Mentor), *Louis Johnson* (Mentor), *Frank Hatchett* (Broadway Dance). Working with renowned choreographers and directors - *George Faison, Dianne McIntyre, Woody King Jr*, and performing opposite film actress *Lynn Whitfield* in the NYC theatre production *Zoraesque*, Produced/Directed by *George Faison* (Tony Award Winner of the Broadway production 'The Wiz) performing at his Faison Firehouse Theatre in New York.

In her role as Co-Artistic Director & Choreographer/Educator, Dance Companies include: **The Bill Louthier Company (UK)**, **Jazzxchange Dance Company (UK)** and **Malmö Dans City (Sweden)**.

Dollie has directed & choreographed over 15 National pantomimes for Paul Elliott of **E&B Productions Ltd**, (latterly **Qdos Productions**). She has also choreographed/staged for Opera and Ballet productions including, **Cry of Innocence** and **Carmen**, **'I Got Rhythm'** with **Northern Ballet Theatre** - National UK Tour. The Jazz Ballet **'Voyages'** with Artistic Director Stephen Jefferies (**Hong Kong Ballet & Suzhou Ballet Companies China**). As a co-producer, with music producer & composer Paul Jenkins and lyricist/writer/performer Ray Shell, Dollie co-created, directed and choreographed the original RnB musical **White Folks - A Musical Fable**, with successful productions at **Nottingham Playhouse**, **The Cochrane Theatre**, **The Tricycle Theatre** and the off West End, **Pleasance Theatre (UK)**

In 1996, Dollie put her true artistic and creative passion into evidence and founded her own Jazz Theatre Company **Body of People aka BOP**. In partnership with Composer and Jazz musician **Paul Jenkins**, the company, now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year, has created and produced an array of productions and dance concerts that have been performed both in the UK and internationally. A selection of BOP productions and theatre works include: **I, You, We ... Rise**, **Daughters of Eve**, **Touches of Miles**, **Sacred Space**, **Trumpet Trilogy**, **Dizzy Heights**, **Duke's Place**, **A Journey of Jazz**, **Up Close and Personal**. **Miles Ahead** - A double-bill program featuring new company works with **Footprints in Jazz** and their inaugural Jazz theatre production **Touches of Miles**, was presented at the off West End, Cochrane Theatre and subsequent UK tour supported by the Arts Council of England. The company's most recent production **Spirit of Jazz** was filmed for streamed online performances at the **Curve Theatre Leicester** as part of the the **LDIF International Dance Festival** (May 2021). Through the company's international recognition, Dollies' creative and commissioned works have been performed at dance and theatre venues worldwide. In 2012 BOP became artistic **Company-in-Residence at Morley College**, London.

**As part of her ongoing Educational Philosophy**, Dollie has initiated **The BOP Jazz Dance Education Programs 'Jazz Dance for Life'** in the UK, Europe and The Caribbean and over the last 32 years has presented her ever popular Jazz Dance Residencies, workshops, mentoring programs and masterclasses at dance venues throughout the **UK & Ireland, Africa, The Caribbean, Austria, Croatia, China, Poland, Germany, Israel, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and USA**. Dollie has achieved creative commissions from the **State of Lithuania (The Baltic States)**, as the first international jazz artist to be invited by the State to present lectures/workshop and devise a jazz program and performance projects for the **Klaipeda Music Theatre**, alongside Jazz commissions with the **Austrian Youth Ballet** - (Graz Austria), **Rytmix Dance - Konin**, and **Kielce Dance Theatre Company** - (Poland), **Malmö Dance City** (Sweden). **Jazz Arts International Festival 2018** at **Wellington College** - Shanghai, China. Recent BOP international dance projects, include collaborations and commission with **EBB Contemporary Dance Company** (Madrid), **Associacao Nos da Danca** (Portugal.)

Ms Henry is resident Jazz Practitioner and choreographer at **Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance** and **Mountview** and **Performance Preparation Academy (PPA Guildford)** and continues to be in high demand as guest Jazz practitioner/mentor at established UK and international dance and performing arts institutions. Dollie is an Associate Teacher of **ISTD (Imperial Society of Teachers Dance)** and Honorary Member with **IDTA (International Dance Teachers Association)**. Head judge and creative associate for the dance organizations, **Dance World Cup - International** and **Dance World Cup - Spain** and a sought after and respected judge worldwide in her capacity as a specialist and advisor in Jazz and Musical Theatre. Dollie is a regular guest Jazz choreographer/teacher at **Broadway Dance Center**, **Dance Space Inc** and **Faison Firehouse Theatre (NY)** and can still be found teaching her spirited open Jazz dance class in London at **Pineapple Dance Studios**.

As an advocate for the Arts, Dollie is on the panel of the **The Black British Theatre Awards**, an appointed Patron of **The Hammond School, Cheshire** and **Ignite Dance Theatre Company UK**. Artistic Guardian and Diversity Advisor for the **CGO Institute**, working with the next generation of International Theatre Producers. Creative consultant with **Tired Movement (UK)** and **Audition Circle**, supporting and mentoring dancers and performers to attain and sustain a professional career in the Arts. Dollie is a recognised advocate and voice for Black Dance Arts and jazz theatre dance, working to improve equality, diversity and inclusivity in UK dance curriculum delivery and progressive changes for equality within the performing arts sectors.

As an experienced dance and theatre practitioner, Ms. Henry is instrumental in mentoring the careers of many dancers now performing in established dance companies, musical theatre and concert dance shows all over the world and continues to mentor the next generation of Jazz dancers and professional performers, through the educational and creative outreach of BOP Company and within performing arts organisations.

Aside of all her commitments, Dollie alongside *Paul Jenkins* are the authors of the new dance book ***The Essential Guide to Jazz Dance***, published by **Crowood Press** (Oct 2019). This unique book about Jazz Dance and its inherent partner, Jazz music, offers a practical guide and insight to the history, lineage, practice and creative expression and so much more of Jazz dance art form.

In January 2022, **BOP Company** launched a new platform **Jazz Theatre Arts UK (JTAUK)**. JTAUK has partnered with **One Dance UK** to initiate a new *Member Lead Network*. The aim to advocate, advance and align greater visibility and delivery for our UK Jazz Theatre Arts and Artists and all practices of the form within our British Dance sector.

Dollie has been recently nominated for the **AWA Dance Charity - Women in Dance Leadership Award 2022** and was a nominee for the **Black British Theatre Awards 2020** for Best UK Performing Arts Teacher.

Dollie Henry epitomizes all it is to be a consummate, all-encompassing creative dance theatre artist and educationalist who continues to work in all aspects of the performing arts industry and crosses between both the artistic and commercial landscapes. A fusion of immense expertise and genuine expression of creative spirit, allows this Lady to sustain her position as the catalyst for the Jazz dance art form and its legacy in the UK & Europe, enabling her to share her passion and creativity not just on her home ground, but all over the world.

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