



# Dollie Henry

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

Dollie has led a respected career of over 30 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 dance and theatre dance in Britain 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 and assistant director. 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 U.K and Europe, numerous dance/musical productions and assistant to Mr. Squires.

## **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 include:** 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 Videos and 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. Sophisticated Ladies – Lyric Theatre (now Guilgud), London. • Godspell (Tour) • Oh What A Lovely War • Oliver – The Play

**Other 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 *Abbaddabbado* 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

**In the USA & UK,** Dollie has worked with renowned choreographers and directors - **George Faison, Dianne McIntyre, Kwame Kwei-Armah, Woody King Jr, Charles Augins, Ron Kunene and Adam Parson** and has performed opposite film actress Lynn Whitfield and actor Jerome Preston Bates, in the 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 Louther Company (UK)*, *Jazzxchange Dance Company (UK)* and *Malmo Dans City (Sweden)*.

For over 13 years, Dollie was director & choreographer for Paul Elliott of *E&B Productions Ltd*, (latterly *Qdos Productions*) on over 15 pantomimes. She has also choreographed/staged for Opera and Ballet productions including, ***Cry of Innocence*** and ***Carmen***, the Northern Ballet Theatre on their National UK Tour of ***'I Got Rhythm'*** and with Artistic Director Stephen Jefferies (Hong Kong Ballet & Suzhou Ballet Companies China) on the Jazz Ballet ***'Voyages'***

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 Dance & Music Theatre Company ***Body of People aka BOP***. In partnership with Composer and Jazz musician Paul Jenkins, the company, now in its 20<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 include: *Touches of Miles*, *Sacred Space*, *Trumpet Trilogy*, *Dizzy Heights*, *Duke's Place* and *A Journey of Jazz*. BOP's most recent production *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 in 2011 and subsequent 2013/14 UK tour supported by the Arts Council of England. Through the company, 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. - [www.bop.org.uk](http://www.bop.org.uk)

**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 20 years presented her Jazz Dance Residencies and workshops, mentoring programs and seminars at international dance venues and dance companies throughout the *UK & Ireland, Africa & The Caribbean, Austria, Croatia, China, Poland, Germany, Israel, Lithuania, 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***, this was followed by Jazz commissions with the ***Austrian Youth Ballet, Graz Austria, Rytmix Dance in Konin, Poland and Kielce Dance Theatre Company, Poland***.

Dollie regularly guests as 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 classes in London at ***Pineapple Dance Studios*** and ***Morley College***. Dollie is resident Jazz Practitioner at ***Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance*** in London, teaching the next generation of theatre students on the BA Hon. Degree Musical Theatre Program.

Dollie is an ***Associate Teacher of ISTD (Imperial Society of Teachers Dance)*** and ***Honorary Member with IDTA (International Dance Teachers Association)***, Master judge for the ***EDSU (European Dance Union)***, ***IDO*** and ***The Dance World Cup***.

As an experienced 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 through BOP Company workshops, Residencies and Seminars offered to the next generation of Jazz performers, dance and theatre professionals, teachers and educational organisations.

Dollie Henry epitomizes all it is to be a consummate, all-encompassing creative artist. A fusion of expertise and genuine expression of creative spirit allows this Lady to sustain her position as the catalyst for the Jazz dance art form and legacy in the UK & Europe, enabling her to share her passion and creativity all over the world.

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