



**POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL
OF INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL DANCE**

DANCE AROUND THE WORLD WITH MASKS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

27 APRIL 2025

9:00 – 17:00

ST. LEONARD'S LAND DANCE STUDIO

**THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
HOLYROOD RD EDINBURGH EH8 8AQ**

**TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND**

SUPPORTING DIVERSE TRAD DANCE IN SCOTLAND THROUGH FREE
MEMBERSHIP + 3 ROUTES: RESIDENCIES, FESTIVALS & PRODUCTIONS.
PART OF **TRACS**. REGISTERED CHARITY SC045085 INFO@TDFS.ORG

TRACS TRADITIONAL
ARTS-CULTURE
SCOTLAND



WWW.TDFS.ORG/POMEGRANATES

FIND FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL PROGRAMME BY VISITING THE FESTIVAL WEBSITE OR SCANNING THE QR CODE.

#POMEGRANATESFESTIVAL

"How did 'pomegranates' become a metaphor for the process of creative professional development? While curating the pilot festival edition of Pomegranates 2022, we came across the line "Attracts me like a pomegranate". It was initially the second line of the Beatles song Something (1969) written by George Harrison. "Pomegranate" was only used as a temporary filler before Harrison settled on the final lyrics, yet for us, pomegranates came to stand for the process of workshoping and learning often hidden from the public eye."

ILIJANA NEDKOVA AND WENDY TIMMONS

Pomegranates Festival Co-curators

Pomegranates Festival is curated by the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland in partnership with

TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND

TRACS

TRADITIONAL
ARTS-CULTURE
SCOTLAND

• EDINBURGH •
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
Social Responsibility & Sustainability



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
Moray House School of
Education and Sport



Edinburgh
College



**DANCE
BASE**

WHY POMEGRANATES?

INTRODUCTION BY ILIYANA NEDKOVA AND WENDY TIMMONS



We are delighted to welcome you to Pomegranates – the springtime festival initiated and curated by the Traditional **Dance** Forum of Scotland. Established in 2022, Pomegranates returns in spring 2025 to once again sow the seeds and sequins of international traditional dance in Scotland and culminate into a celebration of UNESCO International Dance Day (29 April) with a festival finale dancing around the world.

At the heart of the festival is the intensive day of professional development workshops led by artists and creative migrants based in Scotland. This year the line-up includes 10 trad dance workshops taught by 12 dance artists accompanied live by musicians with whom we circumnavigate the globe from Venice to the Ivory Coast in just eight hours.

In tune with the Pomegranates Festival 2025 theme, this year's workshops explore the power of masks used in different traditions. A rare opportunity for any participating artist to acquire the skills, techniques and confidence of masked dancing, while reflecting on the beauty and mystery of masks in traditional dance from antiquity to modern days.

Just like our first three festivals, the Pomegranates 2025 day of workshops is entirely free to attend in person in Edinburgh or from anywhere in the world via the festival livestream – all thanks to our ongoing festival partnership with our major academic partner Moray House School of Education and Sport, University of Edinburgh!

What else is new at Pomegranates 2025? Alongside the emphasis on masks, this year's focus is on intangible cultural heritage. Here are a few fine examples already inscribed in the UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: Venice Carnival, Csardas, Buso and Polonaise - all taking centre stage in our festival workshops, exhibitions, the Ceilidh Plus night and our special *Trad Dance as Intangible Cultural Heritage* event. Plus, throughout *Hidden Faces* - our grand finale with a double bill of poetry, Hip Hop dance theatre, live music and Venetian masks.

Do explore the diverse aspects of this year's festival and enjoy this specially curated pomegranates cocktail of movement with masks!



WORKSHOPS AT A GLANCE

9:00 REGISTRATION AND INTRODUCTION

by **Wendy Timmons** (Pomegranates Co-curator) + Artists-in-residence: **Chris Lyons** (music), **Mare Tralla** (screen dance), **Jonzi D** (hip hop dance theatre) and **Lorraine Pritchard** (masks)

9:30 FRIULIAN DANCE

VENICE, ITALY
ALENA SHMAKOVA

10:00 TARANTELLA

MONTEMARANO, ITALY
MONICA DE IOANNI AND INESA VĒLAVIČIŪTĒ

10:30 BUSO

HUNGARY AND CROATIA
ÁRPÁD VÖRÖS, KRISZTINA & ZSUZSANNA SZABONE

11:00 Q&A

11:15 TIBETAN OPERA DANCE

TIBET
YUXI JIANG

11:45 NUO DANCE

CHINA
YIFENG ZHU

12:15 Q&A

12:30 LUNCH

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH AND STAY IN

13:30 BELLYDANCE

EGYPT AND MIDDLE EAST
TAMAR

14:00 ZAOULI

IVORY COAST
KALUBI MUKENGELA-JACOBY

14:30 Q&A

14:45 COMEDIA DELL'ARTE

ITALY
SEAN EDWARDS

15:15 HIP HOP: BREAKING

THE CONGO AND USA
EMMA READY

16:15 Q&A AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

16:45 END



25-30 APRIL 2025 POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL EVENTS
BOOK NOW WWW.TDFS.ORG/POMEGRANATES