



POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL  
OF INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL DANCE

# SOCRATIC CIRCLES

NEW DANCE THEATRE CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

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**25 APR 2025**  
**10:30**

**SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE**  
**43-45 HIGH STREET, EDINBURGH, EH1 1SR**

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TRADITIONAL  
DANCE  
FORUM OF  
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#pomegranatesfestival



*"I am very pleased to continue to forge our strategic academic partnership with the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland which dates back to 2018. Great to see the return of the Pomegranates Festival choreographer-in-residence **Jonzi D** who delivered the seminal Decolonising the Expressive Arts Curriculum keynote lecture at Moray House School of Education and Sport as part of last year's Pomegranates Festival."*

*"I am also excited about the opening festival show Socratic Circles which is part of the wider campaign advocating for the diverse forms of world traditional dance becoming a primary ingredient of our children's primary education. This campaign is run by the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland in conjunction with our Centre and our School while Socratic Circles this year is funded by the University of Edinburgh through the Edinburgh Local Community Fund."*

*"I do hope that projects like Socratic Circles will help us sign a Memorandum of Understanding between Moray House School of Education and Sport and Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland as we continue to jointly explore the potential of integrating Scottish and world trad dance in the context of the Curriculum for Excellence in the primary schools in Scotland and thus support and safeguard our intangible cultural heritage."*

## JOHN RAVENSCROFT

Head of the Centre for Research in Education, Inclusion and Diversity (CREID)  
Moray House School of Education and Sport, University of Edinburgh

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



# WHY POMEGRANATES?

INTRODUCTION BY ILIYANA NEDKOVA AND WENDY TIMMONS



We are very pleased that this year's Pomegranates Festival opening morning show is all about world traditional dance and music created by and for children.

*Socratic Circles* is the latest example of our unique way of co-devising new dance theatre through Socratic Dialogues between students and pupils – students undertaking their Master's Degree in Dance Science and Education at Moray House School of Education and Sport and Primary 6 pupils at Edinburgh's Abbeyhill and Royal Mile Primary Schools.

We know that such projects are needed now as they help us plug at least three gaps: the lack of Scottish and world trad dance provision in our state-funded primary schools; the shortage of newly-devised traditional dance shows and productions in the performing arts landscape across Scotland and the absence of pathways for traditional dance artists with pedagogical training across the formal primary education sector in Scotland.

Our Socratic Dialogues between students and pupils spanned 6 months. Postgraduate dance students delivered traditional dance sessions for the Primary 6 classes in the classroom and each pupil chose an object that signified their family traditions and multi-ethnic origins, which in turn became the catalyst for the co-devising sessions in the dance studio and the creative writing and drawing activities in the classroom.

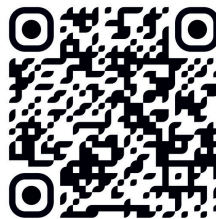
The new dance theatre *Socratic Circles* is the outcome. It is bursting with the creativity of students and pupils through the choreography of **Sotirios Panagoulis**, the costume and set design by **Gerry Gapinski**, the music performed live by **Chris Lyons** and the videography by **Mare Tralla**.

Our ambitions? Embrace the Socratic Dialogues as an unique co-divising tool for new dance theatre for and by children. Make world traditional dance a primary ingredient of the primary education of our children and an essential part of the Curriculum for Excellence. Develop the young learners' physical and cultural literacies through trad dance and encourage them to get along despite their differences. Enable learners to actively contribute to the script and choreography of a new dance show rather than only passively consume theatre and workshops without any real ownership. Celebrate the multi-ethnic diversity of communities in Scotland!

We believe that *Socratic Circles* is living up to our ambitions. We couldn't be happier to share this new show with all the pupils, students and guests at the opening of our Pomegranates Festival.

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# PROGRAMME



## WELCOME NOTE

JOHN RAVENSCROFT



## SOCRATIC CIRCLES

NEW DANCE THEATRE SHOW CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY BASED ON SOCRATIC DIALOGUES, IDEAS, DRAWINGS AND POEMS BY TWO PRIMARY 6 CLASSES FROM EDINBURGH'S ABBEYHILL AND ROYAL MILE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

CHOREOGRAPHER: **SOTIRIOS PANAGOULIAS**

DANCERS: **ZIHAN ZHANG, QIANXI GUO, XIAOXUAN ZHONG, KEXIN CHEN, WENBO DENG, TING CAI, JINGYIN CAI, YU XIE, YIJIE DU, XINGE LU AND YIYA MA**

COSTUME AND SET DESIGN: **GERRY GAPINSKI**

MUSIC (PART 1): LAMBRI, PRELUDE FOR PIANO (1956) BY SOLON MICHAELIDES PERFORMED LIVE BY **CHRIS LYONS**

MUSIC (PART 2): FUSIONIA: CYPRIOT SUITE BY FUSIONIA STRING QUARTET

## POST-SHOW DISCUSSION

FACILITATED BY WENDY TIMMONS

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

**WWW.TDFS.ORG/POMEGRANATES**

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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND AS PART OF TRADITIONAL ARTS AND CULTURE SCOTLAND (TRACS) | CURATED FOR POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL 2025 | CURATORS/PRODUCERS: **WENDY TIMMONS, ILIYANA NEDKOVA AND HEATHER RIKIC** | VIDEOGRAPHER: **MARE TRALLA** | SOUND & PROJECTION: **RODDY SIMPSON** | CURATORIAL SUPPORT: **XIAOXUAN ZHONG, JINGYIN CAI AND YU XIE** | PR AND PUBLICITY: **EMMA HENDERSON** | SOCIAL MEDIA: **ALISON HARM** | POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL 2025 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE: **LORRAINE PRITCHARD** | IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY (CREID), MORAY HOUSE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SPORT, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, ABBEYHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ROYAL MILE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE | FUNDED BY: EDINBURGH LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH