



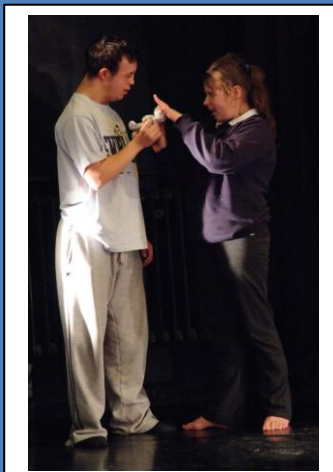
JMUp IN(tegrated)

Dance Project Company Brochure

The goal of this project is to celebrate each person's specific ways of moving, as well as their unique personalities. Rather than work around participants' particular limitations, we attempt to find distinct abilities in their bodies, minds and social interactions, in order to explore the artistic possibilities that can evolve from these differences.



"I feel the only disability in life is an apparent disregard for the possibilities we can achieve as a collective. The dance world and its audience (can sometimes) be ignorant towards people and their disabilities. For me, JMUP IN Dance Project is making steps towards breaking boundaries and building the confidence of disabled people and their able-bodied peers" – JMUp IN Participant.



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JMUp IN(tegrated)

Dance Project 2009 / 2010

JMUp IN(tegrated) Dance Project is a creative research platform, which is hosted by the dance department of Liverpool John Moores University (and is partly funded by the Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning); which works to widen access and participation for all through dance and creative practices. The company consists of twenty-three members from across the dance degree programmes and participants from the community (a percentage of whom) have a range of disabilities. The project although not primarily focused on performance, does find time throughout the year to share its work in public performances.



The group promotes a peer approach to learning in an informal and supportive environment. Each session is devoted to the development of physical, creative and social / cognitive experiences. Much of the practical work focuses on the individual's physical and expressive dance skills through contemporary dance and duet work. The creative interplay between the able bodied dancers and the dancers with disabilities, serves to enrich the cultural and social foundation of this exciting group of people.

"I love coming to dance every Monday, I go home and show everyone what I have done.. It makes me happy... it's my dream" – JMUp IN Community Participant.



What empowers JMUp IN(tegrated) Dance Project to do what it does?



Integration is both socially and morally right in modern society, and if encapsulated can provide an ideal forum for learning and a mutual understanding and celebration of both difference and diversity.

JMUp IN(tegrated) Dance project aims to:

1. Create an integrated dance learning environment within a Higher Education context for undergraduate dance students and members of the community who are able-bodied and those who have disabilities.
2. Investigate the impact upon learning of dance degree students who integrate with a group of peers in a real world situation.
3. Understand if by constructing a valid learning community based on the influences of disability theories and peer learning objectives there is any deeper respect or informed understanding of disability and its effect on teaching and learning.
4. Challenge prejudice and ignorance and dispel fear or anxiety through training and knowledge in 'real' environments that facilitate social development.
5. Create a platform in which individuals can feel empowered through dance activity.

"I would like to say that in just this short time and with such a large company, its fantastic and amazing what you have all achieved....I feel very moved"

– Audience member December 2008



What has JMUp IN Achieved in the last 12 months for those who have taken part?

There have been several noticeable benefits in relation to their learning and development:

- Language is cleaner and appropriate as a result of being in a real life setting and working as a group in a cooperative paradigm.
- There is a greater mutual respect for the individual and a passion for celebrating the differences we have as human beings as opposed to the labels which identify us.
- Their respect for disability and its theoretical debate has improved.
- Community participants have found a greater connection with their own bodies and a desire to change habitual patterns. They embrace fitness and dance as an expressive art form. They wear their project sweatshirts with pride.
- Along the way all participants have formed lasting friendships and support each other's learning in this informal and creative environment.
- LJMUs JMUp IN participants are now finding strategies for integrated creative practice; finding solutions useful in an educational and community setting that are inclusive.



"I am very aware that if I plan to make a difference in the professional dance industry, I should be informed about a range of disabilities and integration. You can't always learn this from a textbook (they are other peoples' experiences). It was important that I experienced the reality of using dance as a tool for integration, to find the creative solutions for myself" – JMUp IN Participant.

What has JMUp IN been involved in since it began?

- Since it began in January 2007, until the present time, the company has received sabbatical funding from CETL in order to support some of the staffing and resources for the project
- In 2007 and 2008 the company director and participants presented its research work at the LJMUs teaching and learning conferences, where members of the company shared their experiences and presented a model for peer learning in Higher Education.
- In May 2008, December 2008 and April 2009, the company presented its work for stage and camera as milestones of its achievement.
- In 2009 the group shared its work created for stage and for camera, through works by Darren Carr, Beth Salt and Stephanie Bairét.
- The group were invited in May 2009 to the Brindley theatre in Runcorn to open a performance by the internationally renowned Stop Gap Dance Company.
- In 2009 the company director received a curriculum innovation award from LJMUs for this project to buy some technology software for their next piece of work.



As the project moves forward into 2009/10 we are looking for individuals from the community to help keep this project vibrant.*

This project based company is currently inviting a third round of applications from other individuals within the northwest to be part of the activities and research in 2009/10. The company meets every Monday evening (in term time) between 4pm-6pm at the I.M. Marsh Campus of the university.

What can you expect from JMUp IN?

JMUp IN(tegrated) Dance Project will help you:

- Forge friendships and build professional working relationships with a variety of different people;
- To help the company celebrate the differences in every individual;
- To find a creative outlet for your individual self and to embody creativity;
- Appreciate that all of us has the capacity to learn new things and enjoy the process of doing so;
- To develop confidence to share your opinions with others and the public alike;
- Have an appreciation of dance and its capacity to bring people together;
- To See in context the issues which make life difficult and find a positive 'vent' for these frustrations;
- And your family members find another level to your working day and develop a greater depth to the relationship you already hold;
- To encourage others to see what you CAN do rather than what they think you can't.



The two hour weekly session is practical, creative and FUN! The age range consists at present of members who are 14-47, although it is hoped that we will be able to expand this over the next year.

Applications and interest from anyone is welcomed. However **we are really keen to accept applications from persons aged 14+ with disabilities**; all that we need to know in the application process is that you are willing to try new things, even if you have not had any previous dance experience.



"Like many dance artists who plan to work in the industry, I realised that I had an uninformed knowledge of disability. This was not positively promoted at my school. I became aware that I was fearful for all the wrong reasons. Through JMUp IN I have learnt that disability does not mean can't, won't & will not but can.. Can,, CAN!" – JMUp IN participant

And Finally...

JMUp IN(tegrated) Dance Project really values the support that the university, partner organisations, friends and family have given so far. To keep this learning community vibrant we are also looking for support staff and volunteers, willing drivers/chaperones and financial support for 2011 onwards. Please get in touch if you feel you can support this project in any way.



*** Applications will be welcomed in the first instance from persons with disabilities.**

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