

Jerwood Circus Residencies, 2020

In March 2020, five artists were selected for the Jerwood Circus Residencies, a new initiative to support early-career circus practitioners in the development of performance-based projects. The five selected artists receive a grant of between £2,300 and £3,300 in order to undertake 7-8 days of research & development.

Following delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, three residencies were completed between October and November (one at the National Centre, and two remotely). The remaining two residencies are due to take place at the National Centre in 2021.

See overleaf for profiles of the selected artists, and details of their projects.

David Sanchez	<i>The Plastic Took Over</i>
Eleni Edipidi	<i>AUDITION</i>
Fiona Salisbury	<i>Wire-Walker</i>
Jean-Daniel Broussé	<i>Le (PAIN)</i>
Joana Dias	<i>89</i>

The Jerwood Circus Residencies are supported by [Jerwood Arts](#).

Jerwood Arts is the leading independent funder dedicated to supporting UK artists, curators and producers to develop and thrive. We enable transformative opportunities for individuals across art forms, supporting imaginative awards, bursaries, fellowships, projects, programmes and commissions. We present new work and bring people from across the arts together through our exhibitions and events in London, as well as across the UK.

David Sanchez

About David

Prior to beginning his studies at the National Centre in 2015, David's passion for juggling and performing led him to work with Spanish circus company Alehop Productions. Following his graduation with a BA (Hons) in 2018, David undertook a short course at DOCH, Sweden to further develop his artistic practice, combining physical theatre and comedy with his high-level juggling technique.

David is one half of emerging circus company [Two Much Circus](#). Together with co-founder Maggie Bernay, he is developing a humorous piece entitled *Get Ready* which explores early morning routines through object manipulation, physical theatre and movement.

The Project

David has been awarded a Jerwood Circus Residency to undertake early-stage research & development for a solo piece with the working title *The Plastic Took Over*. The piece seeks to humorously critique the very serious ecological issue of plastic waste, chronicling a man who finds himself in a plastic dessert of a surreal post-apocalyptic world.

David will use his residency to develop his character and to explore juggling and object manipulation through innovative use of non-traditional props sourced from recycling materials.



Photo Credit: Maggie Bernay

Eleni Edipidi



Photo Credit: Katarina Stamatiada

About Eleni

After graduating in 2004 with a BA in Visual Arts & Dance from Manchester Metropolitan University, Eleni continued her studies at Trinity Laban, earning an MA in 2005 in European Dance Theatre Practice. That same year, she co-founded [Levantes Dance Theatre](#), a multi-disciplinary company which seeks to create performances which are bold, bright and beautiful, inclusive and exploratory, scalable and commercial, with an original style that focuses on striking visuals, engaging characters and athletic movement.

In 2010, she was introduced to aerial harness dance through her work with Blue Eyed Soul Dance Company (Rachel Freeman), and aerial circus has become an increasingly important part of her practice and the work of her company since.

The Project

Eleni has been awarded a Jerwood Circus Residency for mid-stage research & development of a new ensemble show (working title *AUDITION*) incorporating aerial circus, acrobalance, dance and dark humour to explore society's morbid fascination for True Crime stories.

Working with an inter-generational cast, her residency will focus on two scenes, one portraying the hiding of a body, incorporating acrobalance techniques, and another portraying a family dinner scene, using aerial dance and counterweighted tippy hoop.

Fiona Salisbury



Photo Credit: Cabel Pictures

About Fiona

Fiona is a multidisciplinary artist passionate about the research and translation of balancing technique into various mediums, including physical comedy, visual arts and participation. Since graduating from Circomedia's BA course in 2018, she co-created Bull in a China Shop Project with Valentina Solari to support each other in their circus research and performance, produced surreal comedy show 'Fisheads' with Ayla Windrich and is currently involved in social circus projects for refugees and unaccompanied minors in Athens.

The Project

Fiona is developing her tightwire and physical comedy show: *Wire-Walker*, building off her previous show *Making Molasses*. Her work aims to joyfully disrupt the superhuman narratives within circus, focusing instead on using imbalance and failure as tools for choreography and comedy.

Fiona will be using her residency to explore the meeting point between her research into balancing technique and tightwire movement and its relatability and relevance to audiences new to contemporary circus. She will be thinking about structuring unpredictable movement sequences, inherent comedy of balance and choreographing voluntary and involuntary movement.

She hopes in the future to tour the work with an accompanying wire-walking workshop for young people in rural communities.

Jean-Daniel Broussé

About JD

JD graduated from the National Centre for Circus Arts in 2013 with a specialism in Icarian games. Since then, he has become best known as a hand-to-hand base with flyer Nikki Rummer. Together they have performed in numerous ensemble productions, including with Barely Methodical Troupe, Square Peg, FOCA and Ellie Dubois. They were also finalists in the 2015 Circus Maximus Competition at Underbelly. Since 2018, they have toured extensively with their own full-length show *Knot* to much critical acclaim, including several international performances.

The Project

JD has been awarded a Jerwood Circus Residency to undertake early-stage choreographic and dramaturgical research & development for his debut solo creation *le (PAIN)* (working title). *le (PAIN)* is intended to tell JD's story of growing up queer as the son and heir of a baker in the south of France, featuring acrobatics, dance, clowning...and bread!



Photo Credit: Camilla Greenwell

Joana Dias



Photo Credit: Mark Robson – Ineptgravity

About Joana

Joana is a Portuguese aerialist, singer and dancer who graduated from the National Centre for Circus Arts in 2014, specialising in aerial hoop. She has performed extensively on the London cabaret and corporate scene, as well as on international engagements with Battle Royal and Mimbire, and as a cast member on Upswing's *Bedtime Stories*. *89* will be Joana's first own creation.

The Project

Joana was supported by Upswing and Certain Blacks in the early-stage research & development of her first full-length solo creation *89*. In November 2019, Joana performed a 10-minute excerpt as part of the Certain Blacks showcase *Circus Circus Circus* at Hoxton Hall. Joana has been awarded a Jerwood Circus Residency to continue the development of this show, which is inspired by her own experience as a mixed-race woman raised by a single parent.

Through the telling of her own story, Joana hopes to illuminate the distance between memory and truth and the impact of trauma on memory, and to reflect on matters of race and colonial history. Created in collaboration with director Vicki Amedume and with the support of Upswing, Joana has gathered a creative team with a producer, writer and composer to develop text, sounds and song to complement the physical repertoire and to explore how her use of voice can influence her aerial movements.

89 is supported by Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants.