

ADESOLA AKINLEYE DANCING STRONG

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BIOGRAPHY

Adesola Akinleye is a choreographer, dancer and teacher. She trained in UK at Arts Educational School and Rambert Academy. She began her career as a dancer with Dance Theatre of Harlem; she later established her own company *Saltare* whilst living in New York and went on to tour work around the East Coast, Caribbean and Canada.

She has taught at State University of New York, USA and Manitoba University, Ca. In 2001 she moved to Canada where she toured her own work, as well as worked with the Manitoba Theatre for Young People.

In 2005 she returned to the UK being awarded ADAD's *Trailblazers Fellowship* and the *Bonnie Bird New Choreography Award* the following year. Since her return she has created a number of works including '*Truth and Transparency*' commissioned by Dance Northwest and supported by *Grants for the Arts* funding from Arts Council England; *Migrations* commissioned by *Manchester International Festival* and *Ludus Dance*, *IOcAte* commissioned by *Oxford Dance Festival* and *Trace* commissioned by *Dance in Herts (Dance Digital)*. Most recently she has created *The Jingle Dress* a performance piece for audiences of 3-5 years commissioned by *State of Emergency*, and the choreography for *Shadowball* a jazz opera by Jullan Joseph libretto by Mike Phillips.

She is a fellow of the *Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, manufactures and Commerce (RSA)*.

In October 2008 she began a three-year Fellowship with the Post Graduate Research Department (PhD) at *Christ Church Canterbury with the SPEAR*. Her current research is looking at embodied experience and its relationship with environment, learning and 'knowledge', using the principles of dance to explore the narratives constructed by situated bodies in specific sites.

Her work has a strong conceptual strand, ranging from site-specific and installation based performance to community informed performance. She works a lot with film and the software programme, *Isadora*.

www.dancingstrong.com