

# Light Steps

dance performance for young audiences

DancingStrong presents Art for young audiences...

## Found & Light Steps

Interactive music and dance performances for young audiences and their families

### Found

Norden Farm Arts Centre, 31 May  
the egg, Bath Theatre Royal, 1 - 2 June  
Whatfield CEVCP Primary School, 14 June  
Ickworth Park Primary School, 15 June

### Light Steps

Old Town Hall  
Hemel Hempstead, 9 June  
Ickworth Park Primary, 18 June  
mac Birmingham, 15 July  
London Hospital School, 27 Sept  
St John's CofE Primary, 4 Oct  
Woking Library, 5 Oct  
Parkview Community Centre, 5 Oct  
Bridgewater & Taunton College  
Childcare Centre, 9 Oct  
Taunton School, 10 Oct






### Light Steps - Trailer



### Light Steps - film for children



'Light Steps' is a 45 min music and dance performance for young audiences and their families. Alex, an endearing rag doll, is woken by the morning light to explore a day punctuated by points as the sun travels across the sky. Beginning with the morning light, followed by something flying by in the midmorning, then a cloud over head in the mid-day sky, the tide coming in in the afternoon and finally a beautiful sunset. 'Light Steps' follows Alex's day of adventure in colour, music and dance. Children are encouraged to join in with the music and dance. It is not a 'you-have-to-sit-still-and-be-quiet' event!!!!

# School Residency creating dance together

Light Steps was originally researched and developed in 2014. We worked in collaboration with the Turner Contemporary Museum, Margate and Bromstone Primary School in Kent. The project was commissioned as a project for young people to engage with exhibits at the Turner Contemporary. The inspiration for the project was the work of Spencer Finch whose exhibit "The skies can't keep their secret" was part of the Turner Contemporary's *Summer of Colour* 2014. This R&D was supported by an Arts Council, Grants for the Arts.

We worked with reception classes from Bromstone during a two week residency at the school. We explored different works by Finch particularly ones on exhibit that summer at the Turner Contemporary. Some Reception students came with us to visit the works at the museum. By the end of the two weeks the children had explore five works of art by Finch and made their own dances and designs in response to their exploration. We use the meaning making , stories and assumptions the children came to as the starting point for making the performance work. We also worked with USA designer Shelby Newport on costumes through funding from University of Michigan.



# Creation & Rehearsal



# Tour Information



 [light\\_steps\\_tour\\_information\\_pack\\_.pdf](#)  
Download File

## Light Steps

A performance piece for children and their families  
**Tour Pack**



**“Light Steps takes young audiences into the magical world of colour, music and interactive dance.”**

Link to promotional video:  
information: **Company Web-site:**  
[Light Step promo \(4 mins\): https://vimeo.com/120412789](#)  
[www.dancingstrong.com](#)

**For bookings or more**  
**Terry Adams: Tour manager**  
[terry@anonymousarts.co.uk](mailto:terry@anonymousarts.co.uk)

# Light Steps 2018 -19

From June 2018 we will be touring *Found* for 4-7 year olds  
and  
*Light Steps* for 2-5 year olds.

## Light Steps

Saturday June 9th

[The Old Town Hall, Hemel Hempsted, Herts](#)

2:30pm - show

3:30pm - workshop

Wednesday June 13th

Monday June 18th

[Once Upon a Festival - The Theatre Royal](#)

Suffolk Schools performances (closed performance)

Sunday July 15th

[The Mac, Birmingham](#)

noon - show

3pm - show

Thursday September 27th

London Schools performance (closed performance)

Light Steps for Early Years audiences

- [Hopper Project](#)

Thursday October 4th

St John's C of E Primary School (closed performance)

Friday October 5th

[Woking Library](#)

Parkview Community Centre

Tuesday October 9th

Bridgwater and Taunton College Childcare Centre

Wednesday October 10th

Taunton School (closed performance)

For Found tour dates visit [here](#).

DancingStrong tour booking manager is

- [Sarah Trist Dance Management Agency](#).



DancingStrong presents Art for young audiences...

## Found & Light Steps

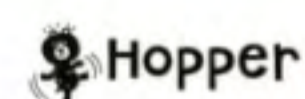
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# Spring Tour 2016

Spring - Summer 2016 tour to - Attenborough Arts Centre, Trinity Community Arts, Tap'n' Groove in Leamington Spar, Middlesex Children's Centre, Barts and London Children's Hospital School, and Bromstone Primary School.



Photos from the performances during the tour.

Alex on the road with Light Steps and the rest of the cast.



## Autumn Tour 2015



Light Steps was originally premièred within the exhibition space at Turner Contemporary Margate in Summer 2014. The work is now toured South East in school settings and had its first London performance at Stratford Circus on November 7th 2015. The piece takes the audience on a 45-minute magical journey of dance using light and colour as a portal through five moments in the day of puppet Alex. Inspired by drawings made by children from Bromstone Primary School in Broadstairs, Alex is a small puppet that learns to dance through enjoying the different lights and colours of each moment of the day.





## Contact us

e. [info@dancingstrong.com](mailto:info@dancingstrong.com)

w. [www.dancingstrong.com](http://www.dancingstrong.com)

Other children's work from us includes '*Found*'

[www.ilaproject.com](http://www.ilaproject.com)

Special thanks for fundraising support to: Kyi Akinleye, Olukemi Akinleye, Mike Aquan-Assee, Pat Ayinde, Joe Culleton, Jane Dance, Marc & Modupe Guevara, Peter James, Jasmin, Mirjam Louther, Sarah Jones, Mirjam Louther, Keith & Gavin McGarvey, Olukemi, Hopal Romans, Beverly Takahashi, Ann Wieland, Will Wieland, Elizabeth Wynn.

Photography: Joe Culleton, Andy Hammer, Kat Leung, Barry Lewis



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AKINLEYE  
DANCING  
STRONG**

# Light Steps

A performance piece for children and their families

**Tour Pack**



**“Light Steps takes young audiences into the magical world of colour, music and interactive dance.”**

**Link to promotional video:**

Light Step promo (4 mins): <https://vimeo.com/120412780>

In schools & community (4 mins): <https://vimeo.com/120412515>

**For bookings or more information:**

Terry Adams: Tour manager

[terry@anonymousarts.co.uk](mailto:terry@anonymousarts.co.uk)

Tel: +44 7782 279 191

**Company Web-site:**

[www.dancingstrong.com](http://www.dancingstrong.com)



***“...we love the children’s involvement and the movement of both dancers and fabric...”***  
***(Parent audience member)***

**Light Steps is a 45 minute music & dance performance suitable for small-scale venues, festivals, schools and site-specific locations.**

Alex, an endearing rag doll, is woken by the morning light to explore a day punctuated by points as the sun travels across the sky. Beginning with the morning light, followed by something flying by in the midmorning, then a cloud over head in the mid-day sky, the tide coming in in the afternoon and finally a beautiful sunset, Alex’s day is an adventure in colour, music and dance.

Alex’s day is overseen by four guardian-angels/friends (dancers & musician) whose ethereal movements, music and dance mirror Alex’s feelings, experiences and inquisitiveness. A soundtrack to Alex’s exploits is provided by a profoundly beautiful live musical composition reflecting the various stages of the day’s light. This dance and music performance piece is made for children and their families to enjoy colour, movement and music. There are points throughout the performance where the audience is invited to join in. Children are encouraged to be themselves.

***“ ...I liked the waves and the dolls. I feel like a dancer now!”*** ***(Child audience member)***

## **TOURING INFORMATION: performances & workshops:**

Light-Steps can be delivered as a bespoke project that encompasses the residencies and workshops followed by a performance, or as a single performance or as stand alone workshop.

**Performance:** Light-Steps can be presented as a stand-alone 45 minute performance piece adapted to be performed within various settings including traditional theatre spaces, non-traditional spaces, galleries, at Festivals, in museums or as a site specific event. It has minimum technical requirements. The performance touring team consists of three dancers, one musician and a stage manager.

**Workshop:** Workshops have been designed to be bespoke, drawing on the themes of the production, (movement, light, colour, and moments in time). Workshops are flexible and can be offered as residencies, outreach, or educational workshops in museums, schools, community halls &/or theatre locations. Duration of workshops is 20-40 minutes. (Residencies are two to five days). Sessions are suitable for up to 20 children. At least one adult support worker from the commissioning organization will be required to be present throughout the workshop.

### **Fees\***

Single performance: £500

Two performances on the same day at the same location: £800

Performance & workshop on same day: £600

Single workshops: £300 - £500  
(according to bespoke formatting)



*[\*Flexible costing is available according to venues or commissioning organization's needs – as of December 2016]*

## **Technical requirements:**

*The technical requirements for the production are self-contained and highly adaptable to all venue types*

Performance space of minim of seven meters square

Electrical point for instrument, accessories and PA system



Jake with electric cello

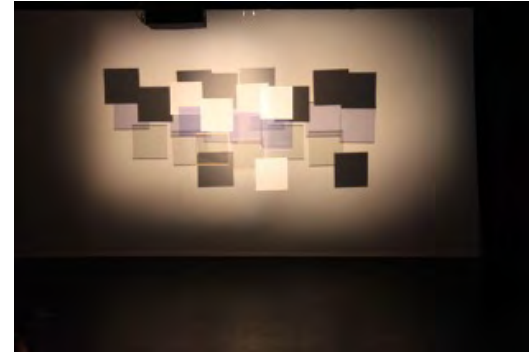
## **STAGE SET-UP:**

LED Lighting Unit (battery operated) on wheels

Electric Cello, loop & delay pedals & small PA system

Chair

'Cloud' hung from lighting rig in venues that have a lighting rig.



Cloud hung from rig

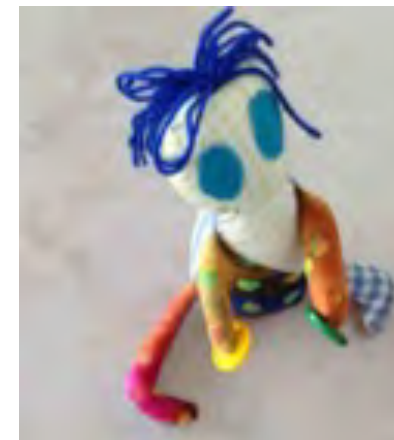
## **PROPS:**

Alex - Rag doll puppet

'Flying thing' - puppet

Silk sheets and ribbons

Light gells



Alex

## **The DancingStrong Company**

Founded by artist Adesola Akinleye in 2005, DancingStrong creates performance and dance-based projects (including the company's *finding dance in unusual spaces* project).

DancingStrong's professional performance company presents work theatres, community settings and schools throughout the UK, USA and Canada. The company's outreach and educational projects have provided arts based programming within communities in London UK, South East England, Winnipeg CA, rural Manitoba CA, Detroit USA, Flint USA, and New York USA.

Aims of DancingStrong include:

- Providing accessible dance work to audiences and participants
- To create work derived from life experiences which therefore possess a shared experience for audiences
- To deliver high quality arts in education work
- To create work for non traditional venues and site-specific spaces
- To engage audiences and participants of all ages
- Continue international collaborations of work

## **The Founder / Artistic Director**

British born Akinleye trained at the Arts Educational School, London and The Rambert Academy but began her professional career as a dancer with the Dance Theater of Harlem (USA). As a performer she has gone on to work with Union Dance Company and Carol Straker Dance Company (UK). Choreographically, Akinleye studied choreography with mentor Bessie Schönberg and has been awarded the Bonnie Bird New

Choreography

Award and a Trailblazers Fellowship by the Association of Dance of the African Diaspora (ADAD). Akinleye was awarded Woman of the Year for 'Distinguished achievement in the field of community dance' for her work for children by the Town of Islip, New York. Adesola is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures & Commerce (RSA). She holds a PhD from Canterbury Christ Church University, and a Masters of Arts from Community from Middlesex University.

## **Light Steps and original work for children**

*Light Steps* was premièred in summer 2014 at the Turner Contemporary, Margate. It was a production especially catered for children (aged 3+) and family audiences responding to the gallery's summer exhibit. The story takes inspiration from works by artist Spencer Finch in his first UK solo exhibit *The Skies can't keep their secret*, exhibited at the Turner Contemporary, Margate in the summer of 2014 as part of the Summer of Colour season. Originally Akinleye worked with USA scenographer Shelby Newport for Research and Development of the piece in a local Primary school. The final touring work is designed by UK scenographer Andy Hamer, with original music by Jake Alexander.



**“...use of light and music was inspiring...”**  
(audience participant)

**“It was very beautiful”**  
(workshop member)

**“Wonderful performance – magical experience,  
thank you”**  
(audience member)

**“The accompanying music was beautiful, the dancers  
were awesome, we liked the use of colour and  
scarves”**  
(audience member)

**“ I enjoyed watching the dance and seeing some of  
things we made up”**  
(workshop participant)

**Links to films of Light Steps:**

**Light Step promo (4 mins): <https://vimeo.com/120412780>**

**In schools & community (4 mins): <https://vimeo.com/120412515>**



### **Credits**

Choreography & Direction: Adesola Akinleye

Costume and Sceneographer: Andy Hamer

Composer and Musician: Jacob Alexander

Dancers: Alice Cade, Irisz Galuska, Natalie Lee

Stage Manager: Katherine Leung

Photography: Joe Culleton, Katherine Leung, Barry Lewis

**Tour Manager: Terry Adams [terry@anonymousarts.co.uk](mailto:terry@anonymousarts.co.uk)**

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