



dawnsibawb



## **Annual Report 2024 – 2025**

**Dawns i Bawb**

## ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

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### 1 / HIGHLIGHTS

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Collaborating on the project 'Strictly Gwynedd a Môn' in partnership with Mencap Môn, Llwybrau Llesiant, Antur Waunfawr & Seren Ffestiniog with over 450 people taking part at the event at the Celtic Hotel, Caernarfon.
- ★ Acceptance of funding from Anglesey Council to facilitate inter-generational dance sessions at local care homes for residents and children from their local schools. The Older People's Commissioner visited some of the sessions and responded very positively to the work.
- ★ Development of a number of new partnerships to collaborate on developing engagement to our dance programme including:
  - ★ Working in partnership with Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias & Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board to run music and dance sessions for children with Autism and their families
  - ★ Working in partnership with Porthi Dre to run seated dance sessions for older adults
  - ★ Working in partnership with Croeso Menai to run a pilot project that explored developing dance opportunities for people living in Bangor who are on a refugee status
  - ★ Continue to collaborate with Ballet Cymru and Ysgol Llanllyfni on the project DUETS
- ★ Held 473 sessions with 6798 participating. Created 11 performances with 1266 audience members and 24 training workshops with 99 participants. Numbers are lower than the previous year due to less staff capacity particularly staff that take on our work in schools. We still see less people taking part in activity since the pandemic but we also currently work with more vulnerable groups which typically have smaller numbers.
- ★ Our Director continues her work with the 'Creative Transformations 2024' cohort with the organisation People Make It Work which is supporting us over 18 months to develop a new business model that focusses on the resources we have available to us
- ★ Held our annual production 'Gafael yn Fy Llaw' with every group that is parts of Dawns i Bawb's programme ahving the opporunity to perform. Over 99 people of all ages and abilities took part to an audience of 284.

## COMMUNITY DANCE PROGRAMME

We have continued to collaborate with key partners as well as develop new partnerships to grow our community programme and reach new groups. Our Community Dance Programme takes place consistently throughout Gwynedd and Anglesey and includes Dawnsyr Dre for children and young people 4-12 years, Llwybrau a Mencap Môn Dance Groups for disabled adults, seated dance sessions for older people at Porthi Dre and the DUETS programme in partnership with Ballet Cymru. Sessions are suitable for everyone and offer opportunities to learn new skills, socialise, develop confidence and have fun. All sessions take place in Welsh or bilingually.



## DANCE IN CARE HOMES PROGRAMME

Our Dance in Care Homes Programme continues to develop. Through an SPF Gwynedd grant, we have been able to offer free sessions to a number of care homes. Over the year, over 15 homes received a monthly free session. Sessions continue to be popular and this year one of the homes also took part in our annual production through creating a dance for film. Each session has elements of creative expression, improving health and well being and encouraging being together. Thus year we will also be developing intergenerational sessions in partnership with Anglesey Council for care homes residents and local schools.

**Held 94 sessions with 1345 participants**



## **DANCE IN SCHOOLS AND SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS**

We continue to collaborate with schools across Gwynedd, Ynys Môn and Conwy to facilitate projects as part of Expressive Arts on the Curriculum for Wales. Dance is a fantastic way for students to develop their creative abilities across a number of learning fields.

The projects use dance as a means to develop a number of positive experiences through choreographic development, collaboration and team building, using creativity and imagination as part of the learning experience, and creation and performance.

The Expressive Arts are essential to the four principles of growth through encouraging students to become individuals who are enthusiastic and creative, using their imagination and combining the skills of literacy (using expressive and reflective language), numeracy (exploring concepts related to numbers such as rhythm, counting and repetition) and digital competence (production technology, film and photo editing, digital work sharing)

**Held 127 sessions with 2794 participants**



## **ANNUAL COMMUNITY DANCE PRODUCTION DAWNS | BAWB 2024**

This year's production 'Gafael yn Fy Llaw' was performed with over 100 people of all ages and abilities and to 284 audience members.

## **2 / KEY LEARNING POINTS**

It has been a challenging year with funding cuts, changes in staff structure in response to funding cuts, lack of teaching staff and the Artistic Director having to take a period of absence from work.

We have continued to support non-Welsh speaking tutors to learn Welsh and to feel confident with using it in their sessions. Challenges in finding Welsh speakers to teach on our programme continue but we are pleased to see a report in response to the Arts Council's Investment Review to commit to supporting Welsh language in the dance sector in the upcoming Wales Dance Review.

The Artistic Director has continued as a member of the 'Creative Transformations' cohort which has been very useful as we plan our way forward. Changes in our financial and staffing situations means that it is essential that we respond, adapt and develop our ways of operating.

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## **3 /STATS**

★ We held 473 live sessions with 6798 participating. We created 11 public performances including our annual production with over 100 performers of all ages and abilities and 284 audience members. Numbers are lower than last year due to lack of staff to deliver on our programme, having to deliver less activity due to funding cuts but also due to a shift in our priorities (working with more vulnerable groups instead of large groups of children) which means these groups will naturally have less numbers due to their nature.

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## **4.STAFF / FREELANCERS**

It was necessary to change our staff structure this year and by now, there is just one member of full time staff in the Company

### **Changes**

Appointed a new part time Administrator

Maddie Burnham left as an employed Dance Development Practitioner

Lauren Rooney took maternity leave and we appointed Siri Wigdel as her cover

Appointed Awen Pritchard as a Community Dance Intern

Appointed three young people as dance assistants to our weekly classes

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## **5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

No changes to the Board for 2024-25

Fon Roberts and Ann Postle agreed to continue as Chair and Vice Chair for an extended period to support the Artistic Director through her period of absence

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## **6. RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR MAIN FUNDERS**

**ACW:** A positive relationship with continuing support from the North Wales office

**Gwynedd Council:** positive and complimentary

**Anglesey Council:** positive and complimentary

### **Expected Changes:**

Dawns i Bawb have successfully completed our first year as an ACW Portfolio Member for 2023-2026. We have had a small increase of 3.5% to our revenue grant for 2025-2026.

Gwynedd Council have offered us a grant of £4,400 as a bridging fund as the SPF grant finished in January and the next funding round is not until for the next financial year.

There will be an opportunity to apply for the Gwynedd Strategic Arts Grant for 2025-26 during March 2025.

Ynys Môn Council has confirmed £2898 for 2024/25

**We wish to thank each one for their support during the year**

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## **7. PARTNERSHIPS**

Dawns i Bawb has succeeded in creating a number of new and exciting partnerships during the year as well as continuing to collaborating with our existing key partners

'DUETS' in partnership with Ballet Cymru to develop ballet opportunities within disadvantaged communities has continued at Ysgol Llanllyfni. The group recently performed with the Company at Pontio in their production 'Daydreams & Jellybeans.'

We have collaborated with Llwybrau Llesiant, Mencap Mon, Antur Waunfawr and Seren Ffestiniog to hold the event 'Strictly Gwynedd a Môn'

New partnerships include Croeso Menai, Porthi Dre, Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias, Bwrdd Iechyd Betsi Cadwaladr, Tro Cyntaf i Bopeth

## A WORD BY OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

It has been a challenging year once again with the start of the year seeing a cut in our grant offer by ACW. This meant that it was not possible to move forward with the plan to increase staff numbers and it was also necessary to make changes to our current staff structure. We also faced the challenges of a decrease in availability of our freelance tutors due to childcare matters and long term illness.

In spite of the challenges, the exciting and important work has continued. I am pleased to have been working with People Make It Work throughout the year who have supported me and Dawns i Bawb to develop a strategic plan in response to our challenges. I look forward to us putting this plan into action in 2026.

I would like to thank our staff, funders, partners and participants for all their support during the year.



