

Dr. Adesola Akinleye: Biography

Adesola is a choreographer, dancer, researcher and teacher. 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 UK, American East Coast, Caribbean and Canada. For her work with Saltare she was awarded '1999 national Women's History Month award for Distinguished Achievement in the Field of Dance' by Town of Islip, NY. She has been a part Canadian nation wide artists-in-schools program as well as teaching at the University of Manitoba. She has been awarded ADAD's *Trailblazers Fellowship* and the *Bonnie Bird New Choreographers Award*. 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*, *Trace* commissioned by *Dance in Herts (Dance Digital)*, and *The Jingle Dress* a work for children commissioned by State of Emergency. Her most recent work *Untitled: Women's Work* an international commission by the Center for Education of Women was premièred in USA in May 2014. While her most recent work for young audiences *Light Steps* opened at the Turner Contemporary Museum, Margate UK in August 2014

Adesola is a Fellow of the RSA. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in *sociology of the body and embodiment* from Canterbury Christ Church University UK. She has a Master of Arts in *work-based learning: dance in education and the community* from Middlesex University, UK. She has been a guest teacher / choreographer on a number of professional training programs including, South East Dance UK, Wayne State University USA, University of Michigan USA, Dance Theatre of Harlem Summer program USA, and Creative Partnerships, UK. She is a Senior lecturer in Work-based Learning in the Media and Performing Arts Department, Middlesex University, UK.

Her interest in dance as the language of embodied experience has led her to make a number of works for young audiences, as well as other community informed starting points. Her work has a strong conceptual strand, ranging from theater presented work to site-specific to installation-based performance. She enjoys working with light as a three-dimensional inquiry and often uses the projection programme, *Isadora*.

An overview of her work can be seen at www.dancingstrong.com