



THE GARAGE

Name: Katy Dunne

Role: Dance tutor

Time involved with the Garage: 10 years

Activities: Tutor for D4Dance performance company and D4Dance Seniors, Junior Movers, adult contemporary and toddler dance



"I imagine myself as an old lady still teaching D4Dance at the Garage - it's so close to my heart I'd find it hard to give it up!"

Katy has been involved with the Garage since it opened and is one of our most experienced dance tutors. She has been running D4Dance - a group for young people and adults with learning disabilities - for the last 10 years. In this time she has made a huge impact on the participants and they on her. She feels that the participants have a really "happy energy" and their enthusiasm makes them great fun to work with. She feels that she is her most creative when she's working with them and they are willing to try anything - whether it's dancing in a snorkel and flippers or doing 1920s slapstick!

She has very high expectations of the group and will really challenge them. She feels that this challenge is something that many of the participants don't have in every area of their lives. The group gives them independence, a sense of belonging and a creative outlet to show what they can do. The parents and carers of group members are often surprised by what the participants have achieved, whether it's a sell-out show at Norwich Playhouse or performing outside the Forum. Both Katy and the participants want to raise the profile of people with learning disabilities and what they can achieve in society. She feels that "the Garage is a really open and friendly venue, accepting of everyone".

Katy's total dedication to her work is really inspiring to everyone at the Garage. She will always go the extra mile and is always seeking out new opportunities for her groups and for her own personal development.

