



Sadler's Wells  
**breakin  
convention  
2026**

THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF HIP HOP DANCE THEATRE

FEATURING GLOBAL CREWS:

Ivan Michael Blackstock's TRAPLORD UK

ILL-Abilities BRAZIL / NETHERLANDS

Femme Fatale FRANCE / MEXICO / SOUTH KOREA

PLUS LOCAL ACTS:

FEMALE FUNK FRUITION | HEAVY SMOKERS KREW | SK DANCE | COREY OWENS  
AND Battles | Cyphers | Workshops | DJs plus more TBA



TRAMWAY  
▲

SAT 23 MAY  
TRAMWAY

[breakinconvention.com/tour](http://breakinconvention.com/tour)

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# BREAKIN' CONVENTION NATIONAL UK TOUR

Wassup people!

I am Jonzi D, founder and Artistic Director of Breakin' Convention. It's a privilege to bring this festival to stages across the UK in 2026, sharing the voices, stories and innovations of the hip hop theatre community.

Hip hop shaped me. Born from the creativity of Black and Brown communities in the Bronx, it taught me expression, resilience and connection. Back then, there were no formal pathways – no institutions or frameworks to validate what we did. We learned from each other, in cyphers, on streets, in communities. That spirit still lives at the heart of this festival.

Alongside my journey in hip hop, I trained in contemporary dance, navigating spaces where our culture wasn't always recognised as "art". But I never accepted that limitation. Hip hop is not confined to any one space – it is expansive, innovative and constantly evolving. It adjusts and fills every space, like air.

Breakin' Convention was created to platform hip hop theatre. What started as a dope idea has grown into an international movement connecting artists, audiences and communities across the world. This UK tour continues that mission, bringing together exceptional talent who are pushing boundaries and redefining what hip hop theatre can be.

This is more than performance – it's a gathering, a celebration and a statement. Our culture is limitless.

Let's start Breakin' Convention.

Jonzi D  
Founder and Artistic Director, Breakin' Convention



# BREAKIN' CONVENTION NATIONAL UK TOUR

## RUNNING ORDER

- 5PM** Foyer activities (see below)
- 7.30PM** Act 1: Female Funk (UK), Corey Owens (UK), Femme Fatale (France/Mexico/Korea), Heavy Smokers Krew (UK), SK Dance (UK), ILL-Abilities (Brazil/Netherlands)
- 8.30PM** INTERVAL (30 minutes)
- 9PM** Act 2: TRAPLORD (UK)
- 9.45PM** SHOW END

**11PM-3AM** Wrap party at Nice N Sleazy, free entry with your Breakin' Convention ticket

## IN THE FOYER from 5pm

Pre-show talk with TRAPLORD, live DJ set, rap cypher, hip hop battle, digital hip hop archive and more!

Line-up correct at time of publication

## CONTENT WARNINGS & AUDIENCE ADVICE

This work contains explicit language, adult themes, depictions of violence and mental health including suicide and identity. Parental Guidance is advised.

This age guidance is at the discretion of the accompanying parent/guardian. Above all, Breakin' Convention Festival is a celebration of the best hip hop has to offer, highlighting incredible artists from all over the world and we look forward to welcoming you.

**Content warnings: This production contains strobe lighting, vaping and strong language and themes of violence, identity, suicide and mental health.**

## ARTISTS



### Corey Owens

(UK)

HIVE

**Choreography and Performers:**

**Corey Owens**

Picture an MC so powerful he sounds like a preacher, with a sermon so palpable it turns a club into a cathedral, he claims himself a prophet delivering the prophecy of groove;

In the beginning there was Jack,  
And Jack had a groove,  
And from this groove came the groove of all grooves,  
And while one day viciously throwin' down on his box,  
Jack boldly declared let there be house,  
And house music was born.

I AM YOU SEE  
I AM THE CREATOR  
AND THIS IS MY HOUSE



### Female Funk Fruition

(UK)

**Aye Wonder**

**Choreography:** Shelltoe Mel and Nadia Funk  
**Forever**

**Performers:** Melanie Leck, Nadia Sewnauth,  
Pearl Kinnear, Melanie Roig, Lois Marshall,  
Ruth Walker, Cheryl Montgomery, Lucy  
McLachlan, Liz Barr

In this love letter to hip hop, Female Funk Fruition present vignettes of female empowerment. An homage to Wonder Woman, Mel's first introduction to a strong female television character; Token Female which addresses the lack of female artists in the hip hop industry; and finally a tribute and celebration of female artists throughout hip hop herstory. We wanted to create this piece as we feel it is important to remain visible and inspire others to be seen and heard.

## ARTISTS



### Femme Fatale

(FRANCE/MEXICO/KOREA)

#### Visual Voice

#### Choreography and Performers:

Marie Poppins, Lily Frias, Dassy Lee

Three women, three countries, one shared passion. **Femme Fatale**, from Mexico, France, and South Korea, brings to life a stage performance scored by CloZee using instruments from their homelands. **Visual Voice** is a journey through their lives—showing the struggles, obstacles, and the many voices that society often tries to silence.



### Heavy Smokers Krew (HSK)

(UK)

#### The Way, The Truth, The Light

#### Choreography: Steven Fraser

#### Performers:

Ilja Dubrovins, Steven Fraser, Damian Stolarski, Joshua Tebbutt, Jason Anderson

**The Way, The Truth, The Light** is a groundbreaking live production performed and choreographed by HSK, merging raw movement, spiritual storytelling, and electrifying stagecraft into one immersive experience. The show erupts with a powerful break of drums—deep, resonant rhythms that pulse through the space like a call to rise. Live musician, Joshua Tebbutt, builds on that foundation, weaving soaring melodies and driving bass lines that elevate the atmosphere with every beat.

## ARTISTS



### ILL-Abilities

(BRAZIL/NETHERLANDS)

#### Broken Source

##### Choreography and Performers:

Redouan “Redo” Ait Chitt & Samuel “Samuka”  
Henrique Silveira da Lima

International dance crew **ILL-Abilities** have reshaped physical adversity into a unique movement language. Broken Source is a raw and poetic duet by two of their world-class breakdance artists, Redouan “Redo” Ait Chitt (The Netherlands) and Samuel “Samuka” Henrique Silveira da Lima (Brazil). Drawing inspiration from the Japanese philosophy of repairing broken things with gold, this work is not about what was lost, but about what is discovered in the breaking.



### Ivan Michael Blackstock (UK)

#### TRAPLORD

##### Director and Choreographer:

Ivan Michael Blackstock

##### Associate Choreographer: Chaldon Williams

Performers: DOMINANT, Kaner Scott, Kyron  
Nykro Jake, Magero, Wild G, Chaldon Williams

**TRAPLORD** is an Olivier Award-winning production by choreographer and cultural innovator Ivan Michael Blackstock, exploring cycles of life, death, and rebirth through a visceral fusion of dance, theatre, and spoken word. Suspended between dream and reality, the work takes audiences on a fractured heroic journey toward self-actualisation.

## ARTISTS



### SK Dance

(UK)

Route

**Choreography and Performers:**

Sara and Kiki Oladapo, Nevil Jose, Maya Pneil, Nicolette McCormack, Chris Kane, Jay Ern Lee

**Route** is a hip hop theatre work exploring migration, cultural identity and belonging. The piece reimagines a historical narrative through a reversed lens: a group of Scottish settlers arrive unannounced on the shores of an African tribe. The tribe, initially unaware and at rest, is disrupted by the presence of these newcomers. Through this inversion, the work invites audiences to reconsider ideas of intrusion, settlement and power.

## ABOUT US

### Jonzi D

#### Host & Artistic Director

An MC, dancer, spoken word artist and director, Jonzi is the foremost advocate for hip hop who has changed the profile and influenced the development of the UK British hip hop dance and theatre scene over the last two decades.

Since founding Breakin' Convention in 2004, Jonzi has triumphed in raising the profile and giving a platform to hip hop disciplines, which has gained worldwide recognition as being at the vanguard of the development of the art form. Through professional development projects Open Art Surgery and Back to the Lab, Jonzi has supported hundreds of hip hop dance and rap/poetry artists on their journey to creating theatre.

### Dorine Mwesiga

#### Breakin' Convention Rep

From law to dance, Dorine Mugisha is a movement artist, organiser, facilitator, host, project manager interested in exploring identit(ies), belonging, culture and the body. Rooted in street dance and whacking, her practice blends performance, facilitation, exchange and community building. Founder of Whacking Scotland and Body Movement Retreats, she creates participatory spaces for expression, storytelling and connection across Scotland, Tanzania and beyond, celebrating freedom, collaboration and diverse ways of being. No stranger to Breakin' Convention, she first performed on the main stage with The Archetype in 2019, then in 2023 sharing her solo performance in Lilian Baylis Studio, excited and looking forward to continue being part of this journey as the Breakin' Convention rep for Glasgow.



## ABOUT US

**Breakin' Convention represents the origins and evolution of hip hop culture from around the world and around the corner.**

Since 2004, Breakin' Convention has represented the origins and evolution of hip hop culture from around the world and around the corner. Working with the most respected, innovative and inspirational artists, Breakin' Convention is at the vanguard of the development of the hip hop theatre genre, through its world-renowned festivals, international touring, professional development, youth projects and educational programme.

**[breakinconvention.com](http://breakinconvention.com)**

### **BREAKIN CONVENTION TEAM**

Artistic Director **Jonzi D**  
Director **Michelle Norton**  
Tour Producer **Lisa Parkes**  
Assistant Producer **Natalie Thompson**  
SW Marketing Manager **Natalie Zagaglia**  
Marketing Consultant **Martha Quigley**  
Marketing & Communications Coordinator  
**Hebe Salmon**  
Social Media & Campaigns Officer  
**Dominic George Hamilton**  
Projects Manager **Shay Rafati**  
Interim Assistant Producer **Kate Bodner**  
Coordinator **Aliyah Reid**  
Trainee **Yassmine Akebsi**  
Press **ABSTRAKT**  
Design & Logo **Benjamin Wachenje**  
Local Rep **Dorine Mwesiga**

### **TECHNICAL TEAM**

Production Manager & LX **Joe Pilling**  
Company Stage Manager **Helen Lainsbury**  
Deputy Stage Manager **Jasmine Smith**  
Sound Engineer **Dan Harmer**  
SW Technical Production Manager **Adam Carrée**

With thanks to Tramway, Arts Council England and Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for their support of this tour. Breakin' Convention is based at and supported by Sadler's Wells. Registered charity number 279884 VAT number 649178496.