Thank you for your consideration to be a part of this research study on the physically disabled dancer in the British capital. Your participation is crucial to understanding how disabled dancers succeed, what type of barriers they face and how choreographers can best serve their potential.

You are invited to participate in a sixty minute interview which will incorporate a five minute seated solo dance piece that will be taught to you by a choreographer in London. We are interested to learn how you respond to instruction, how your physical limitations are addressed but most importantly we want to know how you feel about being a physically disabled dancer and being a member of the most dynamic disability dance community in the world.

We are pleased to offer you an honorarium of one hundred British Pounds for your participation.

In this document please find enclosed letters of recommendation of past European employers verifying the professionalism of Lawrence Shapiro who is the chief investigator of this project. Lawrence’s resume is also included.

A validated Deaf and Disability Artist with the Canada Council for the Arts, Lawrence’s training is rooted in London’s disability arts scene. He is an enthusiastic proponent of integrated dance in the British capital and brings nearly twenty years of demonstrated sensitivity and understanding of this field to his work with you.

Thank you for your participation.
November 16, 2022

Attention: UK Border Force

This is to confirm that Mr. Lawrence Shapiro of Toronto, Canada has been bestowed a Chalmers Fellowship from the Ontario Arts Council to pursue a research study on disability arts in the United Kingdom focusing entirely on the city of London. The duration of the project extends to September 2023. Mr. Shapiro will be required to report the findings of his research to the council upon his return to Ontario.

We would appreciate any assistance afforded to Mr. Shapiro for facilitation of his entry into the UK at this time.

The Chalmers Fellowship grant supports expenses incurred by the participant in conjunction with the bestowed research project.

Yours sincerely,

Bushra Junaid
Outreach and Development Manager
Chalmers Arts Fellowships Officer
Ontario Arts Council

/bj
Dear Disability Dance Research Interviewee:

Amici Dance Theatre Company have known Lawrence for a number of years. Lawrence Shapiro is conducting a research study on the physically disabled dancer in London. Lawrence is the proud recipient of the Chalmers Arts Fellowship bestowed to him by the Ontario Arts Council in Canada. The Chalmers Arts Fellowship is a highly competitive distinction for which Lawrence has worked for many years. He is very excited to be back in the UK leading this unprecedented examination on disability arts in the British capital.

First joining us for an Amici Dance Theatre workshop in 2009, Lawrence has been an enthusiastic and committed practitioner of integrated dance and greatly appreciated the unique instruction offered to him through our company. In 2013 we were pleased to receive Lawrence through a grant from Theatre Ontario in Canada which allowed him to be mentored by our artistic and educational directors in pursuing his goal of running his own integrated dance company. Throughout his training Lawrence was attentive, responsive to staff and hard working. He greatly appreciated the extraordinary opportunity to train in disability arts in London. In 2018 he joined us for our own production of "Tales of Joy" in Hammersmith. Throughout the rehearsals and performance, he was committed and professional to all those around him. We have been pleased to help him on his journey to become an effective disability art professional and this goal was clearly achieved in 2021 where he performed and executed his own integrated dance piece with multiple performances to great acclaim in New York City. Lawrence's achievement in alternative performing arts is a result of his hard work and dedication and taking advantages of opportunities presented to him.

We are pleased for his success and appreciative of his gratitude toward the training we have provided for him.

Lawrence is a reliable, dedicated and committed disability arts professional and a published author in UK academia. He brings to this role of disability arts researcher along with the very relevant experience of having performed with disabled dancers. Based on our work with him, we know he will bring to his interaction with you a genuine understanding of your experience as a disabled dancer including your challenges and achievements.

We hope you can assist Lawrence with this important project.

Yours Sincerely,

Alison King
Producer for Amici Dance theatre Co

Administration: Turtle Key Arts, Lyric Hammersmith, Lyric Sq, King St, London, W6 0QL
T: 020 8964 5060                      E: amici@turtlekeyarts.org.uk
To Whom It May Concern:

This is to confirm the successful participation of Lawrence Shapiro in a performance piece that was executed at the Bethanien Arts Centre in Berlin in December of 2022. Lawrence came to us through a professional grant bestowed through the Canada Council for the Arts' "Canada in Germany" program.

Our performing troupe has been at the forefront of disability arts in Germany for many years. Throughout this current project, we were delighted to have Lawrence join us for the preparation and execution of this exciting mix of staged choreography and physical theatre that proved a great success for spectators. Consistently punctual and prepared for every rehearsal, Lawrence brought a genuine uniqueness and vigour to his role in the production. As the only physically disabled performer and the only foreigner in our show, Lawrence demonstrated a true commitment to his participation. We believe his determination in coming to Germany underscores his commitment to disability arts and the unique dynamic of integrated performance. We believe he is the first Canadian disabled dancer ever to perform in Berlin.

A skilled disability arts professional whose contribution made a real impact to our production, we are pleased to recommend him.

Yours Sincerely,

Bernhard Richarz
Artistic Co-Director
tanzfähig – Initiative for more Physical Diversity in Contemporary Dance
Recent Performances

Tanzfaehig Dance, Berlin, Germany 2022
- Unique integrated movement piece with multiple showings at the Bethanien Arts Centre
- First Canadian disability artist to perform in Berlin
- Invited through the Canada Council’s “Canada in Germany” program

Dance Festivals

Hammersmith & Fulham Arts Festival, London, England 2018
- “Tales of Joy” integrated dance piece utilizing both able-bodied and disabled performers
- Multiple performances for several hundred spectators in Lyric Square and Hammersmith & Fulham Town Council, west London

International Vienna Dance Festival, Vienna, Austria 2016
- Seventy-five-minute large outdoor ensemble piece utilizing both able-bodied and disabled dancers performed in front of a live audience of over one hundred

Guelph Dance Festival, Guelph, Ontario, Canada 2014
- ‘Here and There’ large outdoor ensemble piece for audience of over one hundred

Dancing On The Edge Festival, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada 2006
- In association with the Vancouver Society of Disability Arts and Culture in the creation of a forty-minute integrated dance piece entitled “no leg to stand on”

Public Installations

Heidi Latsky Dance, Toronto, Ontario, Canada 2017-2019
- “On Display” Canadian execution of public installation piece focusing on societal perceptions of disability
- Simultaneous performances in cities across North America

Commissioned Choreography

Heidi Latsky Dance, New York City, U.S.A. 2021
- “Neither Starved Nor Cold” (lead performer/producer/commissioner)
- Unique amputee-based dance work incorporating spoken word, solos, unison ensemble movement and assistive devices
- Full production with lighting designer and stage manager
- Multiple performances at Gibney Dance Centre in Lower Manhattan
Heidi Latsky Dance, New York City, U.S.A.  
- Unique research-based amputee movement piece utilizing able-bodied dancers from the Latsky Dance ensemble (lead performer/producer/commissioner)  
- Public showing at Gibney Dance Centre in Lower Manhattan  

Across Oceans Dance, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
- “Discovering” (lead performer/co-creator/producer/commissioner)  
- First integrated dance piece in Canada to feature an above-knee amputee in a leading role  
- Performance at the Aki Studio in the Daniels Spectrum Centre  

**International Training**  

**New York: Heidi Latsky Dance**  
- Intensive training in movement and choreography with the artistic director of America’s outstanding integrated dance company  
- Innovative instruction in amputee movement unique to the productions of this ground-breaking ensemble.  

**Vienna: Danceability Certification**  
- Danceability is the only training program in the world that instructs people with disabilities to teach dance to people with disabilities.  
- Utilizing a wide variety of choreographic models adaptable to a wide variety of physical limitations, this unique training creates a wealth of possibilities for the disabled dancer in both performance and choreography.  

**London: Candoco Dance**  
- Intensive with the world’s leading integrated dance company  
- Unique instruction in adaptive choreography  
- One of only three disabled trainees in a class of thirty  

**Presentations**  

“The Role of the Amputee in Integrated Dance” delivered to:  

The Dance Studies Association Conference  
New Brunswick Performing Arts Centre  
New Brunswick, New Jersey  
U.S.A.  

The Festival of Original Theatre  
Centre for Performance Studies  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada  

The InVisible Difference: Dance, Disability, Law Project  
Centre for Dance Research  
Coventry University  
Coventry, England
**Grants**

British Columbia Arts Council/Professional Development 2022

British Columbia Arts Council/Project Assistance: Professional Dance 2021

Canada Council for the Arts/Explore & Create-concept to realization 2021

Canada Council for the Arts/Arts Abroad: Residencies 2021

Canada Council for the Arts/Strategic Funds & Initiatives: Canada in Germany 2020

Ontario Arts Council/Dance Section: Access & Equity 2018-2020

Ontario Arts Council/Deaf and Disability Arts Projects 2016-2019

Canada Council for the Arts/Explore & Create-research and creation 2019

**Awards**

Ontario Arts Council/Chalmers Arts Fellowship 2019

**Publications**

“Hopping Away from Normality” 2020
*Not Going Back to Normal*-online disability arts platform
Creative Scotland

“Accessibility in the Toronto Dance Sector” 2019
*The Dance Current*
September/October

“The Artistry of the Amputee Dancer” 2018
*Verity La*/Australia-based journal on disability arts culture
Spring online edition

“The Disabled Sexual Surrogate” 2017
*Reproductive Health Matters/*UK-based international feminist journal on sexual rights
Volume 25, No. 50

“Queer Disability and the Reality of Homo-Ableism” (chapter inclusion) 2015
*LGBT People & Social Work: Intersectional Perspectives*
Canadian Scholars Press

“Cinematic Impressions of the Female Amputee” 2013
*Disability Studies Quarterly*
Volume 33, No. 2