



Job Specification: Producer

Tavaziva is seeking a Producer to deliver its integrated programme across a wide range of projects. This includes national tours, festivals, special events, digital and live learning and participation experiences packaged as one 'Discover Tavaziva' programme.

The Producer will work closely with the Artistic Director, Development and Company Managers. This is a senior role, reporting to the Executive Director as line manager.

The company, founded in 2004 by its Artistic Director, Zimbabwean-born choreographer Bawren Tavaziva has a vision to make original contemporary African dance that transforms and enriches. Black History and Education is a key component of the company's programme of work.

Key responsibilities of the role will be:

- To work with the Artistic Director, facilitate the development and delivery of new work, revivals and extracts and scheduling regular creative conversations to feed into the overall artistic vision and mission of the company
- To work with internal and external teams to deliver Learning and Participation programmes throughout the year
- To lead on the planning and execution of projects from inception and feasibility studies to budgeting, contracting, delivering, and executing well-managed and timely projects of all sizes.
- To work with the directors and various teams to develop and maintain strong working relationships with venues, partners, collaborators, researchers, educators, creative teams, performers and facilitators
- To monitor sales/bookings for all projects, ensuring that a coordinated and proactive approach is taken to achieve best results.
- To ensure that all projects under your remit are delivered on budget and with first-class production values in all areas.
- To work closely with venues' marketing teams, external marketing and PR agencies ensuring effective and efficient delivery of marketing and promotional support to promote attendance and audience development for each project, ensuring collection of audience/participation data and responses
- To lead on monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes as may be required by key stakeholders and funders of activities under your remit.
- To contribute to the quarterly reporting for board meetings and as needed.

The successful candidate will have:

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to build positive relationships with a wide range of partners, individuals and groups

- Solid professional experience of producing for touring, outreach, learning and participation projects
- Experience of venue and creative team contract negotiation, drafting and execution
- Excellent organisational and time-management skills, and the ability to prioritise
- Budget management skills
- Good knowledge of UK performance venues, festivals

Desired experience:

- Previous experience of the UK dance industry on touring and training
- Some knowledge of non-traditional performance spaces
- Some experience of international touring

Details of post

Salary/Fee: £30,000 – 32,000 pro rata, 4 days a week

Start date: As soon as possible

Holidays: 26 days including bank holidays

Location: Office based at bbodance, Ensign House, Juniper Dr, London SW18 1TA, with some optional home working

Hours of work will vary according to performances and project delivery, some travel and evening/weekend work will be necessary

Closing date: 23 March 2022

To Apply: Please send a covering letter (1 page, A4 size) and your CV to getintouch@tavazivadance.com with a reference TAVAZIVA PRODUCER

Interview: Week commencing 28 March 2022

For more information about Tavaziva, visit our website at www.tavazivadance.com

About Tavaziva

Tavaziva is renowned for its beautiful and dynamic performances, bringing a unique synthesis of contemporary, ballet and African dance to the UK stage. Led by Zimbabwean choreographer and Artistic Director Bawren Tavaziva, the company has been producing and touring his powerful, political, technically brilliant, and deeply personal work since 2004.



Image by Foteini Christofilopoulou

The organisation plays an important role both in nurturing and training the next generation of dance artists, and in reaching audiences across the UK and globally.

Our work celebrates vibrant cultural diversity, and the organisation represents and advocates for the importance of the arts as a tool for social cohesion. Tavaziva is also a 'go-to' place for professional and post-graduate training, offering placements and apprenticeship opportunities as career routes into the industry. Our distinct artistic voice contributes to the empowerment of Black communities and audiences and is loved by people of all cultural backgrounds.

Equality, diversity, inclusion, challenging discrimination, and professional excellence are at the heart of our policies and priorities throughout all our activities, and the Black Lives Matter movement is an important anchor for this work. Our Business Plan commits to fully embracing the Arts Council's new *Let's Create* Investment Principles: Dynamism, Ambition and Quality, Environmental Responsibility, and Inclusivity and Relevance. We also embrace our role in contributing to the repositioning of dance of the African Diaspora in the UK and advancing its impact globally.

2022-23 will include a period of re-focusing the vision and the message of Tavaziva, particularly moving towards more deliberately and more explicitly focusing on Black history – educating, engaging, provoking and championing through performance, participation, and conversation. We will conduct a process of revising and refreshing our vision, mission and values in this way, to begin a new period of activity for 2023-26.

The Company's latest powerful production of **BOY'S KHAYA** premiered on 28 September 2021 followed by a national tour heralding an exciting new chapter of development. This year we will continue focusing on **BOY'S KHAYA**, taking the themes of the work into participatory and performance projects with young people, community groups, dancers in training, and emerging choreographers. This activity will take place under two strands: **TAV EXPERIENCES** (engagement, learning, participation, professional development, live performances), and **DISCOVER TAVAZIVA** (conversations, exchange, online engagement).

About Bawren Tavaziva

“We are a company that approaches productions by thinking big and we don’t believe in being restricted by resources, for example the quality of the dancers that we work with are worth more than gold, the productions are worth more than any money in the world. As a choreographer, I am surrounded by very creative people and a fantastic production team, and they put their hearts into the work, which is priceless.



Image by Jevan Chowdhury

We are ready to push on forward to create more amazing work and in my mind, what I create must have meaning. As an African I have been taught that African dance is always about storytelling, and that storytelling carries a lot of history. Based on this fact, I want my audience to experience a piece of work that moves them. I need my audience to hold a strong memory of a Tavaziva Dance performance or think and speak about it for a long time afterwards.”

- Bawren Tavaziva

Bawren Tavaziva’s creative journey continues to form the basis of the Company’s music and dance aesthetic. He grew up in a rural village near Masvingo in Zimbabwe. Football, Michael Jackson, New Edition and Kung Fu movies viewed at the local community hall provided inspiration to Bawren and his friends. Bawren’s musical talents also developed at this time on a guitar made by his brother from a 5 litre tin can and fishing wire.

At the age of 12 he attended an outreach ballet project with the National Ballet of Zimbabwe at his local community centre. From day one, his determination and talent led him to a life-long passion for dance. He danced with Tumbuka for five years and toured Africa. He came to England to join Phoenix and Union Dance and in 2004 he presented his own choreography and music as a finalist at The Place Prize with a deeply moving quintet entitled Umdhlalo Kasisi, in memory of his sister who sadly died of HIV.

After this, Bawren formed his own company and became Artistic Director of Tavaziva Dance and in the same year won a fellowship with Dance of the African Diaspora’s Trailblazer programme. He went on to produce further works for his own company, including Boy’s Khaya, 2021, Izindava 2017, Africarmen 2015, Tavaziva Ten 2014, Greed 2013, Sensual Africa 2012, Double Take 2011, Wild Dog 2010, Heart of Darkness 2009, Chatsva 2007, Bophelo 2006, and Soul Inspired 2005.

In 2015 Bawren Tavaziva and South African dancer Bafana Solomon Matea choreographed a large-scale dance piece called Madiba. It took place along Mandela Walk and the Riverside Terrace at London’s Southbank Centre, and was performed by degree and graduate dancers from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.

In 2016 Artistic Director of Rambert Mark Baldwin OBE invited Bawren to work with Polka Theatre’s Artistic Director Pete Glanville to create Mud Child, a new work for children and family audiences. In 2018 Bawren choreographed a piece for Phoenix Dance Theatre’s Youth Group, that was performed in Leeds and London as a part of a collection of works that had been conceptualised with the aim to raise awareness on, understand, and communicate issues around HIV/AIDS. He was also invited as a Shona Dance Consultant for Black Panther star and Tony-nominated writer Danai Gurira’s striking play ‘The Convert’ at Kwame Kwei-Armah’s Young Vic. Bawren gave guidance on Shona Dance techniques and led a Q&A teaching the cast about traditional Zimbabwe in the 19th Century, and the Shona tribe.