



Biography

Deaf Men Dancing & DMD+

Mark Smith is the founder and artistic director for Deaf Men Dancing, an innovative and emerging all male dance company. It is a collaboration of male dancers/choreographers who, like Mark, are deaf. Together they have created a fusion of differing styles of dance with sign-language incorporated into choreography creating a unique, interesting and original aesthetic.

DMD have performed all over the UK including DanceEast's 1st Anniversary Gala, E4's Battlefront, London's 2012 Deaf Day, DaDa 'Hands On' and Candoco's 20th Anniversary cabaret. DMD have performed *Sense of Freedom* at The Place's Resolution, Brighton Festival, Pulse Fringe Festival, City Lit's Deaf Day, Cloud Dance Festival, Includu Festival and Clin de'Oeil Deaf Art International Festival in France.

Mark received commission from WithoutWalls to direct and choreograph DMD's outdoor production *Alive!* which was a collaboration with visual artist Rachel Gadsden and produced by Greenwich + Dockland International Festival. *Alive!* went on to perform at the Brighton Festival, Greenwich + Dockland's Festival Dancing City, Stockton International Riverside Festival, Liberty Festival, Watch This Space Festival at the National Theatre, Kendal's Minifest – Lakes Alive, Bristol Harbour's Festival and Manchester's Xtrax Festival.

DMD was invited by Amanda Cotterall OBE and Jeremy Hunt (Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media & Sport) to perform *Alive!* at Canterbury Cathedral to mark the United Nations International Days of Persons with Disabilities and DMD's involvement with the Cultural Olympiad.

In 2014, Mark Smith was one of the three artists selected to participate in Integrated ChoreoLAB presented by South East Dance, Pavilion Dance South West and GDance. As part of this commissioned, DMD were offered a period of R+D, an opportunity to develop a new piece and build relations at their symposium.

DMD was commissioned by Greenwich + Dockland International Festival to create a new work called *TEN* that was premiered at National Paralympic Day featuring Mayor of London's Liberty Festival 2014.

Mark Smith was delighted to be invited by Sadler's Wells Theatre, to create and present DMD's new work called *Hear! Hear! & Rosa* at =dance (an all year- round programme of work featuring some long- standing partners and others new to Sadler's Wells' stages). *Rosa* was the first time that Mark invited a female deaf dancer to perform with male deaf dancers. Through this, Mark formed a new company called DMD+.

In 2015, Sadler's Wells & Includu Festival invited Mark to develop and present a new work-in-progress called *The Soundman* with two new deaf male dancers who will be joining DMD in the future.

Website: <http://www.marksmithproduction.com>

DMD's video showreel: <https://vimeo.com/user36957587>

