

Jeanefer  
Jean-Charles



# BLACK VICTORIANS



**INSPIRED BY FORMAL  
PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY OF  
BLACK VICTORIAN BRITONS,  
JEANEFER JEAN-CHARLES'S  
SENSUAL DANCE WORK  
RESTORES LIFE AND  
HUMANITY TO ITS  
FORGOTTEN SUBJECTS**

*Sanjoy Roy, The Guardian*



# BLACK VICTORIANS

**Black Victorians** by Artistic Director and Choreographer **Jeanfer Jean-Charles MBE** (Eurovision 2023, London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant), is inspired by nineteenth century studio photographs of black men, women and children - Black Chronicles II curated by Renée Mussai at the Autograph Gallery in London.

Exploring a complex, but often forgotten black presence in pre-Windrush Britain, this performance calls attention to previously hidden figures and challenges historical and contemporary perceptions.



# BLACK VICTORIANS

Picture dancers dressed in restrictive Victorian costumes, shedding them in rebellion as they dance in African, contemporary and hiphop styles re-imagining a moment in history. Their movement will invoke their origins in powerful ways, bringing voice and body to the portraits that inspired us.

Either presented in evocative Victorian architecture, within a museum or other outdoor sites, this is an opportunity to experience history as told through choreography.





Jeanfer  
Jean-Charles

# CREATIVE TEAM

**Artistic Director & Choreographer:** Jeanefer Jean-Charles MBE

**Producer:** Alison Holder

**Designer:** Marsha Roddy

**Composer:** Danilo DJ Walde

**Poet:** Anthony Anaxagorou

**Rehearsal Director:** Annie-Lunnette Deakin-Foster, Cherilyn Albert

**Dramaturg:** Hassan Mahamdallie

**Creative Consultant:** Martha Stylianou

**Stage Manager:** Cynthia Chika Franklin

**Creative Dance Artists:** Melissa Bravo, Dani Harris-Walters, Oluwaseun Olayiwola, Nosiphiwo Samente, Duja Sinada

# JEANEFER JEAN-CHARLES MBE



**Jeanefer Jean-Charles MBE** is a globally respected Artistic Director and Producer with over 20 years' experience, specialising in large-scale performances, opening ceremonies, stadium events, outdoor spectacles, carnivals, and parades.

Her work has taken her to over 21 countries and has gone down in the Guinness Book of Records. Her unique creative process brings to life the talents, strengths, and shared stories of local communities and artists in inspiring and unforgettable ways.

Jeanefer's company Jeanefer Jean-Charles & Associates are industry leaders in developing, directing, and delivering creative responses for large-scale events. For over 20 years they have designed and delivered artistic solutions for some of the world's most iconic events.





### **MARSHA RODDY**

**Designer Marsha Roddy's** career has spanned over 30 years as an Artist and Designer. Her passion and energy have taken her on many adventures, living and working in London, Amsterdam, Los Angeles and Hong Kong from where she has worked on projects across Europe, the US and Asia. She has designed sets and costumes for the stage, film, and television; worked on architectural projects, conceived haute couture for events and created pieces of performance art.



### **HASSAN MAHAMDALLIE**

**Hassan Mahamdallie** is an author, playwright, theatre director and specialist on diversity and arts practise. He is the Director of The Muslim Institute and senior editor on its journal, *Critical Muslim*. He is also the founder and artistic director of theatre company, Dervish Productions.

# **CREATIVE TEAM**

[www.reallygreatsite.com](http://www.reallygreatsite.com)







## MARTHA STYLIANOU

**Creative Consultant Martha Stylianou** has worked with Jeanefer Jean-Charles throughout the R&D period, acting as a sounding board and trusted advisor, drawing on a strong partnership which has been developed over several decades on numerous projects.

# CREATIVE TEAM

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### **NOSIPHIWO SAMENTE**

**Nosiphiwo** is a Performing Artist, Dance Teacher, Choreographer and Philanthropist. She graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Arts (BA) from the University of South Africa. She has performed in various theatre productions including with Alfred Hinkel, Gregory Maqoma, Alesandra Seutin, Jeanefer Jean-Charles, State of Emergency, and was honored to be one of the dancers at the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee celebration.



### **OLUWASEUN (SEUN) OLAYIWOLA**

**Olayiwola's** choreographic work has been commissioned by Ledbury Poetry Festival, Southwark Council, and Studio 3 Arts. His work has been presented at The Place, The Central School of Ballet, and Studio Voltaire. In 2022, he became an associate artist at Swindon Dance. He has a MFA in Choreography from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, where he was a Fulbright Scholar in 2018-2019 and is currently a lecturer (dance) in the Kingston School of Art.

# **CREATIVE DANCE ARTISTS**

[www.educitygreatsire.com](http://www.educitygreatsire.com)





### **DUJA SINADA**

**Duja** is a Hip Hop and Contemporary Dance Artist and Choreographer with over 15 years experience. After obtaining a BA Hons Degree at Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Duja has been working as an independent freelance artist, working creatively and touring with various professional dance companies in the UK as well as with high profile music artists and creating her own body of work.



### **DANI HARRIS-WALTERS**

**Dani** is a Dance Artist, Writer, Presenter, Teacher & DJ who immerses himself within the realms of Hip Hop culture and theatre. An experienced and respected figure in the industry. Graduating from University of East London with a BA Hons degree in Dance: Urban Practice. He continues to work extensively with community groups and mentors aspiring young creatives all over the UK.

# **CREATIVE DANCE ARTISTS**

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## MELISSA BRAVO

**Melissa** is a Performing Artist from London. In the past 11 years she has been performing on stage, theatre, film and tv around the UK and internationally. Some of her credits include SAULT, Little Simz, Zonation Company, Hofesh, Nike, and Adidas. As well as performing, Melissa enjoys teaching, travelling, learning different art forms, and eating foods from around the world.

# CREATIVE DANCE ARTISTS

[www.reallygreatsite.com](http://www.reallygreatsite.com)





Black Victorians is inspired by [Black Chronicles – The Missing Chapter](#), an ongoing curatorial research programme led by Autograph focused on unearthing nineteenth century photographs of black presences in Britain’s archives. Black Victorians is accompanied by a display of the Black Chronicles’ Exhibition In A Box produced by, and presented in association with, Autograph, London.



# CONTACT

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