

PIPER & CHANTRY

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Rae Piper and Paul Chantry are a vibrant and skilled choreographic duo whose work includes the Olivier-nominated David Walliams' *Gangsta Granny*, *Billionaire Boy*, several of the *Horrible Histories* stage shows, a special anniversary commission for the Prince of Belgium, Opera, Theatre, Musicals and more.

Prior to knowing each other, Piper and Chantry's performance careers encompassed appearing in musicals in London's West End, Opera at the Royal Opera House, contemporary work at Sadler's Wells, production shows on cruise ships, cabaret and circus work in the UK's most notable cabaret clubs such as Café de Paris, music videos, corporate work and touring classical ballet companies.

The couple met while Piper was performing in the West End and Chantry was dancing at Sadler's Wells. They discovered an instant connection. After less than a year of working together as choreographic partners, they were asked to create their first work at Sadler's Wells, which also coincided with tying the knot to become husband and wife.

Piper and Chantry are able to draw on their varied backgrounds to bring a unique level of innovation and creativity to their choreography. They aim to create works which are compelling and engaging for both performers and audiences alike, and their artistic vision enables them to bring life to stories through their powerful and expressive use of dance and movement. They are also the co-Artistic Directors of the contemporary ballet company, Chantry Dance, which produces touring work focused on narrative and character, and aimed at building and expanding dance audiences.

Piper and Chantry are also highly invested in education work, having taught and choreographed for numerous vocational theatre and dance schools, as well as in academic and community settings.

With 40 years combined industry experience, Piper and Chantry are able to offer a huge amount to any company or theatre, including their boundless love and passion for their art and industry.

SELECTED CHOREOGRAPHIC CREDITS

THEATRE & DANCE

Production

2021 Billionaire Boy

2020 Billionaire Boy

2016-2021 Gangsta Granny

Company/Venue/Director

David Walliams & BSC/Garrick Theatre, West End/Neal Foster

David Walliams & BSC/UK Tour/Neal Foster

David Walliams & BSC/4 UK Tours, Garrick Theatre & Harold Pinter Theatre, West End/Neal Foster

NOMINATED - "Best Entertainment & Family Show", OLIVIER AWARDS 2018

WINNER – "Best Children's Show", What's On Reader's Awards 2018

WINNER – “Best Home Produced Show”, *What’s On Reader’s Awards 2017*

NOMINATED – “Best Touring Play”, *What’s On Reader’s Awards*

NOMINATED – “Best Children’s Show”, *What’s On Reader’s Awards*

NOMINATED – “Best Young People’s Theatre Production”, *UK THEATRE AWARDS*

2016 Brideshead Revisited (choreographic consultant)

2015 The Engineer’s Corset

2015 Neverland

2014 The Engineer’s Corset

2013 Scoop

2013 Glengarry, Glen Ross

2013 The Last Days of Mankind (UK Premiere)

2012 The Borrowers

2012 The Clangers (R&D)

2007 Phaethon

2006 The Trojan Women

2006 The Nativity

York Theatre Royal/York Theatre Royal & Tour/Damien Cruden

Redgrave Theatre/Janet Goddard

Lakeside Arts, Nottingham/Martin Berry

Bread & Circuses/The Brewery Theatre/Nick Philippou

Pins & Needles/Lyric Hammersmith – Theatre in the Square/Emma Earle

Engage/The Ustinov Studio, Bath Theatre Royal/Emma Earle

BOVTS/Bristol Old Vic Theatre Royal/John Retallack & Toby Hulse

Ojo Collective/Sadler’s Wells/Lenja Saenz

Birmingham Stage Company

BOVTS/Nat Brenner Studio/Chris Scott

BAI/Olympus Theatre, Bristol/Carol Brannon

BOVTS/West Country Tour/Chris Scott

FILM

Production

2021 Whoever You Are Holding Me Now in Hand

Company

Javier De Frutos & Chantry Dance collaboration

OPERA & OPERETTA

Production

2020 Boyhood’s End

2015 The Queen of Spades (revival)

2015 Un Ballo in Maschera

2014 Gloria – a Pigtale

2014 Die Fledermaus

2014 The Queen of Spades (revival)

2013 The Merry Widow

2013 The Magic Flute

2012 The Merry Widow

2012 La Traviata

2012 Rumbled

2012 Ring Around The World

Company/Venue/Director

English Touring Opera/UK Tour & Marquee TV/Rae Piper

Teatro Dell’Opera Di Roma/Richard Jones & Linda Dobell

Royal Opera Company/Royal Opera House/Katharina Thoma

Mahogany Opera Group/Linbury ROH & tour/Frederic Wake-Walker

John Williams/Royal Festival Hall/Simon Butteriss

Grange Park Opera/Anthony McDonald & Lucy Burge

Opera Danube/St. Peter’s Square/Simon Butteriss

Merry Opera Company/Riverside Studios/Kit Hesketh-Harvey

Philharmonia Orchestra/Royal Festival Hall/Simon Butteriss

Merry Opera Company/Upstairs at the Gatehouse/Kit Hesketh-Harvey

English Touring Opera/UK Tour/Tim Yelland

English Pocket Opera/The Unicorn & The Rose Theatre/Mark Tinkler

MUSICAL THEATRE & PANTOMIME

Production

2021 Sleeping Beauty

2019 Peter Pan

2018 Jack & the Beanstalk

2017 Beauty & The Beast

2017 Cinderella

2016 Peter Pan

2015 Our House

2014 Sister Act

2013 Chicago...and all that Jazz

2012 Chicago...the Roaring Twenties

2011 Christmas and All That Jazz

Company/Venue/Director

Little Wolf & Derby Live/Derby Arena

Little Wolf & Derby Live/Derby Arena/Tim Ford

Little Wolf & Derby Live/Derby Arena/Tim Ford

Little Wolf & Derby Live/Derby Arena/Owen Calvert-Lyons

Greenwich Theatre/Chris Hallam

Greenwich Theatre/Andrew Pollard

Pimlico Opera/HMP YOI ISIS/Michael Moody

Pimlico Opera/HMP Bronzefield/Michael Moody

Best Parties Ever/Swindon/David Downie

Impact Artists & Best Parties Ever/FIVE & The Meadow, Reading

Impact Artists & Best Parties Ever/FIVE

CHILDREN’S THEATRE

Production

2013-present Horrible Histories–Horrible Christmas (& revivals)

2013 Tom’s Midnight Garden (and revival)

2013 Horrible Histories–Terrible Tudors & Vile Victorians

2009 Artistic Licence

2008 Actaeon

2008 The Mysteries

Company/Venue/Director

Birmingham Stage/Derby Rep, Birmingham Old Rep, Cambridge Corn

Exchange, Lowry Salford, Alexandra Palace, London, UK Tour/Neal Foster

Birmingham Stage Company/Birmingham Rep & Tour/Neal Foster

Birmingham Stage Co./Harlequin Redhill/Neal Foster

The Pied Pipers/The Wickham Theatre, Bristol

Activ8/Nat Brennar Studio/Gail Gordon

Activ8/The Wickham Theatre, Bristol/David Wike

CIRCUS

Production

2009 Shadow Box
2009 A Sense of Shakespeare
2004-2005 Morpheus – silks and contortion duo act

Company/Venue/Director

Impact Artists & SIAN Dubai/BESIX, Dubai/David Downie
MGR/Circomedia/Laura Colgan
Norwegian Cruise Lines/Norwegian Dawn

PRODUCED, WRITTEN & CHOREOGRAPHED FOR CHANTRY DANCE

2021 The Little Mermaid	UK Tour
2021 The Imprisoned Moon	Outdoor Tour in association with SKDC, Guildhall & Stamford Arts Centres
2020 Extracts from 'The Imprisoned Moon'	Digital Performance
2020 La Danza	Digital Performance
2019 ALICE – Wonderland Through the Looking Glass	UK Tour
2018 DRACULA – Welcome to D's	UK Tour
2017 THE SANDMAN	UK Tour
2016 Ulysses Unbound	UK Tour
2016 The Stacked Deck	UK Tour
2015 Vincent – a Stranger to Himself	UK Tour
2015 Eine Kleine Nachtmusik	UK Tour
2014 The Happy Prince	UK Tour
2014 Rhapsody in Blue	UK Tour
2014 Chasing the Eclipse	Chantry Dance & Rosa Productions for Gravity Fields Festival
2013 All I Can Do Is Be Me – the Bob Dylan Ballet	UK Tour
2013 404 – not found	UK Tour
2013 Ad Fidem	UK Tour
2012 Chinese Calligraphy Concert	Chantry Dance/Sadler's Wells/Vienna Donube Media
2011 The Yellow Wallpaper/Lullaby for a Lost Soul/Songs of the Elder Sisters	The Village Underground

QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING

PAUL CHANTRY

2001-2004 Central School of Ballet, Diploma in Classical Ballet and Related Subjects
1999-2001 Brooksby Melton College, BTEC in Performing Arts
IDTA Level 4 Diploma in Teaching Dance
A-Level Art

RAE PIPER

- Dance training with **Gail Gordon** (head of Dance, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School)
- Singing training with **Maureen Scott & Neil Rhoden** (Musical Director, BOVTS)
- Voice training with **Francis Thomas** (head of Voice, BOVTS)
- Additional Ballet Training with **Penelope Wright** (Ballet Gulbenkian & Rambert Ballet), **Julie Felix** (Birmingham Royal Ballet & Dance Theatre of Harlem) & **Anna du Boisson**

2000-2003 BSc (1st Class Hons) in Sport and Exercise Sciences, The University of Birmingham (*Chancellor's Award winner for outstanding academic achievement across the University*)
1999 Personal Trainer with Distinction, Lifetime Fitness
1999 Nutrition and Weight Management N/SVQ Level III
1999 Gym Instruction NVQ level II
1999 Exercise to Music NVQ level II
1999 Circuits and Step RSA Certificate
1996 Associate Teacher with the I.D.T.A
1996 English, Latin, Maths, Further Maths A-Level (all grade A)
1994 10 GCSEs & 1 A-O Level (all grade A/A*)

EDUCATION WORK

Piper and Chantry are the Directors of Chantry School, the official education department of Chantry Dance. Both are

qualified teachers with the International Dance Teachers' Association. Chantry holds the Level 4 Diploma in Teaching Dance and Piper holds an A.I.D.T.A. Piper also holds a BSc (1st Class Hons) in Sport and Exercise Science, and is a qualified Personal Trainer and Fitness practitioner in multiple fields.

Dance Techniques taught:

Ballet, Contemporary (Limon & Graham-influenced), Contemporary Ballet, American Jazz, Commercial Jazz, Fosse-style, Classical repertoire, Contemporary repertoire, Musical Theatre repertoire, Acrobatics & Hand-balancing

Company class taught for:

Ojo Collective – Sadler's Wells

The Merry Opera Company

Institutions/Organisations taught at:

- Central School of Ballet, Ballet Central
- English National Ballet School Summer School
- Elmhurst School for Dance
- The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
- Rambert School of Ballet of Contemporary Dance
- The Old School Danceworks
- 19°, 20°, 21°, 22° Stage Internazionale di Danza del Lago di Garda
- Art Studio Danza Easter Festival del Lago di Garda
- MOVE IT
- Aerial/Flexibility/Handstand taught for Circus Space
- Actors' Movement taught for The University of Bristol
- Actors' Movement taught for The Bristol Actors' Institute
- Dance, Movement and Contact Improvisation taught for full-time Acting Courses at The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
- Movement Direction for Summer Schools at The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
- Warwick University
- The Bristol Acting Academy
- Save The Children Day of Dance
- Lincoln College
- Love Dance Events
- Numerous regional dance schools e.g. Bristol School of Dancing, The Academy Worcester, Dance Attack Sutton Coldfield, Welland School of Dance Stamford etc

REVIEWS

Choreographic Reviews

GANGSTA GRANNY

- *"nimble uses dance to bridge the gaps between scenes" THE GUARDIAN (Michael Billington)*
- *"entertaining dance interludes at every scene change" THE TIMES*
- *"the dancing runs through the show, lifting it along with the sparkle of the glitter ball." THEATRE BUBBLE*

BILLIONAIRE BOY

- *"Jak Poore creates a mischievous score and, if the songs are catchy rather than complex, they are bolstered by choreography from Paul Chantry and Rae Piper" THE STAGE (Paul Vale)*
- *"Energetic choreography from Paul Chantry and Rae Piper" THEATRE WEEKLY (Greg Stewart)*
- *"the songs remain relevant and the catchy tunes and choreography are lighthearted and entertaining to keep the story bouncing along." BATH AND WILTSHIRE PARENT (Susy Douch)*

THE SANDMAN

- *"beautifully structured choreography throughout" VIEW MAGAZINE (Soffia Pugh)*
- *"enchanting dance sequences" THE GRANTHAM JOURNAL (Costanza Pearce)*
- *"the choreography was breathtaking" NORTH WEST END (Angela Kelly)*

THE LAST DAYS OF MANKIND

- *"Choreography by Paul Chantry & Rae Piper is incredibly expressive. The whole chorus moves sometimes en masse,*

sometimes as soloists in a crowd of solo dancers, making the chorus truly, star of the show.” **REMOTE GOAT**

- “an exuberant cast dancing and creating huge movement and life on stage. ...its strengths in this production were the visual and audio presentation and stylish choreography. Paul Chantry and Rae Piper created a series of breath-taking sequences.” **STRAWBERRY LINE TIMES**
- “The ensemble work from the cast is superb, especially the physical work and cleverly-choreographed dances, and the energy coming off the stage is tangible.” **A YOUNGER THEATRE**

ULYSSES UNBOUND & THE STACKED DECK

- “Just wanted to say how much we enjoyed the programme on Saturday evening. A highly entertaining and thought-provoking performance. Please convey my congratulations to your dancers who were utterly charming and totally committed, and indeed to all involved!” **DAVID BINTLEY - Artistic Director Birmingham Royal Ballet**
- “Chantry Dance delivered an inspiring performance. Driven by original and creative choreography and danced with commitment and heart from a very strong group of dancers” **PETER PARKER – former Northern Ballet Principal & Britain’s Got Talent Finalist**
- “It was an absolute honour to invite the Chantry Dance Company to perform once again in the studio theatre of Elmhurst. The company continues to go from strength to strength, the dancers performing with raw energy and passion and a wonderful dramatic ability! It was fabulous to see the Elmhurst students perform alongside the company in a curtain raising performance, an experience that they will cherish forever. My sincere thanks go to Paul, Rae and the team in taking them under their wing, allowing them to take company class and including them in such a wonderful performance!” **ROBERT PARKER – Artistic Director of Elmhurst**

THE MERRY WIDOW – ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

- “The most elaborate choreography was for a barnstorming male septet which culminated with a smile inducing kick-dance. Such periodic flashes of razzle-dazzle were welcome...” **CLASSICAL SOURCE** (Graham Rogers)
- “...the memorable highlight was the all-male high stepping chorus line for 'What to think, what to say, what to do?' in Act 2, and this had panache and true style...” **SEEN & HEARD INTERNATIONAL** (Jim Pritchard)

CHANTRY DANCE TRIPLE BILL

- “What a hugely impressive event last night – amazing; and what a great venue. Makes me feel very embarrassed I only ask you to choreograph operetta! Many congratulations.” (**SIMON BUTTERISS** - Director; Writer/Translator; Opera Singer)
- “Thank you so much for the wonderful interpretations of my music. I was overcome by ‘The Yellow Wallpaper’ - but also found the other two completely ‘at one’ as creative works of art - as if we had collaborated and worked together over months!!! - and they were really fab!!!” (**RONALD CORP OBE** – Composer; Founder/Conductor New London Orchestra)

Education work reviews

“I have worked in teaching for over 20 years and I was completely overwhelmed with how well versed you both (Paul and Rae) were in dance, choreography and teaching. Everyone who took part had an amazing time and felt valued and able to achieve their best. Word has spread how exciting and enjoyable the last session was and as a result of this I have had to change venue to accommodate everyone!” **LISA BURGESS - AISTD, MAAD (HONS), COMPANY DIRECTOR STAR ACADEMY LIMITED**

“Chantry Dance tick every box as they approach the work in a thoroughly professional manner and have a plethora of experience that is so vital to be able to impart to our students. The girls are aged from 13 to 18 years of age and are always keen to welcome Chantry back to our studio for a brilliant workshop of really diverse and interesting work that is presented in a completely professional manner.” **FELICITY REDGRAVE - PRINCIPAL, BRISTOL SCHOOL OF DANCING**

“Thank you so much for coming to deliver such a fabulous workshop. The students were so inspired by your teaching and your work. Thanks again for such a wonderful day you are amazing.” **RACHEL LINTHWAITE - PRINCIPAL, DANCE ATTACK, SUTTON COLDFIELD**

