

Whilst audiences are busy coming to see the artistic work of Jasmin Vardimon Company - the grand spectacles of choreographic artistry, physical talent and multidisciplinary collaborations in theatres such as Sadlers Wells, the company also back home in its production and training studio; provides education programmes from the beginner to the experienced, skills development to wellbeing agendas, and training programmes for the next generation of performers, choreographers and dance educators, with a proven track record for pathways to employment alongside and delivered by one of the leading dance theatre companies of today.

Developing, encouraging and cultivating young talent is a key feature of JV2, the Professional Development Diploma training programme established by Jasmin Vardimon Company in 2012. With its core focus to develop versatile and multidisciplinary performers, students on the programme work collectively as a company training alongside Jasmin Vardimon Company and its professional repertoire and creative methodology. The programme culminates annually in a national tour which features work by young choreographers and or associates of the company, as well as offers Creative Internships for young lighting design technicians and costumes designers to add production values to the touring work.

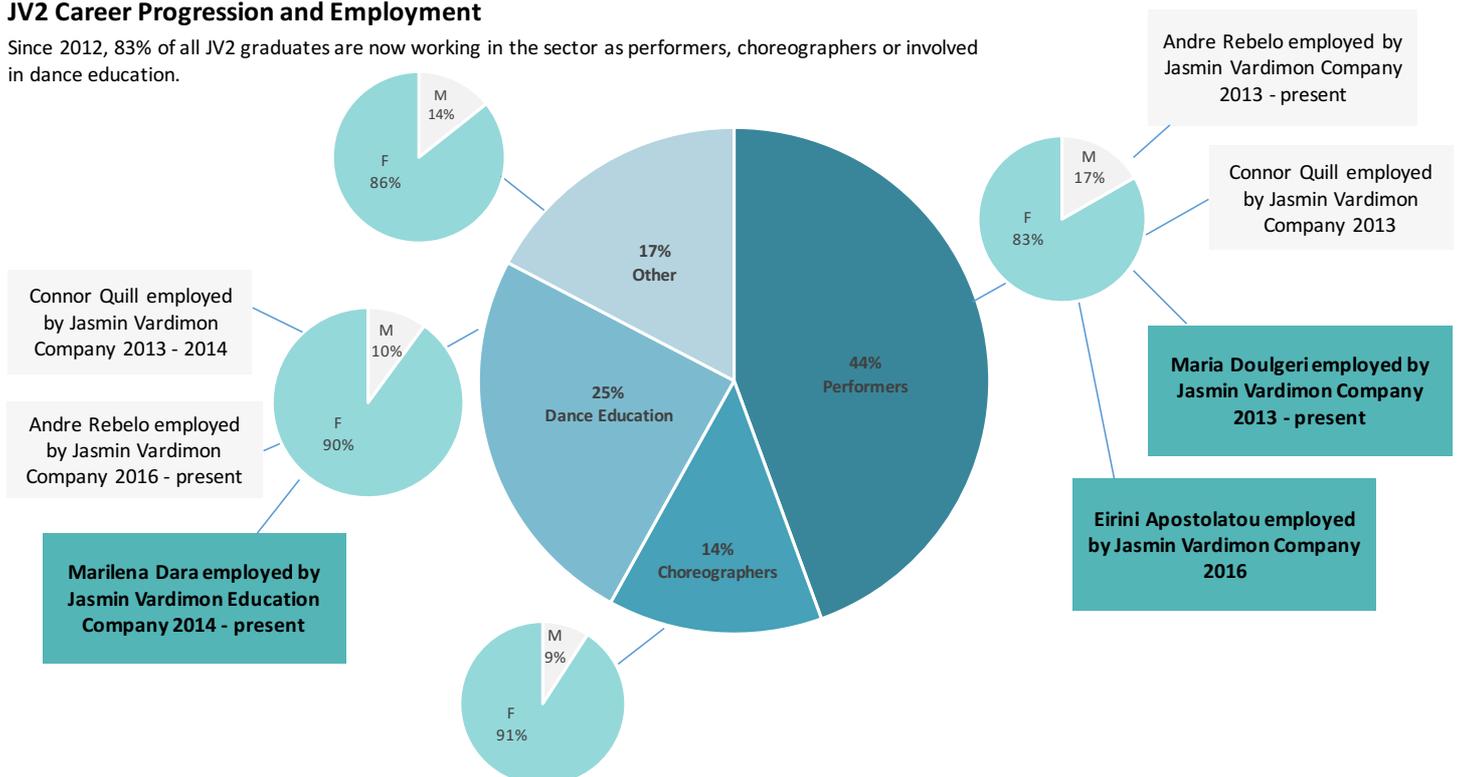
Students come from all over the world to participate in the programme including so far students from: UK, Spain, Greece, France, Lithuania, Japan, Portugal, Austria, Latvia, Germany, Cyprus, Netherlands, Belgium, Iceland, Italy, Canada, and Hong Kong. All students are personally hand-picked by Vardimon through an open audition process and require both physical and technical abilities as well as theatrical personalities and capabilities.

Born out of Vardimon’s search for performers able to express themselves on a multitude of levels, both technically, theatrically, emotionally and vocally the programme nurtures some of the most talented young individuals who need to bridge the gap between student graduate to employable professional. Working closely alongside Jasmin Vardimon Company and with the high level of physical and theatrical training the programme provides, students close the gap between their potential and their capabilities to become more mature, honest and versatile performers. Additional elements to the programme include theatrical training, improvisation and choreography, information on audition techniques, dance pedagogy, self-employment and contractual understanding for dancers. The experience of touring also gives students an understanding of the physical and technical demands of a touring company as well as how to look after yourself as a dancer and company cohesion.

Over the last four years, 51 students have successfully completed the programme with 100% achieving Merit or Distinction. The support for these graduates continues beyond the programme with access to professional class, industry advice and often employment directly with Jasmin Vardimon Company as performers or dance educators. **83% of all graduates to date are currently employed in the sector with 44% as professional performers, 25% education facilitators, and 14% choreographers.** 17% are either working in other professions or have not yet returned communication with the company.

JV2 Career Progression and Employment

Since 2012, 83% of all JV2 graduates are now working in the sector as performers, choreographers or involved in dance education.



Employment opportunities have been offered directly with Jasmin Vardimon Company for students having progressed through its own training programmes. Including:

- Students from the 2012-2013 employed by Jasmin Vardimon Company as dancers cast in the BBC programme 'Atlantis' (2013), earning more than half their JV2 tuition fees back during their first professional contract
- Eirini Apostolatos (JV2 2014); employed by Jasmin Vardimon Company in the production of 'Tannhäuser' at the Royal Opera House (2016),
- Connor Quill (JV2 2013); employed as performer in 'Yesterday' (2013), and education facilitator for the company,
- Andre Rebelo (JV2 2015); employed by Jasmin Vardimon Company in the production of 'Tannhäuser' at the Royal Opera House (2016), and education facilitator (2015 to present)
- Maria Doulgeri (JV2 2013); employed as a performer in Jasmin Vardimon Company since 2013 and plays the leading role in 'Pinocchio' (2016), MAZE (2014, and Park (2015),
- Marilena Dara (JV2 2013), who has both understudied roles for Jasmin Vardimon Company's production 'Justitia', rehearsal director for 'MAZE' (2014), choreographer for JV2 2015, educational facilitator (2014 to present) and has been the JV2 Programme Leader (2014 – present)

"Out of all the postgraduate companies JV2 really stood out to me as it was the only postgraduate programme to be offered by an already established professional company and not from an educational institution. Furthermore, I already had an interest in Jasmin's work as it was something that I had admired as part of my studies during my BTEC course. As part of JV2 we really got the chance to get a full experience of what it is like to work and perform as a professional company. The opportunity to work closely with Jasmin herself and to perform alongside the professional dancers in the production of MAZE was such an inspiring and valuable experience that I learnt so much from. Since graduating I have been fortunate enough to be employed by the company to perform in the production of Tannhäuser at the Royal Opera House. I am now delivering education work for the company which I am really happy about. Being a young artist and new to the professional side of the industry I feel very honoured and grateful to have been given such an amazing opportunity to train, perform and now teach for the company. It feels great to still have a relationship and be involved in some level with the company post JV2 and shows the potential employment and development opportunities the company can provide. JV2 has played a major role in my training and my growth as a person and dancer/artist, and the support from the company continues as I continue to establish myself as a tutor and performer in dance, and for that I am very grateful".

Andre Rebelo – JV2 Graduate 2014.

In addition to JV2, Jasmin Vardimon Company also offers a Postgraduate Certificate in Physical Theatre for Actors and Dancers with Royal Holloway University of London, its own JVIntensive training programme and Postgraduate Apprenticeships with London Contemporary Dance School. Through the apprenticeship scheme students work with the company as apprentice dancers and are supported through creation and rehearsal processes with Jasmin Vardimon and the company and tour the latest production over the course of a year. In 2016 the company is hosting two apprentice dancers from Greece - Alexandros Stavropoulos and Stefania Sotiropoulou, who both received paid contracts for performing in 'Tannhäuser' at the Royal Opera House (2016), as well as the creation and UK tour of 'Pinocchio' (2016). Previous apprentice dancers with the company have included Kai Wen Chuang, Esteban Lecoq, and Tim Casson.

"I attended the Jasmin Vardimon Company audition in the USA in 2011. I joined the company as an apprentice dancer via London Contemporary Dance School Postgraduate Apprenticeship Scheme. The experience benefitted me by developing my devising and performing abilities and has enabled me to become a professional dance artist in the UK. I truly believe I would not be a professional dancer or involved in physical dance theatre if I had not done the apprenticeship and been supported by the company with a visa and the combined educational and employment opportunities, training and support".

Kai Wen Chuang, Apprentice Dancer 2013

Jasmin Vardimon Company in 2016 has also created a specialist placement in partnership with the undergraduate programme of London Contemporary Dance School which has placed student dancer Emma Farnell-Watson on a unique practical placement with the company. During the third year of her degree, the company worked in partnership with LCDS to fulfill assessment requirements as she trained, rehearsed and performed with the company; gaining industry and professional experience whilst under the support of her tutors, company mentor and guidance from Jasmin Vardimon. Emma was identified by Vardimon during her time as the first Artistic Director with the National Youth Dance Company (2013), and wanting to continue her support and training, Vardimon created this opportunity specifically to support her personal development as a younger dancer and growth as a performer. It is anticipated that following her placement she will be offered a professional performers contract with Jasmin Vardimon Company, yet another example of the company providing employment opportunities following engagement with the company training programmes and bridging the gap between students to professionals and employability for the sector.