



"Wow! What a week we had! John Rowe, Headteacher, Trinity Primary School, Shrewsbury

Education Pack

BREAK ING TRADITION

"One of the best experiences, I had ever had." Pupil, Shawlands Primary School, Barnsley





BREAKING TRADITION

Our Mission

'Breaking Tradition aims to teach children the cultural importance of English dance heritage through hip hop and traditional folk dance. Our mission is for children to be given the opportunity to embrace traditional dance and continue our work in pushing it into new and exciting territory.'

"They were out of this world!" Pupil, Ravenswood Primary School, Newcastle upon Tyne





BREAKING TRADITION

About us

Breaking Tradition is the UK's leading folk and hip hop dance company. Guided by Artistic Director, Damien Barber, the company has developed its own unique repertoire of folk and hip hop dance fusion. It is this originality that has led to the company's critical acclaim for their high quality productions 'The Lock In' and 'The Demon Barbers XL- Disco at the Tavern'. Affiliated to the BBC Radio 2 Award Winning Demon Barbers, live music is an essential part of the company's work. The company embraces modern styles whilst raising the profile of traditional dance, making it relevant and accessible to all.

- ★★★★★ WhatsOnStage.Com
- ★★★★★ The List (Edinburgh Fringe)
- ★★★★ The Telegraph
- ★★★★ The Independent

'A full-on show of such blazing energy and joyous ingenuity you scarcely ponder on the apparent madness of trying to marry folk dance and hip hop.'

The Independent

'The Lock In is infectious and gets under your skin to the extent you stop analysing and start just enjoying. Certainly the best night out in town.'

WhatsOnStage.com



BREAKING TRADITION

Our Artistic Director

Damien Barber is one of the most respected folk performers in the UK since becoming a professional musician in 1989. He is best known for his work with electric folk band The Demon Barbers. Damien has always seen folk music and dance as a vibrant living tradition and wanted to find a way to bring that vision to the widest possible audience. This vision, achieved through several years of artist collaborations and development culminated in the highly praised folk and hip hop dance extravaganza, 'The Lock In', which gained 4 and 5 star reviews for its national tour including the Edinburgh Fringe and Glastonbury Festival. Damien has since gone on to direct 'The Demon Barbers XL - Disco at the Tavern', 'The Sleepover' children's show and most recently 'The Lock In Christmas Carol'. He continues to up-skill dancers and embrace modern dance styles as a way of breathing new life into traditional English folk whilst engaging new audiences. Through his productions and education work, Damien bridges the gap between old and new, raising the profile of England's dance heritage proving it can be enjoyed not just by the few, but by the many!

"The inspiration comes from Damien Barber, front man of the award-winning folk band The Demon Barbers, who supply the floor-shaking live music that alone justifies the price of the ticket."

The Independent

"It's as if the Demon Barbers have found the key to unlock the idea of 21st Century folk-rock, revealing that these days rock isn't part of the equation at all. They're giving folk music its own dance revolution. The music here isn't the background, it's the manifesto. And it's wonderful"

Chris Nickson, f'Roots





BREAKING TRADITION

Our Workshops

Breaking Traditions' dance workshops are suitable for ages 4 years and up. We adapt each workshop to suit the specific needs and ability of each group.

Our signature style of folk and hip hop fusion, offers a unique dance experience. Many of the traditional styles we teach possess interesting origins relevant to the English culture. We provide a brief history of the styles we teach, allowing pupils to greater understand the journey behind the dance forms. The styles we teach include break dance, street dance, contemporary, rapper sword, morris, and clog dancing. We offer workshops in one or more styles as well as offering a short performance of our repertoire, allowing pupils to engage further with our distinctive style.

Breaking Tradition can also work with groups to create performance work. Encouraging creativity is an essential part of what we do and as part of our workshops we allow pupils the freedom to explore in a safe and inspiring environment.



"We really appreciated their flexibility." Teacher at Trinity Primary School, Shrewsbury



BREAKING TRADITION

National Curriculum

Dance Traditions have strong links with many subjects in the national curriculum including PE, Geography, RE, History, Music and even Maths!

Delving into the origins of folk dance will demonstrate and expand on significant moments in history, such as the industrial revolution which saw the birth of Clog and Rapper Sword dancing or the Elizabethan Era, the era in which Maypole dancing originated. We can use traditional dance as a way of understanding and celebrating important dates in the national calendar, such as St George's Day and the harvest festival with their connections with morris dancing and wassailing.

Through traditional dance, children can learn about religious stories and devotions as well as improving their cognitive development, social awareness and team building skills. Dance traditions hold strong links with music and song as well as involving intricate and often symmetrical floor patterns which can be found in mathematics. Teaching traditional English dance will allow children to build connections with the English heritage and understand British values. It will promote a sense of identity and the importance of community. Similarly, experiencing dance traditions from around the globe will encourage children to embrace other cultures and value diversity. Traditional dance is unique and fun, but more importantly it helps children to understand themselves and the world they live in.





BREAKING TRADITION

Student Feedback

Here are a few comments made by pupils at some of the schools we have visited:

"A once in a lifetime experience."

"One of the best days of my life."

"A breath-taking performance."

"When the Demon Barbers came to the school I was filled with happiness and excitement. I hope they come back!"

"It was a great antidote to the brain anesthetising week of SATs."





BREAKING TRADITION

Our Tutors

All of our tutors are skilled dancers and performers and specialise in a variety of styles. They have extensive experience delivering workshops in primary schools, secondary schools, youth clubs and community settings, teaching all ages and abilities, including children with additional needs.

Our tutors are CRB checked with up to date DBS and safeguarding certificates.

Here are a few comments made by the Staff at some of the schools we have visited:

"A huge thank-you to Damien and the team for a superb week. It was a privilege to welcome the Demon Barbers to the school. They demonstrated tremendous professionalism and patience, built a great rapport with staff and pupils and made a huge impact on the self confidence of all the children involved. Their visit was a real highlight of the year which will stay in the minds of staff and children for a very long time."

John Rowe, Headteacher, Trinity Primary School, Shrewsbury

"The experience was absolutely fantastic! Apart from being involved in a part of our cultural heritage, the skills they were using in communication and cooperation were very evident. I have found the overall experience they offered to be up there with the best and considerably better than the majority."

David Kaye, Headteacher, Scapegoat Primary School, Huddersfield





BREAKING TRADITION

Workshop Prices

Schools

Per tutor:

£300 per day

£175 per half day

1 hour workshops & after school clubs: £60 + travel

NB: Travel and accommodation expenses may apply outside of West Yorkshire.

Residencies

Performance + workshops (5 artists) £1250 per day

3 days - £750 (1 tutor)

1 week - £1125 (1 tutor)

We are currently not VAT registered

"A once in a lifetime experience." Pupil at Trinity School, Shrewsbury





Photo by David Ruston

BREAKING TRADITION

Contact Us

Breaking Tradition is based at Kala Sangam Arts Centre,
a brilliantly vibrant building in the heart of Bradford.

Artistic Director

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"A breath-taking performance" Pupil at Killinhal Primary School, Harrogate

