



DANCERS FOR THE WORLD

Cure the Past
Embrace the Present
Build the Future



MEET THE FOUNDER

CATHERINE HABASQUE



Catherine Habasque is a multiple-award-winning dancer, choreographer, director, and producer. As the founder and president of Dancers For the World, she channels her passion for the performing arts into a powerful force for global impact.

Catherine performed as a principal artist and soloist with leading companies, including Béjart Ballet Lausanne, Compañia Nacional de Danza and Ballet Basel, where she interpreted masterpieces by some of the most celebrated choreographers of our time.

Her international performances have brought her to renowned venues such as Paris Opera, Lincoln Center, Bunka Kakai Tokyo, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Herode Atticus Athene, Sidney, Shanghai, and many more. Catherine is also an independent choreographer and producer of original works.

In 2015 Catherine founded Dancers For the World (DFW), an organisation dedicated to empowering vulnerable people through dance.

IMPACTS OF CRISIS ON INDIVIDUALS

Crisis strikes society's most vulnerable populations the hardest: women, young adults, and children

Those affected suffer from trauma and isolation, hindering their physical and emotional recovery, leading to long-term challenges.

Marginalised and vulnerable communities face ongoing struggles without effective support systems – perpetuating cycles of trauma and poverty.

The lasting emotional toll on those in crisis undermines their ability to rebuild their lives, while limited access to resources prevents them from realising their dreams.



**“At DFW, we believe in art
as a catalyst for sustainable
community development
and lasting progress.”**

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In a dance studio, we are seen for our abilities, not for our past or circumstances. It is a safe space to shed burdens and reconnect with body and heart. Through dance, we give voice to what words cannot express.

As a United Nations partner since 2021, Dancers For the World (DFW) has harnessed the power of performing arts to support vulnerable groups and strengthen communities. We champion healing, resilience, and self-expression through our training and ongoing support, inspiring individuals to explore their potential without barriers.

**We unite international dance professionals to enact
global change.**

FOSTERING HEALING

GROWTH, COMMUNITY,
AND TALENT
THROUGH DANCE



DANCE AS A THERAPEUTIC TOOL: Using dance as a therapeutic tool, we help individuals in situations of vulnerability express the unspeakable through movement. Our projects empower the most vulnerable by providing a platform for self-expression, healing, and resilience. Alongside cultivating physical and mental health, we equip individuals with the tools to rebuild and reach their full potential.



PLACING COMMUNITIES FIRST: All of our programs are developed in collaboration with local aid organisations or NGOs and are tailored to the specific needs of the local community, ensuring cultural relevance and sustainability. Artists play a vital role in preserving and promoting cultural heritage. Investing in the arts stimulates economic growth, creates new opportunities, and bridges divides, all to encourage community connection.



CHAMPIONING THE NEXT GENERATION: Dancers For the World helps young talent in underprivileged or crisis-affected regions realise their dreams, just as we were given the opportunity to realise our own. We provide resources, funding, and training to equip young artists to become independent, empowering them to become healthy leaders.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: We are building a talent pool that empowers professional dancers to become mentors and engage with diverse perspectives. Through these projects, participating professionals get the chance to connect with their passion and share their experience to support and inspire others.

A UNITED NATIONS PARTNER IN ACTION

Through its tangible actions, Dancers For the World supports the **United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**: contributing to global efforts to end poverty and hunger, uphold human rights, and promote peace.

Each year, we concentrate on two projects in disadvantaged regions, aiming to help those in crisis process trauma and rebuild the strength needed for a brighter future.

Our work across regions:

Asia – Philippines, India, Cambodia

Europe – Georgia, Greece

Africa – Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda (upcoming)





INDIA

DFW brought dance, music, and theatre workshops to a school in India (**Marpaling Lamdon Model School, Zanskar**).



CAMBODIA

In 2018, DFW travelled to **Phnom Penh** to deliver dance workshops for street children, supported by Friends International.

We introduced dance as a tool for empowerment and resilience, offering a creative outlet and a sense of possibility.

**“What did you learn with dancing?”
“I learnt Freedom.”**

Lianna (7 years old)

SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE

After our visit, the children were offered free education to become Salsa instructors – a first step towards a new life.



PHILIPPINES

Jhyichxie is a talented young girl who reached out to Catherine Habasque on Facebook, sharing her dream of becoming a ballerina despite her considerable lack of resources. **After receiving online dance classes from Catherine, she was accepted to the School of Ballet Manila.** Today, Jhyichxie is supported financially by DFW, and her inspiring story was featured on Swiss television on Christmas Eve.

SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE | IN HER WORDS

“My dream becomes true because of Ma'am Catherine. Thank you, Ma'am, you are my inspiration. You're the first person I ever met on FB who believes me and helps me. Thank you so so much ma'am.” Jhyickxie (13 years old)

Visting twice, beginning in 2016, DFW partnered with **Cameleon** to support the rehabilitation of young girls affected by sexual violence. Through dance, the girls were given a safe way to reconnect with their bodies and begin healing.

SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE | IN THEIR WORDS

“The Dance workshops offered by the Volunteers of DFW to our young girls, victims of sexual violence, have been a magical time for everyone. For young girls from poor backgrounds whose intimacy has been violated, rediscovering the pleasure of being in one's body is of ultimate importance. Gradually reconnecting with this body that has been abused, rediscovering its ability to move around in space, overcoming the shame of having been soiled by the joy of proudly performing on stage contribute to the rehabilitation of our young girls.” Sabine Claudio (Director of Cameleon Philippines)





GEORGIA

DFW began supporting internal refugees in **Tskaltubo** in 2015, returning in 2016 to continue our work. In partnership with artasfoundation, we organised several workshops and performances that illustrated how movement can help process trauma and restore a sense of agency.

IN HER WORDS

SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE

“They told me I would never be able to move my fat and now I am dancing on stage!”

Maria (11 years old)



GREECE

In **Moria, Lesbos**, DFW initiated a program in 2018 and returned in 2019 to continue providing therapeutic dance programs for refugees. The focus was on emotional expression and self-control, using dance as a powerful channel for release and connection.

IN HIS WORDS

SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE

“You don't know how important it is for us that someone thinks we are worth classes, that someone thinks we can learn new things and that you all take the time to teach us...”

Mohamed (20 years old)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

DFW supports emerging young dancers in **Goma**, helping them find solace in times of crisis through dance, providing professional guidance and support online.

SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE

These young dancers not only support themselves but also nurture and educate the youngest members of their communities, working toward a better future.



UGANDA

In the **Kamuli District**, women are facing sexual abuse and gender-based violence.

Our vision for this upcoming project, in **collaboration with the Bulogo Women's Group**, is to establish a dance and music hub that serves as a safe, healing space for all the women affected by this violence.

SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE

This program will empower 300 young girls, support local dance teachers, and uplift the whole community.

KENYA

Tapatapa is a partnership in Nairobi bringing the joy of Tap Dance to underprivileged children, **supported by principal dancer of the Royal Ballet London, Steven McRae**. DFW supports the Tapatapa studio, funding its operations and distributing tap shoes to the children. Tap shoe donations for this project are always welcome and appreciated.



SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE

A trip is being organised with Steven McRae to build partnerships both locally and with dance communities in the UK.

In 2019, we worked alongside **Project Elimu** to bring the beauty and discipline of ballet to young dancers in **Kibera, Nairobi**, providing ballet training to nearly 200 children.



SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE

Through a collaborative effort with Project Elimu, DFW helped create a powerful dance piece to garner support for ongoing dance classes. This work led us to discover talented dancer Eugene, who we placed in a ballet school in Center Nairobi and supported financially. He is now embarking on his professional journey at the University of South Carolina, a testament to the lasting impact of our work.

Kuza Kipaji is an art centre in Kibera, dedicated to supporting underprivileged children and providing a safe, creative space.



Local artists lead classes at the centre, showcasing a diverse range of multimedial creativity and expression. DFW finances their studio and offers free online courses, helping to expand access to the arts.

SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE

Several children have had the opportunity to receive mentorship from international arts professionals, further developing their skills and artistic potential. Each child has been empowered through dance or art.

DFW & THE FABRIC OF DREAMS

Under the name **DFW & the Fabric of Dreams**, Dancers For the World presents an annual immersive, multidisciplinary event featuring internationally acclaimed artists.

Our performances invite the audience to experience art like never before, giving the spectators the opportunity to move, breathe and feel alongside the artists. In doing so, DFW not only creates a powerful emotional impact but also highlights the incredible power of art.

These performances serve as a platform for community building among international artists, some of whom join our humanitarian trips, volunteer their time, or use their networks to support our cause. By drawing attention to DFW's humanitarian work, our performances allow us to raise funds and increase visibility.

DFW & GUESTS

DFW & Guests invites exceptional artists to offer a wide range of performing arts online workshops, from Flamenco to Ballet, Indian Dance to African Dance, as well as classes on Lighting, Writing Dance, and more.

This platform is freely offered to hospitals, NGOs, and organisations working with or for underprivileged communities, ensuring that art reaches those who need it most.



JOIN US

TO CURE,
EMBRACE,
AND BUILD

Many vulnerable individuals and communities still lack access to the resources they need to heal and grow. Without support, cycles of poverty, violence, and displacement are often repeated.

Join Dancers For the World in expanding our dance and humanitarian programs to spark global change.

Your support helps build empowered communities and brings lasting impact through the healing power of the arts.



CONTACT US

