

Tess

Who are you?

I am Tess, my job at TIN Arts is Artistic Director.

Which Community Champion are you a Buddy for?

Laura invited me to be her TIN Buddy. I was thrilled and delighted to be asked and of course accepted.

What have you done so far with your Community Champion?

We started our journey with 2 intensive days during October Half Term. Together we discussed the role the of a Community Champion and learnt about the 4 A's - Artist, Activity Leader, Ambassador and Advocate. Laura identified which of the 4 A's she felt suited her best. Laura chose Activity Leader.

As part of her training as an Activity Leader, Laura and I have discussed and decided on responsibilities she can undertake at Emerging Young Dancers. Laura was part of this programme as a participant so knows it well.

We looked at ALL the duties that need to be done in order for the session to happen. This includes

- Planning the content of the class.
- Planning the content of the creative sessions.
- Evaluating the sessions with the young people.
- Setting up the space ready for the session and tidying up at the end of the session.
- Delivering the technique exercises alongside the delivery team.
- Delivering the presentations to the EYD group about the 4 A's.

Laura has taken part in a conference called 'Imagine If'. This conference was about co-production with young people.



Laura worked with me and Martin to make decisions about what the content should be and how the conference could be delivered. She then co-led at the conference speaking to an audience on zoom.

Together we evaluated and reflected upon this conference. Although Laura chose Activity Leader and this work may be considered more in line with the role of an Ambassador, this opportunity felt very fitting for Laura as she has lived experience of coproduction as a young person.

How do you think your role as a Buddy has been beneficial?

My role as Buddy has been beneficial to me by:

- Giving me dedicated time to work with an individual on a journey of progression.
- Showing me how passionate the Community Champions are.
- Understanding how and what to adjust for Laura in order for her progress.
- Giving me hope that the future of inclusive dance is in good hands.

My role as Buddy for Laura I hope will benefit Laura to feel supported and guided on her journey of progression.

Have you seen any change in your Community Champion or others?

The changes have been apparent immediately. The opportunity to talk openly and honestly in a safe environment offered a chance for the Community Champions to understand that they can make a difference if they truly believe. They understand that TIN as a whole have their interests at heart.

- Confidence has risen and knowledge grown.
- Passion has increased and this has resonated into all their activities at TIN.
- Excitement and determination fill souls and hearts.

Buddies have been dumbfounded by the positive responses of the Champions. This has also been recognised by the wider TIN Team.

Other participants at TIN have been inspired by the Community Champions and have voiced how they would like to be a Community Champion in the future.