



Birmingham Hippodrome

Harlequin are performing arts flooring partner to the
Birmingham Hippodrome

Birmingham Hippodrome is an independent charity, offering a wide-ranging and dynamic programme of theatre, musicals, dance, opera, festivals, education and community activities. The venue holds a 1,800-seat auditorium, 200-seat Patrick Studio, and also the largest dance campus outside London, home to Birmingham Royal Ballet (led by Carlos Acosta), DanceXchange, Dance Consortium, OneDanceUK and The Space.

In 2019/20, the Hippodrome celebrated its 120th anniversary year and welcomed 550,000 people to performances on their stages. The venue reached a further 450,000 through their work with communities, schools and co-produced performances on tour nationally and internationally.

Harlequin have worked closely with the Hippodrome and its resident partners for many years and we are immensely proud of the work we have done to provide dancers and performers with the best quality dance floors for stage performances, rehearsals, day-to-day classes and whilst practicing at home.

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BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME

**PATRICK
STUDIO**

**DANCE
HUB
BIRMINGHAM**

dx
DanceXchange

**BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET**



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The Hippodrome Theatre Stage

Over the last 9 years Harlequin have worked extensively with the Hurst Street venue. In September 2012 Mike Bradford, Director of Operations requested the help of the Harlequin team with an important £1.2 million refurbishment project.

After thirty years and more than 1,000 performances since its last refurbishment the main stage was in desperate need of repair with splits, cracks and uneven surfaces.

The Harlequin team had to make use of a four week gap between productions to start the refurbishment project. Harlequin removed the existing plywood stage and refurbished the understructure fitting new dip traps and two layers of 25mm ply. Onto this an equally heavy duty stage surface was needed and Harlequin installed 630m² of Harlequin Standfast. Versatile, durable and slip-resistant, Harlequin Standfast was considered to be the closest match to the original floor and would provide the best solution for all performers.

Speaking at the time, Barry Hope Technical Manager at Birmingham Hippodrome said of Harlequin, "The installation team were superb and always on hand to answer queries, listen to our requests and help facilitate the other works we needed to undertake. They worked very hard due to the short time scale, but were never fazed by what was around the corner". Harlequin certainly set the stage for another 30 years + of great performances.

“ The stage is the most important part of the theatre and was badly in need of replacement ”

Mike Bradford
*Birmingham
Hippodrome's Director
of Operations*

Project highlights

Name	Birmingham Hippodrome
Location	Birmingham
Project Type	Stage refurbishment
Product Type	11-inch plywood, Harlequin Standfast
Contractor	Harlequin Installation Team



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DanceXchange

DanceXchange is a dance organisation based at Birmingham Hippodrome and is dedicated to making and showing great dance. With an excellent reputation both locally and internationally they produce and showcase their work at the Patrick Studio. They also produce the award-winning Birmingham International Dance Festival.

In March 2019 DanceXchange commissioned Harlequin to fit 150 m² of Harlequin Cascade to one of their three studios, the other two having previously been fitted with Harlequin Cascade and Harlequin Studio vinyl performance floors.



Project highlights

Name	DanceXchange
Location	Birmingham
Project Type	Studio installation
Product Type	Harlequin Cascade
Contractor	Harlequin installation Team



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The Patrick Studio

The Patrick Studio is a flexible performance space at Birmingham Hippodrome which was completed as part of an award-winning redevelopment plan. The studio can be used as a large performance space or as a traditional auditorium with raked seating and can seat over 200 people. Recognised as a national centre of excellence for dance it is an ideal space to bring any small scale production to life and prepare it for touring.

Harlequin have fitted the 24m x 12m studio with Harlequin Reversible Black/Grey vinyl performance floor.

Project highlights

Name	The Patrick Studio
Location	Birmingham
Project Type	Studio installation
Product Type	Harlequin Cascade

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STUDIO**



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Dance Hub Birmingham

In November 2019 The Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre Trust added a major dance asset to the venue in the shape of Dance Hub Birmingham. The Hub brings to life an exciting collective ambition for dance across the region and is a centre of excellence for dance in the community and for the resident companies: Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Royal Ballet and DanceXchange. The rooftop extension provides 675m² of additional space above Birmingham Royal Ballet's rehearsal studios and provides a rehearsal studio, changing facilities, new offices and meeting rooms. Dance sector support organisation One Dance UK have also moved into the offices. Construction experts Fabrite worked with architects Austin Smith Lord on the project, creating the biggest UK dance collective outside of London.

Project highlights

Name	Dance Hub Birmingham
Location	Birmingham
Project Type	Studio installation
Product Type	Harlequin Activity, Harlequin engineered oak top surface and Harlequin Cascade
Contractor	Fabrite
Architect	Austin Smith Lord

Harlequin's highly skilled installation teams were commissioned to install a Harlequin Activity sprung floor with a Harlequin engineered oak top surface and a roll out Harlequin Cascade vinyl performance floor for the central performance area of the new 244m² dance studio facilities.



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Birmingham Royal Ballet

In 1990 Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet moved to a new home in Birmingham and changed its name to Birmingham Royal Ballet. The BRB is now known as one of the world's best classical ballet companies. Based at the Hippodrome in the heart of Birmingham the company, with world renowned Carlos Acosta as its Director, is renowned for its excellence, artistic innovation and social responsibility. The BRB, together with the city of Birmingham are helping to build Birmingham's international reputation as a focus of excellence in dance development and performance.

The BRB has over 50 resident dancers who train in four studios at the Hurst Street venue. Harlequin recently installed a new Harlequin Cascade vinyl performance floor with BioCote antimicrobial protection in Studio 1 and are discussing the refurbishment of the other 3 studios over the coming year.

As well as refurbishing the resident dance studios Harlequin has also worked with the BRB to provide the dancers with home studio equipment during the pandemic to help them safely train at home.

If you would like further information contact us on +44 (0)1892 514 888 or enquiries@harlequinfloors.com

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Project highlights

Name	Birmingham Royal Ballet
Location	Birmingham
Project Type	Studio installation
Product Type	Harlequin Cascade with Biocote
Contractor	Harlequin installation Team



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