



**HARLEQUIN**  
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# DANCE CASE STUDIES



# The world dances on Harlequin floors

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Established in the UK over 45 years ago, Harlequin remains the industry choice for the world's most prestigious dance and performing arts companies, theatres, venues and schools.

Harlequin's reputation is founded on the design, manufacture and supply of a range of high quality portable and permanent sprung and vinyl floors chosen by the world's leading venues - from the Royal Opera House to the Bolshoi Theatre, the Paris Opera Ballet to the Royal New Zealand Ballet.

Harlequin is the global leader in its field with offices in Europe, the Americas and Asia Pacific.

## Dance

Floors developed for commercial or sports applications do not offer the benefits that dancers appreciate when they talk about the 'feel' of the floor. Only floors developed for dance do that.

A good dance floor instills confidence in dancers to give full expression to their creativity safe in the knowledge that the dance floor will not let them down.

Harlequin sprung floors offer assurance of better protection from injuries for dancers with reduced risk of injury through impact, slipping or falling. Performers need a floor to absorb the shock of repeated impact to their joints and reduce injury from falls. For optimum safety it is recommended to install a Harlequin vinyl floor as a dance surface on a Harlequin sprung floor.





# A selection of our clients:



ROYAL  
BALLET



HoustonBallet



English  
National  
Ballet



AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE



ROYAL ACADEMY OF  
DANCE

SCOTTISH  
BALLET



The  
Australian  
Ballet

BALLETTO  
DI ROMA  
COMPAGNIA



HK  
BALLET  
香港芭蕾舞團

WEST AUSTRALIAN BALLET

*rnzb*  
ROYAL NEW ZEALAND BALLET

RAMBERT  
DANCE COMPANY

BIRMINGHAM  
ROYAL BALLET

Riverdance

*northern  
ballet*



balletblack

KOREAN  
NATIONAL  
BALLET  
국립발레단

PHOENIX  
DANCE THEATRE

BALLET  
ZÜRICH

DEN  
NORSKE  
OPERA  
& BALLET



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# Case Study English National Ballet

## Overview

English National Ballet and the English National Ballet School have moved to a brand new world-class home at London City Island.

Designed by award-winning architects Glenn Howells Architects working together with fit-out and refurbishment experts BW, the new building provides 93,000 sq ft of unprecedented facilities.

The enormous project for Harlequin Floors involved the completion of eight rehearsal studios. Harlequin Activity sprung flooring was installed with Harlequin Cascade vinyl performance surface.



## Project highlights

<b>Name:</b>	English National Ballet, English National Ballet School
<b>Location:</b>	London City Island
<b>Project Type:</b>	Studio installation
<b>Product Types:</b>	Harlequin Activity, Harlequin Cascade, Harlequin Standfast
<b>Contractor:</b>	BW Interiors Ltd
<b>Architect:</b>	Glenn Howells Architects



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# Case Study

# English National Ballet

## The solution:

### Studios

Completed installation of over 1900m<sup>2</sup> of Harlequin Activity sprung floor and Harlequin Cascade vinyl surface and a further 200m<sup>2</sup> of Harlequin Standfast vinyl performance surface in fitness and rehab facilities.

### Temporary floors

Additionally, 225m<sup>2</sup> Harlequin Liberty sprung floor panels were supplied for the Company to take on tour. Initially hired as temporary floors for the rehearsal studio space at Here East during the construction phase, these were then purchased for touring use.

## London City Island

The new centre combines state-of-the-art training, fitness, rehab and teaching facilities, seven stage-sized rehearsal studios and production studio. Dedicated Engagement spaces offer audience access and enable work with the local community. English National Ballet School occupies the top floors with exceptional provision for students including three rehearsal studios, a lecture theatre, gym and green room. Windows from the School overlook the Company's rehearsal studios offering students a daily insight into class, rehearsal and the creation of new work.



London City Island  
architects model



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# Case Study

# Dance Hub Birmingham

## Overview

Dance Hub Birmingham a new centre of excellence for dance in the community and resident companies – the Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Royal Ballet and DanceXchange.

Supported by investment from Arts Council England, the city centre hub is a rooftop extension above Birmingham Royal Ballet's rehearsal studios with 675m<sup>2</sup> of additional space including a rehearsal studio, changing facilities, new offices and meeting rooms. The development on Thorp Street has improved access from the public entrance and routes through to the rehearsal and production facilities.

Dance organisation, One Dance UK has moved into the Hub as new tenants. Construction experts Fabrite worked with architects Austin Smith Lord on the project creating the biggest UK dance collective outside London.

DANCE  
HUB  
BIRMINGHAM

## Project highlights

Name:	Dance Hub Birmingham
Location:	Thorp Street Birmingham
Project Type:	Studio installation
Product Types:	Harlequin Activity
Contractor:	Fabrite
Architect:	Austin Smith Lord



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## Case Study

# Dance Hub Birmingham

### The requirement:

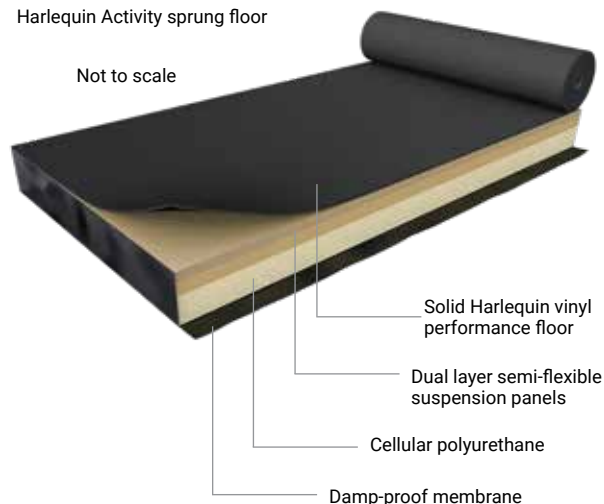
Brand new dance studio facilities encompassing 244m<sup>2</sup>

### The solution:

Harlequin Activity sprung floor with Harlequin Engineered Oak top surface completed with a roll out Harlequin Cascade vinyl centre performance area. Harlequin Mirrors and Harlequin Ballet Barres.

Harlequin Activity sprung floor

Not to scale



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# Case Study DANCE.LAB Vienna

## Overview

“ Our Harlequin floor is perfect for our students and allows them to find their style. ”  
**Petra Böhm**  
Studio director

Four young and ambitious dance teachers founded DANCE.LAB in the Austrian capital with the aim to give access to performing arts training to anyone who is interested, no matter their age.

This is why everyone is welcome at DANCE.LAB and the course programme is just as varied as the students: Aside from dance classes, members can also take singing and acting lessons.

## Project data

Name:	DANCE.LAB
Town:	Vienna, Austria
Project type:	Floor installation for a multipurpose dance studio
Products:	100m <sup>2</sup> of Harlequin Flexity sprung floor and Harlequin Reversible Pro vinyl



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# Case Study

# DANCE.LAB

## Vienna

### Requirements

A number of different dance types are taught at the studio and the rooms are also used for fitness workshops, seminars, photo shoots and events, therefore the dance floor needed to be multi-functional and resilient.



### Product choice

### Installation

Ballet, hip hop, tap, lyrical, jazz, acrobatics and modern dance classes are just a few examples of the varied DANCE.LAB curriculum. In order to provide the best injury protection for students and teachers across all the different dance styles, a sprung floor was installed in the studio.

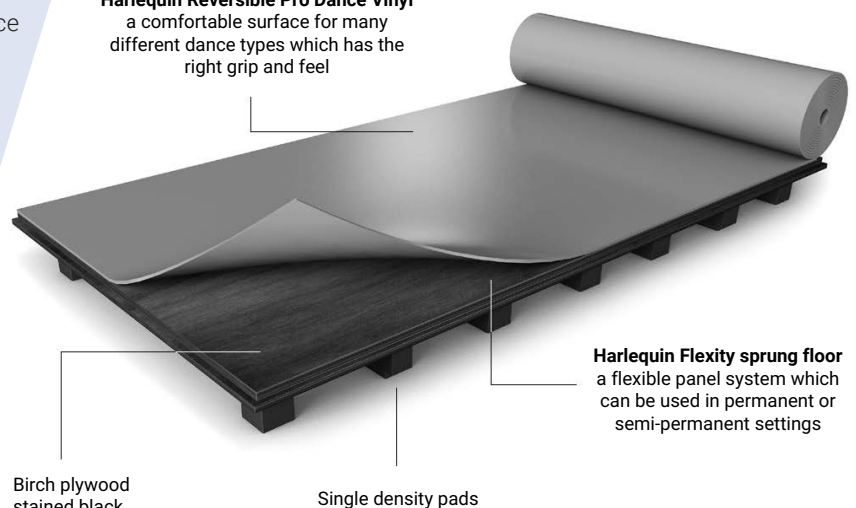
Sprung floors reduce the risk of an injury through impact or from longer-term stress on muscles and joints by gently softening landings and returning energy to the body in a controlled manner. For DANCE.LAB, the Harlequin Flexity panel system was chosen due to its flexibility of use and uncomplicated installation.

The durable Harlequin Reversible Pro performance vinyl was installed on the surface to finish the studio with a smooth dance surface which provides a good level of grip. It is equally suitable for dancers who wear trainers, ballet slippers or who dance with bare feet.

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not to scale

**Harlequin Reversible Pro Dance Vinyl**  
a comfortable surface for many different dance types which has the right grip and feel



Birch plywood stained black

Single density pads

**Harlequin Flexity sprung floor**  
a flexible panel system which can be used in permanent or semi-permanent settings



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# Case Study

# Tanzzentrum NRW

## Overview

“ A Harlequin floor was my first and only choice because they are simply the best floors on the market. ”

**Jennifer Bergs**  
Dance School Director

Tanzzentrum NRW is a dance school which is located in the loft of a shopping centre in Bielefeld, Germany. Its 160m<sup>2</sup> dance room has plenty of natural light and is used for a number of dance styles, including ballet, jazz, modern pole and even acrobatics.

In Germany, Tanzzentrum NRW is the only dance school offering a state-recognised avocational traineeship for prospective dance teachers. Director Jennifer Bergs developed this concept with the help of two board members of the German Dance Teachers' Association. Having trained as a dance teacher whilst studying law, Ms Bergs wanted to offer this chance to other full-time working dance enthusiasts.

## Project data

Name:	Tanzzentrum NRW
Town:	Bielefeld, Germany
Project type:	Conversion of commercial space into a dance studio
Building:	Shopping Centre
Products:	160m <sup>2</sup> Harlequin Flexity sprung floor and Harlequin Reversible Pro vinyl surface



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# Case Study

# Tanzzentrum NRW

## Requirements

Due to the dance studio's varied use, a dance floor was needed which could provide support and protection for many different types of movement. It also needed to withstand different sources of impact, not only from dancers but also from poles which would be mounted and disassembled regularly for pole dance and pole fitness classes.



## Product choice

## Installation

In order to provide maximum protection from injuries, a sprung floor was laid on top of the concrete sub-floor. After consultation with the Harlequin Germany sales team, Ms Bergs chose the Harlequin Flexity sprung floor, an uncomplicated panel system which can be installed by anyone with DIY experience.

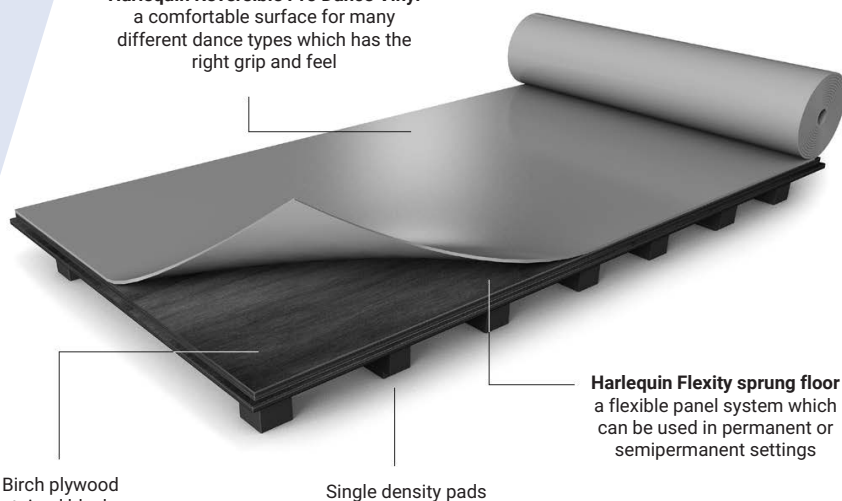
Ahead of the installation, Harlequin Sales Manager Thomas Sieber travelled to Bielefeld to ensure that the Harlequin Flexity floor was compatible with the use of poles. After extensive testing he was satisfied that the poles would not cause any harm to the sprung floor even after long-term use and he gave the go-ahead to the Harlequin installation team.

The studio was finished with black and white Harlequin Reversible Pro performance vinyl which provides dancers with the right grip. In keeping with the bright room, the double-sided vinyl was installed with its white side up.

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not to scale

**Harlequin Reversible Pro Dance Vinyl**  
a comfortable surface for many  
different dance types which has the  
right grip and feel



Birch plywood  
stained black

Single density pads

**Harlequin Flexity sprung floor**  
a flexible panel system which  
can be used in permanent or  
semipermanent settings



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# Case Study *Da Rookies* Nutcracker

## Classic meets Breakdance

“ The combination of the Harlequin Liberty sprung dance floor with the multi-functional Harlequin FreeStyle vinyl makes for ideal conditions for our dancers, and contributes to the success of our show. ”

**Nils Klebe**  
Founder and Manager

European and World Champions, World Record Breakers as well as Honorary Ambassadors to their hometown of Magdeburg: The German breakdance group **Da Rookies** boasts many impressive titles, but it is their willingness to experiment which truly sets them apart.

In 2018, they toured their reinvented version of The Nutcracker for the first time and became the first breakdance group to perform to unaltered classical music. Combining elements of hip-hop, capoeira, breaking and classical ballet, they created a truly unique choreography. However, the b-boys in trainers and the ballet dancer wearing point shoes naturally found that their expectations with regard to the dance floor differed somewhat. For the second installment of their tour a year later, they were determined to find a new dance floor which would fit the bill for everyone.

For their 2019/2020 tour, Da Rookies found what they were looking for at Harlequin.



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# Case Study

# *Da Rookies*

# Nutcracker

## Requirements

The dance floor surface had to provide enough grip for the ballerina to enable her to dance en pointe and perform pirouettes. However, it could not inhibit the movements of the b-boys, whose trainers provided more grip. The ideal solution turned out to be the padded **Harlequin FreeStyle** vinyl in combination with a **Harlequin Liberty** portable sprung floor.



## 2019/2020 tour

Equipped with their new dance floor, Da Rookies set out to perform at venues across Germany and were met by an ecstatic audience everywhere.

One performance stood out in particular: their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary show at an arena in their hometown of Magdeburg, Da Rookies invited an orchestra to accompany them live on stage. Drawing the largest ever crowd to see a classical and break dance crossover, they also managed to break the world record for attendance that same evening.

Our portable **Harlequin Liberty** sprung floor panels along with the **Harlequin FreeStyle** vinyl proved to be essential for the success of the show. The dancers felt at ease, and were able to perform their moves without a second thought with regards to the floor's surface.

Additionally, the dancers were able to rely on the sprung floor to protect their joints from strains and impact injuries, which is extremely important for professionals.

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## Choice of product

Harlequin FreeStyle

Slip-resistant  
dance surface  
PVC support  
layer  
Closed-cell  
foam backing



not to scale

Harlequin Liberty

Rounded tongue  
and groove



Latch and  
lock system

Clear layered birch plywood  
sprung floor panel

Dual density  
shock damping  
elastomer blocks



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