



**HARLEQUIN**  
[www.harlequinfloors.com](http://www.harlequinfloors.com)

# Dance Case Studies

# The world performs on Harlequin floors

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 Vienna State Opera House, 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.



USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance

# A selection of our clients:



ROYAL  
BALLET



Houston Ballet



ROYAL ACADEMY  
OF DANCE



The  
Australian  
Ballet



HK  
BALLET  
香港芭蕾舞團



WEST AUSTRALIAN BALLET





# Case Study

# Royal Academy

# of Dance

## Overview

The Royal Academy of dance opened their new headquarters in Battersea, London, with Harlequin flooring in all seven studios and the performance space.

The Royal Academy of Dance is a world leader in dance education and training. Founded in 1920, they have been teaching the world to dance for over 100 years. Through an international network of dance teachers, the RAD supports and connects a global community of more than 400,000 students, and dancers of all ages and abilities, in more than 80 countries.

## ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE

### Project highlights

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Name:</b>          | Royal Academy of Dance                   |
| <b>Location:</b>      | Battersea, London                        |
| <b>Project Type:</b>  | Studio installation                      |
| <b>Product Types:</b> | Harlequin Activity and Harlequin Cascade |



# Case Study

# Royal Academy of Dance



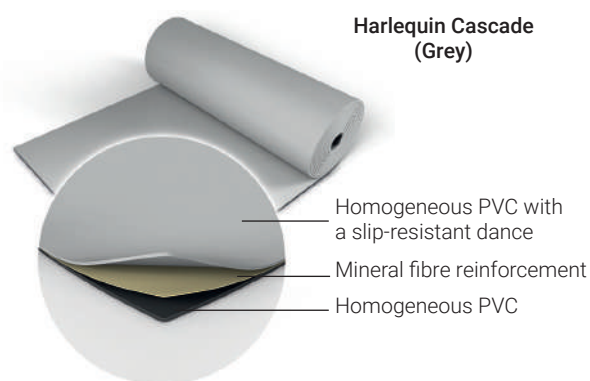
## Product choice

### The solution:

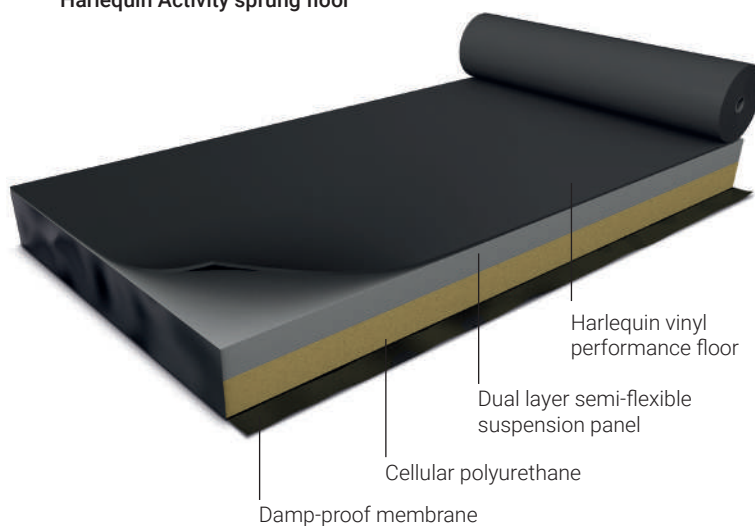
Completed installation of over 1200m<sup>2</sup> of flooring which included seven large dance studios with Harlequin Activity sprung floor and Harlequin Cascade vinyl performance floor.

Each studio also has bespoke Harlequin ballet barres and mirrors. The RAD required bespoke colours so the ballet barres matched other RAD furnishings.

Harlequin water cut the mirrors to fit the wall mounted ballet barres directly to the walls to create a seamless and neat finish.



### Harlequin Activity sprung floor





# Case Study Princess Grace Academy

## Overview

The Princess Grace Academy was founded in 1975 following Princess Grace and Prince Rainier III's desire to establish a high level dance school in the Principality of Monaco. The Academy has since been directed by Marika Besobrasova and enjoys an international reputation. It has become a partner to prestigious institutions such as the Prix de Lausanne, where some of its students are very well represented.

“ At Princess Grace Academy we make sure we stay up to date with the latest products and talk to Harlequin to choose the best product for our dance studios. We decided Harlequin Activity and Studio vinyl was the best floor for our students. It is vital that we have a good sprung floor for our dancers so they can perform at their best. ”

Luca Masala  
Artistic Director

### Project highlights

**Name:** Princess Grace Academy

**Location:** Monaco

**Product Types:** Harlequin Activity and Harlequin Studio



# Case Study

# Princess Grace Academy



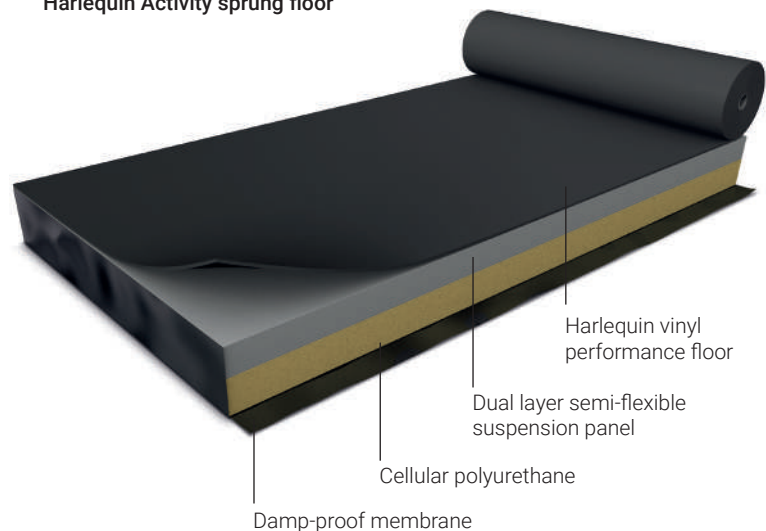
## Product choice



## Harlequin Studio

Harlequin Studio is a hard-wearing vinyl dance floor designed to meet the needs of dancers. The result is a slip-resistant floor that offers dancers added confidence for demanding choreography and movement.

## Harlequin Activity sprung floor



## Harlequin Activity

Harlequin Activity is a 'fully-floating' sprung floor system without fixings to the sub-floor constructed using Harlequin's proprietary 'triple sandwich' construction method. It provides shock-dampening to avoid a 'trampoline' effect plus area elasticity to offer identical characteristics across the whole floor, offering better protection from injuries for teachers and performers.



# Case Study Playground London

## Overview

Playground London is the newest addition to the Playground brand offering master classes and dance sessions in its brand new studio space in central London.

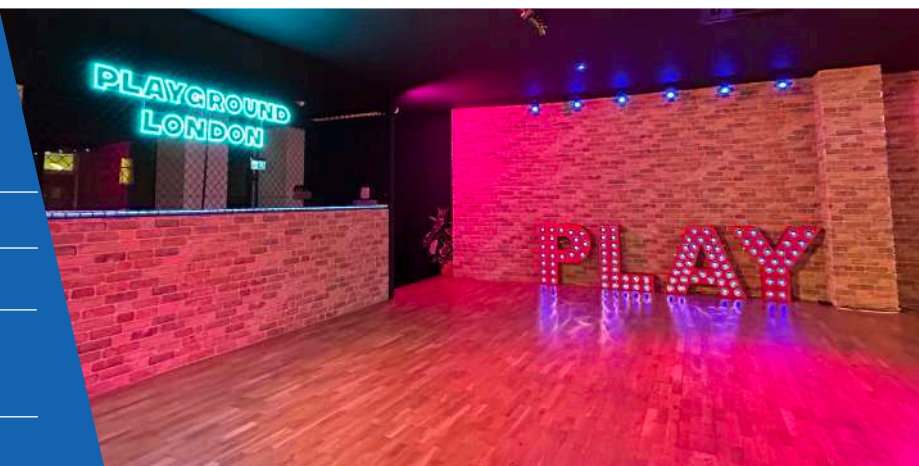
The Playground brand was founded by Pussycat Doll creator, Robin Antin, and actor and choreographer, Kenny Wormald, in 2017, with the first studio opening in LA.

When Kenny moved to London with his family, Robin and Kenny decided that it was the perfect opportunity to expand Playground by opening a brand new studio space in London.



## Project highlights

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Name:</b>          | Playground London                              |
| <b>Location:</b>      | Whitechapel, London                            |
| <b>Project Type:</b>  | Floor installation                             |
| <b>Product Types:</b> | Harlequin Flexity and Harlequin Reversible Pro |





# Case Study

# Playground

# London



## Installation

Located near Aldgate and Whitechapel, the new London studio has a Harlequin Flexity sprung floor and a Harlequin Reversible Pro performance surface.

“ We knew that choosing the right dance floor was non-negotiable. Harlequin Floors was the clear choice, aligning perfectly with our values and aspirations. These floors have become the foundation upon which our dancers build their dreams and careers. ”

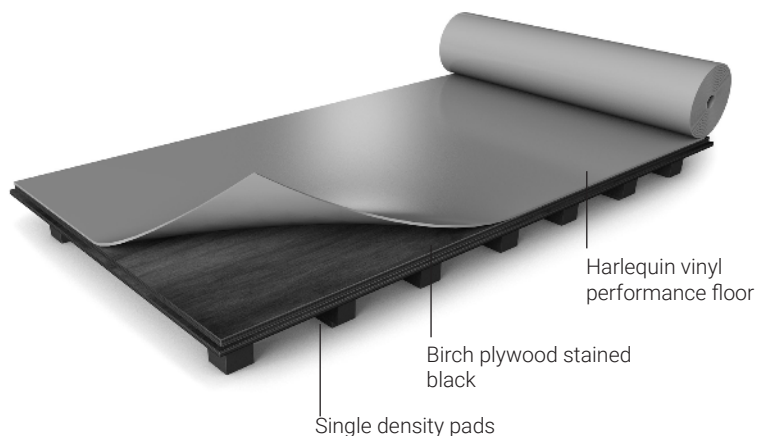
**Kenny Wormald**  
Founder of Playground

## Product choice

Harlequin Reversible Pro  
(Black/Grey)



Harlequin Flexity sprung floor





# Case Study English National Ballet

## Overview

English National Ballet and the English National Ballet School have moved to a 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 involved the completion of eight rehearsal studios. Harlequin Activity sprung flooring was installed with Harlequin Cascade vinyl performance surface.



### Project highlights

**Name:** English National Ballet, English National Ballet School

**Location:** London City Island

**Project Type:** Studio installation

**Product Types:** Harlequin Activity and Harlequin Cascade

**Contractor:** BW Interiors Ltd

**Architect:** Glenn Howells Architects



# 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  
architects model

## 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.





# Case Study

# Dance Hub

# Birmingham

## Overview

Dance Hub Birmingham a 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

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Name:</b>          | Dance Hub Birmingham    |
| <b>Location:</b>      | Thorp Street Birmingham |
| <b>Project Type:</b>  | Studio installation     |
| <b>Product Types:</b> | Harlequin Activity      |
| <b>Contractor:</b>    | Fabrite                 |
| <b>Architect:</b>     | Austin Smith Lord       |





# Case Study Dance Hub Birmingham

## The requirement:

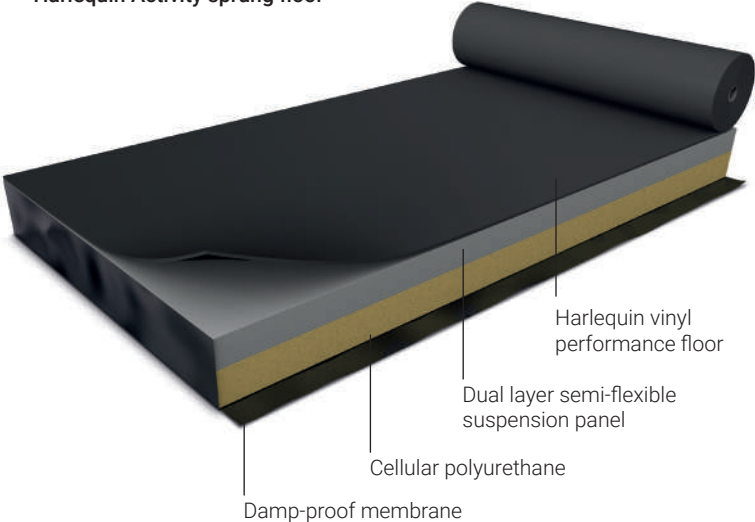
Brand new dance studio facilities encompassing 244m<sup>2</sup>.

## 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.

## Product choice

Harlequin Activity sprung floor





## Case Study

# DANCE.LAB

## Vienna

### Overview

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 highlights

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Name:</b>          | DANCE.LAB  |
| <b>Location:</b>      | Vienna, Austria  |
| <b>Project Type:</b>  | Floor installation for a multipurpose dance studio                                     |
| <b>Product Types:</b> | 100m <sup>2</sup> of Harlequin Flexity sprung floor and Harlequin Reversible Pro vinyl |



# Case Study

# DANCE.LAB

## Vienna



### 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.

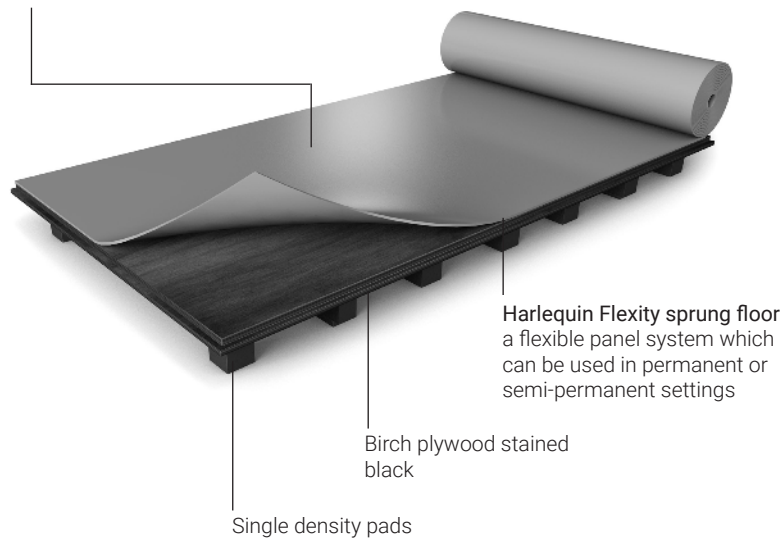
Sprung floors reduce the risk of an injury through impact or from longer-term stress on muscles and joints by gently softening landings and returning energy to the body in a controlled manner. For DANCE.LAB, the Harlequin Flexity panel system was chosen due to its flexibility of use and uncomplicated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

### Product choice

#### Harlequin Reversible Pro Dance Vinyl

a comfortable surface for many different dance types which has the right grip and feel





# Case Study

# Tanzzentrum

# NRW

## Overview

Tanzzentrum NRW is a dance school which is located in the front loft of a shopping centre in Bielefeld, Germany. Its 160 m<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 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.

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

**Jennifer Bergs**  
**School Dance Director**

## Project highlights

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





# 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 is 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.



## 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.

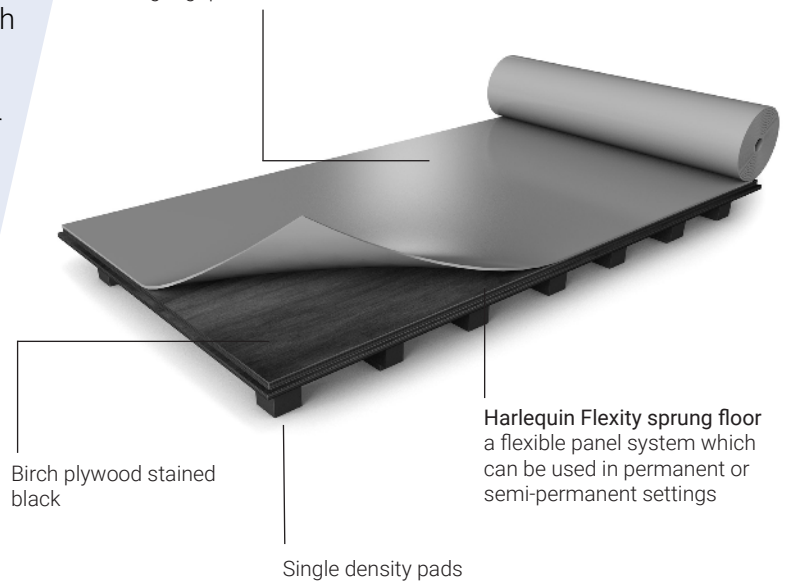
The studio was finished with black and white Harlequin Reversible Pro performance vinyl, which provides dancers with the right grip. In keeping with the bright room, the double-sided vinyl was installed with its white side up.

## Product choice

### Harlequin Flexity

#### 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



## Case Study

# *Da Rookies*

## Nutcracker

### Classic meets Breakdance

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 pointe 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.



“ 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



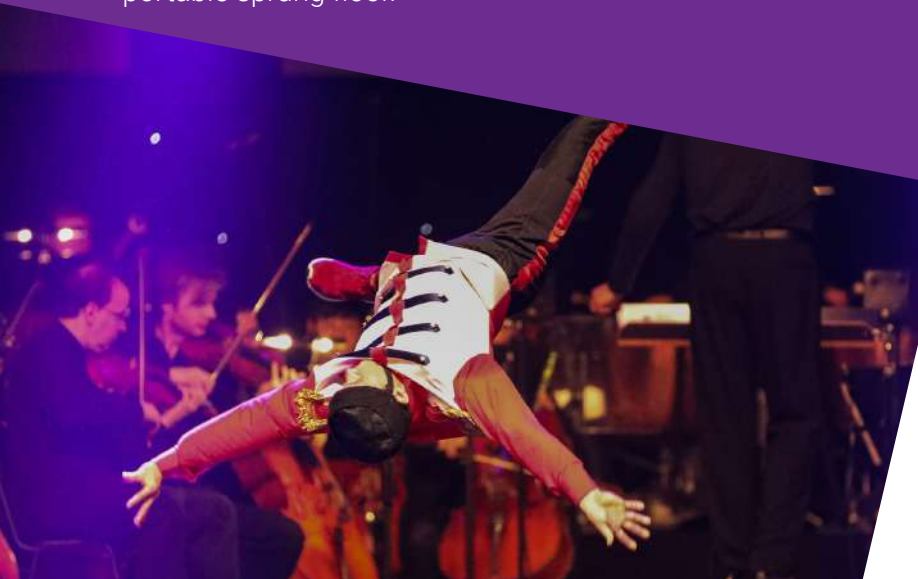
# Case Study

# *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.

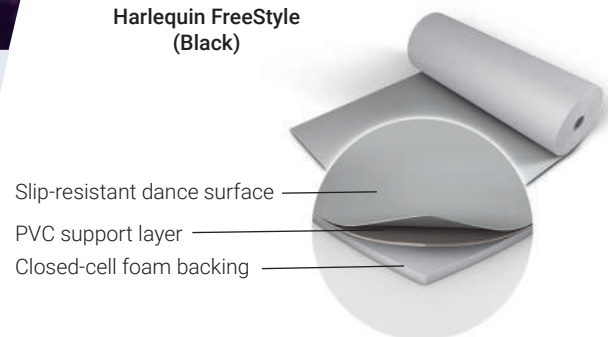
One performance stood out in particular: their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary show at an arena in their hometown of Magdeburg, Da Rookies invited an orchestra to accompany them live on stage. Drawing the largest ever crowd to see a classical and break dance crossover, they also managed to break the world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

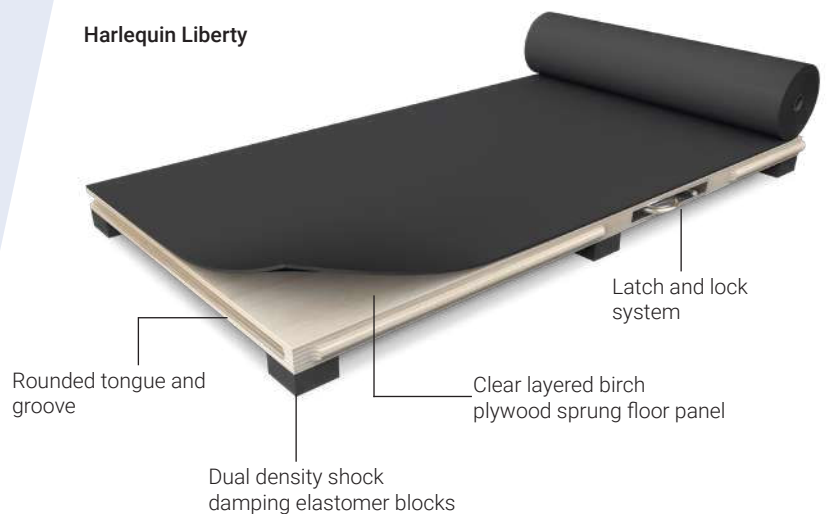
Additionally, the dancers were able to rely on the sprung floor to protect their joints from strains and impact injuries, which is extremely important for professionals.

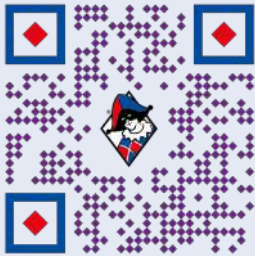
## Product choice

Harlequin FreeStyle  
(Black)

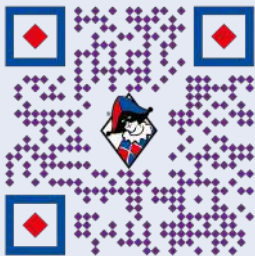


Harlequin Liberty

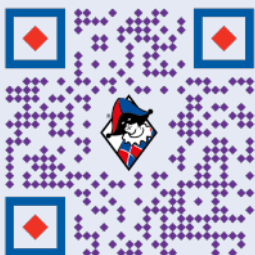




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Who we work with



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