

# Janet Randell

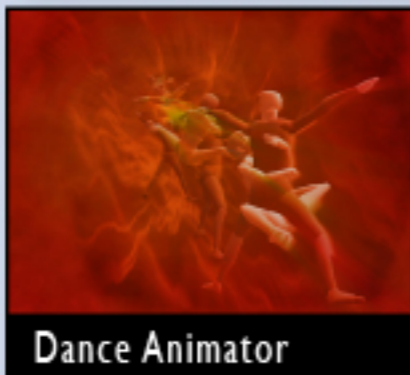
Choreographer / Dance Animator



Gallery



Choreographer



Dance Animator



DanceForms



Short Biography

# Janet Randell

## Choreographer

Janet Randell, BA (Hons) AISTD, Choreographer, Director of The Cedar Dance Theatre Company and Dance Animator/ Artistic Director of Cedar Dance Animations. Janet's diverse contributions to the dance world have been innovative and ground breaking. Her roles also include: independent choreographer and dance animator, lecturer, teacher, author and researcher. As founder/artistic director of The Cedar Dance Theatre Company, which has performed in the Barbican Theatre and other venues in London and throughout the UK, Janet has continued to push the boundaries of creativity in her dance productions. Janet Randell has also freelanced for many years as a choreographer for stage and TV, and has choreographed, directed and taught in the UK, New York, China, Australia, Holland and the Republic of Ireland.

In her choreography Janet Randell produces an eclectic range of artistic imagery, drawn from her expertise in ballet, modern dance, and from her postgraduate research in dance history, religious dance and ritual, as well as literature, art and music. Over the years she has created dance works of beauty, quality, and musicality, conveying a rare depth of choreographic expression, to great critical acclaim.

Most recently Janet Randell has been working with animation and film, exploring new aspects of her choreography through digital and animated dance using LifeForms, DanceForms and other cutting edge 3D animation and motion technology.

Through the production of her independent dance animations with Cedar Dance Animations, she has found a new way of integrating dance as a performance art with her own choreographic styles, expressed through this new and exciting genre.

*The Tutorial Guide to DanceForms* is a culmination of Janet Randell's exploration of dance, choreography and animation, providing an interactive platform for choreographers, teachers and students alike.



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Misa Criolla (Photographer Christopher Phillips)



Extract from dance animation Transitions

Janet Randell has choreographed most of the dance animations and stills for *The Tutorial Guide to DanceForms*, which contains hundreds of animated dance illustrations and movies. These include *Dancing Forms for Eight*, an experimental study for eight dancers, set to the music of Pachelbel's *Canon in D*. The dance has also been reconstructed and performed with choreographic variations by live dancers at the Robin Howard Theatre, London, as part of an experimental collaboration between digital and live dance.

A filmed performance by The Cedar Dance Theatre Company is also featured in the Guide.

# Janet Randell

## Choreographer



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### Further Information on Stage/TV Work

In her many years as an international dance teacher and guest choreographer, Janet Randell has worked with various dance companies and institutions, including Ailey III, one of the Ailey Dance Companies formed by Alvin Ailey in New York, directed by Kelvin Rotardier; former dancer of The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT); the Irish National Ballet; the Academy of the Central Ballet of China in Beijing; the Guangzhou Dance Company, China; the Hong Kong Academy of the Performing Arts and the Royal Academy of Dancing UK. Examples of her modern ballets include *Stonerites*, *The Line That Goes For A Walk* based on the paintings and writings of the artist Paul Klee and *Ancient Voices*, inspired by the Sumerian and Biblical story of Job.

In addition, Janet Randell has choreographed a number of ballets for TV, including the *Jesus Then and Now* series and various modern productions with dancers from the Royal Ballet and Rambert Dance Company, formerly Ballet Rambert. She has collaborated with a number of musicians and has also choreographed numerous works for The Cedar Dance Theatre Company. Her dance works have been performed throughout the UK and on TV, including *Foxes in the Vineyard*, *Misa Criolla*, *Chorale* and *Labyrinth*, a dramatic dance based on an early mediaeval liturgical Easter dance.

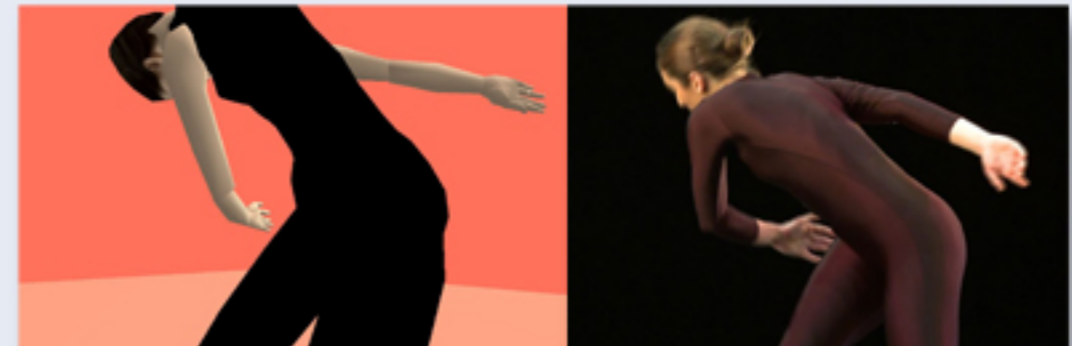
One critic from the Arts Guardian wrote (Edinburgh Festival):

*Miss Randell is exploring where, in our times, only Martha Graham has, to any great extent, explored before. A genuine distinctive choreographic imagination.*



Above: *Stonerites* performed by Ailey III (Photographer De Moine)

Below: *Etudes for One Dancer*: Sara Accettura, The Cedar Dance Theatre Company



# Janet Randell

## Dance Animator

In 1999, Janet Randell began to explore her choreography through digital and animated dance, using DanceForms (formally called LifeForms) and other animation and motion technology. She is now producing independent dance animations, which integrate dance as a performance art with her own choreographic styles.

Janet Randell's experiments with animation are providing a new and innovative platform for her artistic expression. She is considered to be one of the leading creative independent dance animators worldwide.

Janet writes:

*I have discovered that I can create a whole new art form using the fusion of digital technology with the language and vocabulary of dance. I am able to use these to transcend the range of stage performance.*



Both are extracts from *The Tutorial Guide to DanceForms* © Janet Randell



Above: *Five Moves*  
Left: *Etudes I*



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*Not only can this new form of expression convey the emotional, uplifting and spiritual side of dance, but it can also celebrate the innovative possibilities of probing and extending the boundaries of dance, elevating the finite into the infinite.*

*There are limitless horizons in the world of digital dance for choreographers of all ages, whether able-bodied or disabled.*

Janet Randell is also widening her sphere to use dance animation and film, both as a creative tool for the performance media and also as a powerful new medium for the education and disabilities sector.



*Dancing Forms for Eight* choreographed using DanceForms and 3D animation technology, with performances by The Cedar Dance Theatre Company, London.

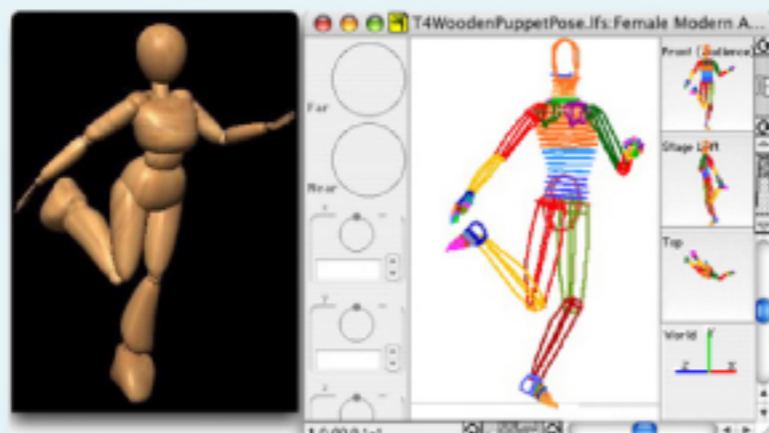
# Janet Randell

## DanceForms

As a creative dance animator, Janet Randell has been attracted to DanceForms for many years. It enables her to explore the limitless possibilities available in digital dance and to experiment with using virtual bodies as well as live dancers for the process of choreography.

Janet writes:

*There is something magical about creating and viewing a piece of work in miniature. Some of the best works by the painter Paul Klee and the later paper cut-out figures created by Henri Matisse were created in about twelve inches square, no bigger than the desktop of an everyday laptop.*



Extract from *The Tutorial Guide to DanceForms* © Janet Randell



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*The dance figures in DanceForms are almost puppet-like and seem to attract both dancers and non-dancers. Shape, space, time and rhythm can all be explored in infinite choreographic ways. Work created in this software is crying out to be translated back into live dance in a new and imaginative way.*

*I love the daring element of choreographing in DanceForms, of being able to push the body to unexpected limits and of challenging live dancers in the studio to endless choreographic possibilities.*



*Parallel Asides* © Janet Randell

# Janet Randell

## DanceForms



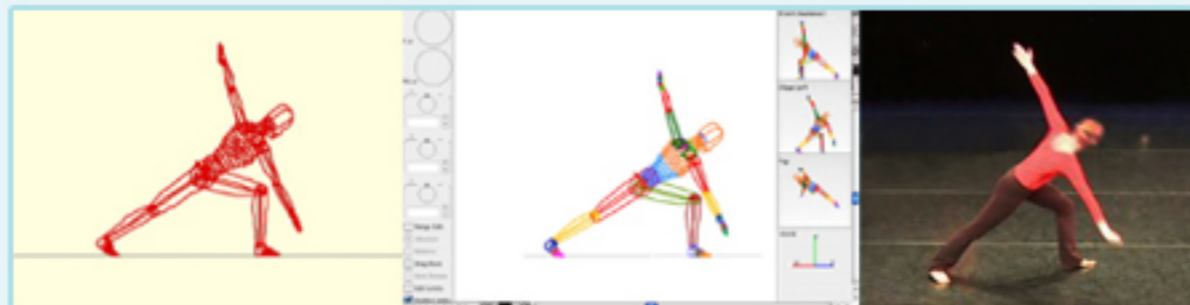
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### DanceForms and Live Dance

Janet Randell, like Merce Cunningham, uses DanceForms to choreograph, as the software programme can be used as the visual equivalent of a musical score and sketches on a drawing board. Her work with groups of dancers has shown that the digital technology helps to liberate artistic experience and can enhance the interpretation of choreography.

Janet has directed various innovative projects involving the use of DanceForms with live performance for The Cedar Dance Theatre Company and for some of the young dancers from The Place, Central London, the UK's premier centre for contemporary dance, home of Richard Alston Dance Company and the London Contemporary Dance School.

In various digital dance projects at The Place, the dancers were provided with a computer in the dance studio and studied and performed *Dancing Forms for Eight*, a complete digital dance choreographed and animated by Janet Randell in DanceForms, to the music of Pachelbel's *Canon*. In another project the dancers recreated their own fourteen variations from Janet's digital choreographic setting of the dance to percussion. The projects, filmed at the Robin Howard Dance Theatre, The Place, London, and Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, are featured in Tutorial 5 of *The Tutorial Guide to DanceForms*.



Study extract from *Dancing Forms for Eight*, *The Tutorial Guide to DanceForms* © Janet Randell.

Janet writes:

*I wanted the dancers to use the computer as a digital choreographic notepad. My aim was to see how DanceForms could translate as a teaching tool and how easy it would be for dancers to learn the dance sequences in a dance studio using the computer, then work on their own movement variations. I was sure that DanceForms would be a success as a springboard for both teaching and choreographic creativity.*



Variations on *Dancing Forms for Eight* performed by  
Dance Futures Students, Robin Howard Dance Theatre, The Place, London

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### Tutorial Guide to DanceForms - DVD ROM

Produced by Janet Randell  
© Cedar Dance Animations Ltd.  
Distributed by Credo Interactive Inc.

**A digital interactive resource guide for dancers, choreographers, teachers and students of dance, with illustrated tutorial exercises, dance animations and additional material for the school and college curriculum.**

Author, producer and animator of *The Tutorial Guide to DanceForms*, Janet Randell shares her knowledge, skill and expertise with the dance world. She presents the *Guide* from the perspective, understanding and thinking of the choreographer, dancer and teacher.

The interactive tutorials are built up step by step, explained in a clear and simple manner with voice over. They are illustrated by a visual feast of hundreds of dance animations and exercises, which Janet Randell has created and choreographed specially for the *Guide* and set out with easy to follow instructions.

Janet writes:

*DanceForms has become a new choreographic tool for me. It has been a wonderful and adventurous experience learning how, by using a computer, I can use the process of choreographing live movement on a stage to create and explain what I want digitally.*

*In The Tutorial Guide To DanceForms, I demonstrate how anyone can download dance poses from the program and start creating a digital dance, which can then be re-created by live dancers. With DanceForms you have the freedom to use your computer as a digital notebook, to create your own choreographic dimensions and sense of space and to choreograph with live dancers*



*Dancing Forms for Eight choreographed using DanceForms and 3D animation technology, with performances by The Cedar Dance Theatre Company.*

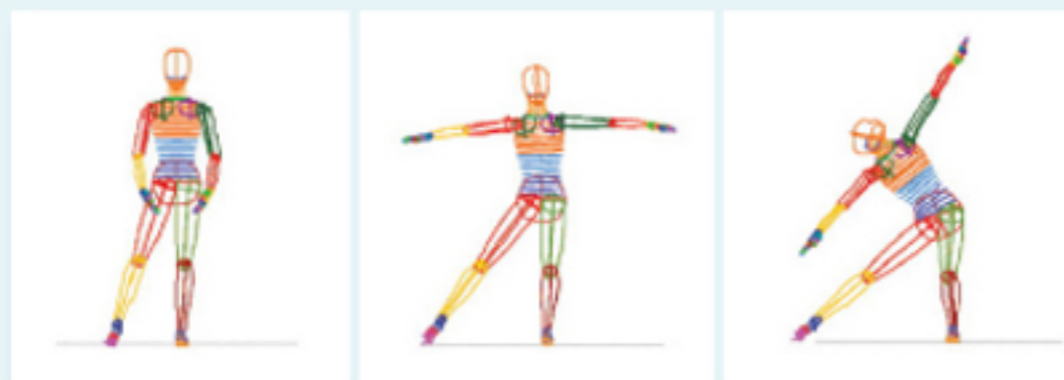
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### Tutorial Guide to DanceForms - DVD ROM continued



Studio Window Study, The Tutorial Guide to DanceForms © Janet Randell

Janet writes:

*My aim in **The Tutorial Guide to DanceForms** is to present the art of choreography and dance in a fresh and creative way and to make digital dance accessible to all, including the most diehard dance technophobe!*

*I have taken great pains to approach The Tutorial Guide from the point of view of dancers and choreographers. My wish is simply to provide a beginner's guide to many of the things that choreographers can do in DanceForms, explained through the eyes of a choreographer rather than through those of a software designer.*

An avid user of dance animation as a creative tool in both the performance media as well as in the education and disabilities sector, Janet Randell, creator of the DanceForms course, hopes that **The Tutorial Guide to DanceForms** will encourage a wider application of DanceForms in the world of dance, related fields and therapeutic activities.

Janet writes:

*I am indebted to Credo for having produced one of the most inspiring and creative tools to hit the dance world!*



Study in movement - Levels  
(extract from *The Tutorial Guide to DanceForms*) © Janet Randell

# Janet Randell

## Short Biography

Janet Randell, BA (Hons) AISTD, has a degree in Theology, French and English and is continuing post-graduate research in spiritual and dance history as well as literature art and music. She trained in London and New York in both classical and modern techniques (Graham, Horton and Cunningham), as well as in other dance styles including Historical and National European and Chinese Folk Dance. Janet has developed her own inspired method of dancing, teaching and choreography.

She is the founder, director and choreographer of The Cedar Dance Theatre Company, an independent choreographer and digital dance animator and artistic director of *Cedar Dance Animations*.



Rehearsal TV Studio BBC (Photographer David Miller)

In addition to her work as a dancer and choreographer for stage, TV and digital media, Janet Randell has lectured at the Universities of London, Oxford and Israel, the Academy of Beijing and the Royal Academy of Dancing, London. Together with her continuing contribution to dance, animation, education and research, she is equally at ease in both the dance and academic worlds.



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Janet Randell devotes much of her time to exploring her dance repertoire through digital and animated dance and is experimenting with independent dance material from this new and exciting medium for both *The Cedar Dance Theatre Company* and *Cedar Dance Animations*.

Janet Randell has given lectures, presentations and seminars at educational institutions in the UK on how to use *DanceForms* as part of her choreographic work in dance animation. She has directed various collaborative projects with the Young Dancers at *The Place*, London, and with *The Cedar Dance Theatre Company*, using digital and live dance, as featured in her DVD series, *The Tutorial Guide to DanceForms*.



Janet Randell lecturing at the Oxford Playhouse  
(Photographer Mervin Archer)

# Janet Randell

## Short Biography



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### Movement Therapy and Environmental Dance

As Chairman of Woods, Hills & Tracks, a charity that focuses on opening up new challenges to people with all types of disabilities, Janet Randell has also explored dance and movement with various physically and mentally disabled groups. Indoor movement and dance animation seminars with *DanceForms* as an option are offered for small groups, as well as outdoor environmental dance projects for movement therapy.

One of her ventures has involved the creation of multimedia dance projects for the disabled, incorporating the interaction between movement, therapy and nature with environmental dance, video, film and dance animation.



Environmental Dance, Woods, Hills and Tracks

A vision to choreograph and direct the planting of her own arboretum round a 3/4 mile wheelchair access was prompted by Janet's visit to the site of an ancient felled woodland, deep in the heart of Wales. The transformation from bare field to wheelchair pathway and arboretum was created with the Local Spinal Injuries Unit in mind.

She planted trees native to the area interspersed with specimen trees and shrubs, which provide all year round colour, fragrance and variety. Encouraged to touch, feel and smell the flora, wheelchair bound visitors, as well as those with visual impairments and other disabilities, can enjoy the contrasting textures and scents from the wheelchair access.

Some of her environmental and dance projects take place in this naturally growing stage set.

Janet writes:

*In the theatre, I took the idea of 'taking a line for a walk' by the artist Paul Klee and created a ballet for The Cedar Dance Theatre Company and the Irish National Ballet.*

*In the countryside I started with a bare field as an empty stage and then I took a path for wheelchairs with access for all for a walk and created a growing environment for dance, film and artistic activities. The textures, colours and scents of the growing trees and shrubs are my artistic backdrop, with lighting and scenery that changes at every moment of the day.*

# Janet Randell

## Short Biography

### Dance and Worship

Founder and director of *The Cedar Dance in Worship Group*, based originally in St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, London, Janet Randell has been a pioneer in the field of dance and worship since the early seventies in the UK and worldwide. She has researched extensively into liturgical and Christian dance in her postgraduate work.

Her published book *In Him We Move: Volume 1 Creative Dancing in Worship* (ISBN 1-900507-83-8) explores the historical and theological inspiration behind dance and includes practical exercises for individuals and groups, including those in wheelchairs.

Dance Books, international centre for books on dance:



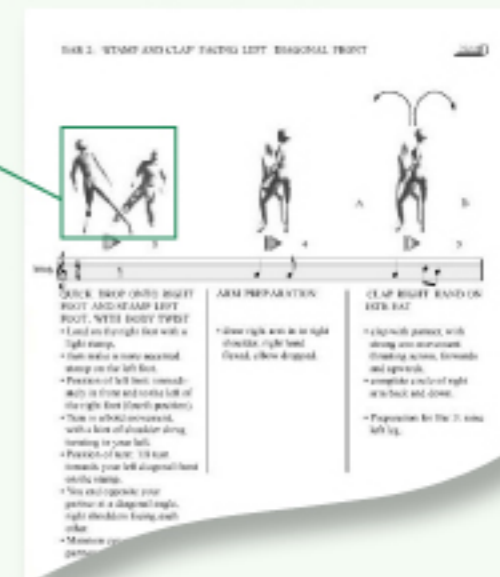
*An inspiring case for dance and movement to be restored in worship and celebration alongside singing and praying. The author explores the historical, theological and biblical inspiration behind modern dances used in worship and provides practical exercises for individuals, groups and whole congregations.*



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*Jehovah Jireh, my provider*



Dance Books, international centre for books on dance:

For further details see Publications

*In Him We Move: Volume 2 Manual of Creative Dances for Worship* (release date to be confirmed) consists of a fully choreographed collection of 25 dances, designed to accommodate all levels of ability, from beginners to professionals.

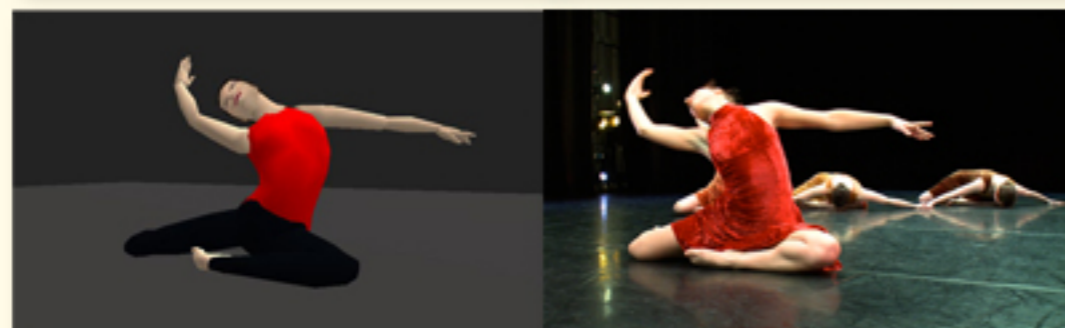
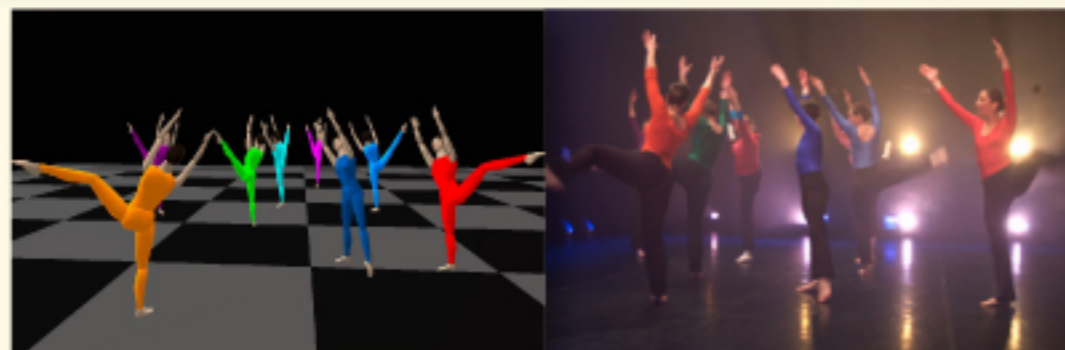
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*Dancing Forms for Eight* choreographed using *DanceForms* and 3D animation technology, with performances by *The Cedar Dance Theatre Company*, London.

# Janet Randell

Choreographer / Dance Animator



Janet Randell: Director, Author, Choreographer, Animator

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