

**NAMRON YARRUM OBE** is a trailblazing performer and a founder member of London Contemporary Dance Theatre.

Namron began his dance career at the Willesden Jazz Ballet in 1961, before receiving a scholarship to Rambert Ballet School in 1965. When London Contemporary Dance School opened in 1966, Namron taught the new students. After becoming a founder member of London Contemporary Dance Theatre at The Place in 1969 he remained there for fifteen years, touring globally and working with renowned choreographers including Anna Sokolow, Richard Alston, Siobhan Davies and Robert Cohan; performing legendary pieces including Robert North's Troy Games.

Namron later moved to Leeds and became a founder figure of the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, working there for eighteen years.

Now approaching his 80th birthday, Namron continues to teach freelance across the country and overseas, and he recently took to the stage again with 'Asphalt to Maplewood Floor – An Evening with Namron', celebrating over 50 years in dance and receiving his OBE in 2014 for his services to dance.

**JAYNE OZANNE** is a prominent gay Christian who works to ensure full inclusion of all LGBT+ people, particularly LGBT+ people of faith.

She is Director of the Ozanne Foundation, which works with religious organisations around the world to tackle discrimination based on sexuality or gender in order to embrace and celebrate the equality and diversity of all.

In March 2019 she was appointed to the government's LGBT Advisory Panel, from which she publicly resigned in March 2021, highlighting the increasingly 'hostile environment' for LGBT+ people and the lack of progress towards a ban on 'conversion therapy'. In September 2020 she set up the Ban Conversion Therapy Coalition, which she chairs, and which brings together survivors, LGBT organisations, service providers and academics who are all working together for a ban. She then went on to form the Ban Conversion Therapy Legal Forum, which brought together some of the most senior international human rights lawyers in the UK, to help set out to the government how to effectively ban 'conversion therapy', particularly religious practices.

Following her meeting with Pope Francis in November 2019, she formed the Global Interfaith Commission on LGBT+ Lives, which brings together hundreds of senior faith leaders from around the world who wish to affirm LGBT+ people. Together they signed the Dignity of All Declaration, the first signatory of which was the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

In 2022 she worked with the support of the University of Kent to bring together affirming bishops and archbishops at the Lambeth Conference, who could speak out in support of LGBT+ people. She organised a memorable event at which Dr Mary McAleese, former President of Ireland and patron of the Commission, addressed over a hundred bishops, archbishops and their spouses on the subject of LGBT+ equality.

Her autobiography, *Just Love*, is featured as one of Wiki Ezvid's Top 5 Non-Fiction Authors of Books about Christianity. She has written for many broadsheets and is a well-respected political commentator in the media.

**STEPHEN HARRIS** is Head Chef and patron of The Sportsman restaurant in Seasalter, which has held a Michelin star since 2008.

With no formal training, Harris, an ex-history teacher and punk musician, left a career in finance in 1996 to see if he could build a career out of his cooking talent.

In November 1999, Stephen and his brother Philip took over The Sportsman with the intention of serving good food in relaxed and informal surroundings, just three miles down the road from his hometown of Whitstable.

Stephen transformed a pub in a remote marshland coastal setting into an internationally acclaimed restaurant, serving innovative regional cuisine to create a destination restaurant that has earned it the top spot in Britain - and a cult following around the world. The menu is 'a showcase for local produce' and seasonal ingredients attracting chefs from all over the world to a little pub on the English coast.

Alongside its Michelin star, The Sportsman has garnered many awards and accolades over the past 16 years including Best Restaurant at the National Restaurant Awards in both 2016 and 2017 and most recently Restaurant of the Year 2024 in The Good Food Guide. He was also a cookery writer for the Telegraph between 2015 and 2021 and won the title of Cookery Writer of the Year in the Guild of Food Writers Awards 2016.

**ALEX PERKINS** is a former leader of Canterbury City Council (CCC).

Alex was born in Hertfordshire in 1964 before moving to Canterbury at the age of 10. After working at the original Marlowe Theatre in the 1980s and working briefly in the West End, Alex returned to Canterbury where he played in various bands as a musician and singer. In 1987 at the age of 23 Alex was elected to CCC as member for the city centre ward as a Liberal Democrat.

Alex studied history at the University of Kent as a mature student between 1991 and 1996, including brief periods studying overseas in Jyväskylä (Finland) and Berlin.

In 2002, Alex was elected leader of CCC as the head of a LibDem/Labour coalition and set about a program of regeneration of the district through investment in culture. During Alex's time as leader of CCC, the city attracted the Tour de France, applied to be Capital of Culture and introduced district-wide recycling. The city also adopted a regeneration masterplan centred around building the new purpose-built Marlowe Theatre that we see today and the construction of The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge in Canterbury High Street.

A huge number of local community projects were also given priority and funding attracted to the city and district during this time, including the prioritisation of attracting outside funding to support deprived areas of the district, and the provision of a Surestart Centre, and a new public safety unit.

Subsequently Alex became leader of the opposition on the city council. Alex stepped down from the city council after three decades representing Westgate and Wincheap wards. It was then that he returned to work for his alma mater, the University of Kent, as Global Alumni Engagement Manager.

Alex is a proud father and grandfather, and husband to his wife Jo - an NHS communications manager and the founder and manager of Canterbury Old Bags senior women's football team.