RIOT Offspring – catalogue entry

The key attractions of working on RIOT Offspring included the performers, ranging from babies with their young mothers to the Company of Elders ( 92 is the eldest), with children, teenagers and young ‘emerging artists’ in between. In addition, there was Sadler’s Wells commitment to professional production values for community based work, and finally that there were five choreographers, a strategic decision by Creative Producer Jane Hackett. This necessitated a sharing of ideas, not just one person’s vision, reflecting the values in some of the positive responses to the riots in London and the UK in August 2011; this was in contrast to the riots the Rite of Spring ballet incited over 100 years ago.

This job required precision and organisation. There were numerous costume changes, progressing from colour to all white; mass shopping for 100 dancers, with 5 different group ‘looks’ and speed fittings. Above all, the costumes had to meet with the approval of the performers to support their sharing of imagination and experiences.