



NEW/ADVENTURES

DOORSTEP DUETS 2026

MEET THE CHOREOGRAPHER

Growing Through Time: The Inspiration Behind “The Bench”

Have you ever sat on a park bench and wondered who came before you, who might come after, what they were thinking, and what hopes and fears they were hiding?

The Bench, by choreographer Glenn Graham and performed by stars of Matthew Bourne’s New Adventures, tells the story of three people whose lives overlap in unexpected ways. It is a poetic and moving exploration of memory, connection, and the quiet moments that shape us.

A Conversation with Glenn Graham

Q. What does the project mean to you? A: Doorstep Duets holds a special place in my heart. It acts as a platform that bridges the gap between artists and the community, giving access to high-quality art for people who might not otherwise experience it. It helps audiences feel part of something, opening their imagination and exposing them to dance and theatre that they may not always feel included in.

I know for certain that if Doorstep Duets had come to my hometown of Nottingham in the 1980s, I genuinely believe I would have started dancing much earlier than I did. I also love that the programme reaches such a wide range of communities, particularly elderly audiences and people in refugee centres. Everyone should be able to access dance and theatre, regardless of background or circumstance.

Q: What inspired you to make The Bench? A: The idea came about when I was sitting on a bench in Victoria Park, London. It got me thinking, wondering how different the lives of people from different generations who sat on the exact same bench were. It made me wonder about the lives of the people who had sat on the bench before me, and those who would sit there after me.

Q: How does it feel to be returning to Doorstep Duets once again as choreographer?

A: I feel incredibly lucky to have been invited back again. I think there are a lot of lessons I learned from the first time that I can now apply the second time around. It's such a unique experience to build on that experience a second time. It's a wonderful thing. I know how much this initiative means to our communities. Seeing some of the responses from the last time I did it really helps me reflect and feel full of gratitude to be part of something that's embedded in people's lives.

Q: What makes this piece ideal for Doorstop Duets? A: We all have a history, a past. I think sometimes we don't look back enough, remembering the good and the bad things that have happened in our personal lives. When I think about certain situations and how I've overcome them, looking back makes me proud to have managed to get through difficult periods. I hope that this piece will be even more relatable.

Q: What will audiences think and feel when watching this piece? A: That's an interesting question. It's not something I feel I can answer because we all view art and theatre subjectively. I hope I have provoked thought, and that they feel they may relate to at least one of the characters' stories. The theme is growth this year, and I hope that thread will be clear.