

Women Dancing VIII

Spring Equinox 2022

We Gather at Dawn
On Sunday March 20th 2022
At Swansea Bay, South Wales, UK.

(Alternatively, you are welcome to organise your own Women Dancing wherever you are in the world!)



Join us for the 8th Annual 'Women Dancing' to Patti Smith's album 'HORSES'

We invite all **women** who love moving, dancing and generally being alive to join us in Women Dancing. Women Dancing is a radical act of celebratory activism which marks the Spring Equinox on **Sunday March 20th 2021** in the Northern Hemisphere (Autumn Equinox in the Southern Hemisphere).

We shall begin dancing in Swansea at precisely **6am local time** and **dance the sun up** - check for exact time of sunrise wherever you are! We will arrive, gather and be ready for 5.45 to ensure we are in time to begin!

This is a **dance of gratitude** for the cycles of nature - to the sun for coming up, and Spring for coming around.

The invitation is to **put on a black dress and dance** to **Patti Smith's** iconic album '**Horses**' – the music represents a meditation on life, death and memory. It's both an incantation and prayer. For over forty years 'Horses' has represented one of the most powerful musical statements ever made.



This is similar to 'silent disco' in that we will all listen to the same music through headphones, dancing to the same tracks in the same order at the same time. The invitation is to dance alone or dance with others (within current covid protocol guidelines). This is freestyle dancing – waving arms and legs, contemporary, extemporary, po-go, whatever. It's not about the choreography it's about **letting yourself be danced** and letting your soul play.



Location & Logistics

The location is on the beach at the heart of Swansea Bay directly in front of a café called 'The Secret' (formerly '360'). There is parking immediately next to the café. From here walk down the steps onto the beach and you will find us! It will be high tide at the time of our dance so there will be plenty of sea and sky and (if clear) a good view of the sunrise! [Directions to 'The Secret' and parking is here.](#) The address and postcode closest to the beach to head for is Mumbles Road, Brynmill. Swansea SA2 0AY.

Bring a flask and warm clothes to wear after the dance... There may be a fire, there may be a walk to Mumbles for breakfast...

Women Dancing will happen whatever the weather! All you need to do in advance is download **'Horses'** onto your music device, get yourself a black dress, decide where you want to dance, who with and turn up at Swansea Beach OR at your chosen place in time for the dance to begin. We all **press 'PLAY' at exactly 6am** to ensure we keep a collective timing. The album lasts for **43 minutes and 10 seconds**.

We welcome you whether you love dancing but never do, or love dancing and do so at every possible opportunity. This is about dancing for the joy of it, dancing because your soul needs to or dancing because that's the only thing you can do in this time of global confusion and chaos.

We welcome you if you are in your first decade or your last. It's about the feel not the look of what we do. This is not a spectator sport nor is it a charity event or a world record-breaking contender. There may be two of us, there may be two hundred. Those of us that turn up will be the right ones.

Dance for the earth, the sky, the sun, someone you love or someone you've lost.



**There is no cost to participate.
This is a free pop-up RitualArtwork.**

Please forward this invitation to anyone who you think would like to join the dance in Swansea or elsewhere. Women Dancing welcomes those who identify as women and non-binary.

Women Dancing was Born in Wales.

In previous years, Women Dancing has happened at Caswell Bay on Gower, Ynys Las Beach near Borth, Dinefwr Castle in Llandeilo, Llyn Cau on Cadair Idris, Castell y Bere in Tywyn, Glaslyn in Mid Wales, in various locations in Sweden and Canada and in many other unknown and out of the way places.

The Archive...

Women Dancing 2021

Alone: <https://vimeo.com/527741377>

Together: <https://vimeo.com/533182042>

Women Dancing 2020

<https://vimeo.com/399457479>

Women Dancing 2019

<https://vimeo.com/327424962>

Women Dancing 2018

<https://vimeo.com/410958345>

Fern Smith speaks about the spirit of Women Dancing Here

<https://vimeo.com/534892674/f15922eb4a>

(With gratitude to Eleanor Brown for making all the films)

Socially distanced, creatively connected.

Though the pandemic might cause us to be 'socially distanced' we shall be creatively connected in our collective dance. Please follow local Covid guidance.

Women Dancing is an Emergence Initiative

www.emergence-uk.org