**BILETA 2013 “Our Digital Futures: Technologies Without Boundaries”**

**Submission for Intellectual Property and Innovation Stream of “Technology, Innovation and Justice”**

**Title: Dance, Disability and the Law: an interdisciplinary approach to creativity**

**Background:** This paper will introduce “InVisible Difference”. This is a 3 year project, starting in January 2013, which is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. A key part of this project explores the existing and potential contribution which copyright and human rights law can make to the reward and respect of dance practitioners with disabilities. The wider project will engage with empirical work involving dance practitioners with disabilities and dance scholars, and will contribute to proposals for a new form of engagement with cultural industries and policymakers.

**Framework:** This paper will explore the extent to which copyright and human rights regimes engage with disability and laws relating to it. It will discuss human rights in respect of the protection of the moral and material interests of the author, sharing in cultural life, freedom of expression and prevention from discrimination, building on rights in international and European instruments.

**Argument:** The paper will explore the extent to which opportunities or impediments might be presented by arguments based on the right to property. Further, what is the relationship between dance and copyright? What arguments can and should be made regarding authorship and control of dance? Should a different approach be taken to the work of dancers who are able bodied and those who have a disability? And can a human rights based approach enhance the prospects of this coming about?

The paper will present initial research findings and looks forward to a stimulating discussion as to how the work might proceed, and to establish links with those who may be interested in forming part of the wider research network of the project.

To contextualize the research, the presentation will begin with a showing of a film from YouTube “A Casting Exploration”. This shows, in parallel, two performances of the dance “Love Games; a duet involving in one performance a female dancer with disabilities and the other a female dancer with no disabilities, accompanied by the same male dancer .

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