



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 11, July 2017

Country's top dance talent heading to Hull

Some of the region's most talented and promising dancers will be performing with the National Youth Dance Company (NYDC), the country's flagship organisation for young dancers, at a special show in Hull next week.

NYDC is currently touring the country with *Tarantiseismic*, a new production by the company's Guest Artistic Director Damien Jalet, and on Thursday July 20 the company will stop off at Middleton Hall at the University of Hull as part of the Hull UK City of Culture 2017 programme.

This year's diverse cohort of 39 young dancers perform *Tarantiseismic*, a unique piece of theatre which addresses themes of melancholia, ritual, control and abandon.

To celebrate Hull 2017 and build on engagement for NYDC across the region a new sister company was created: NYDC - Hull.

This new company of dancers aged 15-18 has been working with local dance companies from across the Hull and East Riding region, JoinedUp Dance Company and Lo:cus Dance Theatre, to create a new dance piece inspired by *Tarantiseismic*.

The project is a partnership between NYDC, Hull City Council Arts Development Team and the Hull and East Riding Dance Hub.

NYDC - Hull's performance, *Unity*, will explore how individuals come together to show the spirit, fight and determination needed to overcome unforeseen circumstances. Through movement and space, the dancers stand side by side to create an overwhelming feeling of compassion and unity as they turn to strangers for support and comfort, looking to stand together in solidarity and join forces in a time of need.

NYDC - Hull will be performing alongside the main NYDC company at the Hull tour date on 20 July at Middleton Hall and also at the NYDC Graduation at Sadler's Wells on 23 July.

The performance at the University of Hull starts at 7pm with tickets priced between £6 and £12. You can book tickets on the Hull 2017 website, www.hull2017.co.uk/events/national-youth-dance-company-tarantiseismic

As part of the project, NYDC - Hull dancers and artists also had the opportunity to observe NYDC during their Easter residency at DanceEast in Ipswich, watch the NYDC premiere of *Tarantiseismic* at Sadler's Wells in London and take part in two days of workshops with NYDC dancers in Hull.

Now in its fifth year, NYDC has established a reputation for innovative, challenging and influential work, producing open-minded, curious and brave dancers.

The company brings together the brightest talent from across England, immersing the members fully in the process of creating, performing and touring new work, giving them a unique insight into the dance profession.

NYDC has a track record of putting young people on paths to successful dance careers, with over 80% of all former NYDC dancers now either in further dance studies, in vocational training or working professionally.

Marianne Lewsley-Stier, University of Hull Programme and Partnership Manager, City of Culture Campus 2017, said: “This will continue Middleton Hall’s heritage as a venue for dance and performing arts - from grassroots dance events for the region’s children, to more well-established acts such as Tarantiseismic.”

Damien Jalet is a French and Belgian choreographer and dancer. He has worked as a dancer for several companies such as Les Ballets C de la B and Wim Vandekeybus.

He has been involved in many collaborations with companies such as Eastman, Chunky Move, Icelandic Dance Company, Akram Khan, Erna Omarsdottir and Sasha Waltz.

Recent projects include Babel (Words), which won the Olivier Award for Best Dance Production in 2011, les méduses, an itinerary installation inside Louvre museum in Paris with 30 artists.

He worked with Hussein Chalayan on the Sadler’s Wells production Gravity Fatigue and a restaging of Ravel’s Bolero for the Paris Opera Ballet - a collaboration with Marina Abramovic and Cherkaoui.

Jalet is entitled ‘Chevalier de l’ordre des arts et des lettres’ by the French government and is a laureate 2015 of the Kujoyama residency in Kyoto.

Martin Green, Director of Hull 2017, said: “It’s great to have the National Youth Dance Company performing in Hull next week, and even better to see young performers from the city and the East Riding involved.

“The region is full of talented artists and performers and in 2017 the spotlight is well and truly on them - it’s great to see those performers grabbing the opportunity with both hands.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT NATIONAL YOUTH DANCE COMPANY

Founded in 2012, and hosted at Sadler’s Wells, NYDC is an exciting young company that creates and performs innovative and influential dance, drawing together some of the brightest young talent from across the country to work with Sadler’s Wells’ internationally renowned Associate Artists. NYDC is funded jointly by Arts Council England and the Department for Education, from the National Lottery and Grant in Aid funds.

Since NYDC's inception in 2012:

- 150 dancers have joined the company, working intensively with renowned dance artists including Guest Artistic Directors: Jasmin Vardimon (2012-13), Akram Khan (2013-14) and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (2014-15) and Michael Keegan Dolan (2015-16). These 150 dancers come from over 60 different towns and cities in England.
- Over 2000 young people have worked with the company
- NYDC has delivered 87 workshops in 32 different venues across 22 towns and cities
- Over 30,000 people have seen the company perform
- NYDC has featured in 47 performances, visiting 20 different venues across the UK, including some leading theatres in the country.

ABOUT SADLER'S WELLS

Sadler's Wells is a world-leading dance house, committed to producing, commissioning and presenting new works and to bringing the best international and UK dance to London and worldwide audiences. Under the Artistic Directorship of Alistair Spalding, the theatre's acclaimed year-round programme spans dance of every kind, from contemporary to flamenco, Bollywood to ballet, salsa to street dance and tango to tap.

Since 2005, it has helped to bring over 130 new dance works to the stage and its award-winning commissions and collaborative productions regularly tour internationally. Sadler's Wells supports 16 Associate Artists, three Resident Companies, an Associate Company and three International Associate Companies. It also nurtures the next generation of talent through research and development, running the National Youth Dance Company and a range of programmes including Wild Card, New Wave Associates, Open Art Surgery and Summer University.

Located in Islington, north London, the current theatre is the sixth to have stood on the site since it was first built by Richard Sadler in 1683. The venue has played an illustrious role in the history of theatre ever since, with The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet and English National Opera all having started at Sadler's Wells. Sadler's Wells is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation and currently receives approximately 9% of its revenue from Arts Council England.

ABOUT JOINEDUP

JoinedUp Dance Company was established in 2015 and works regularly with Hull Dance. It has developed a strong reputation for creating accessible, high energy performances with original music scores. Its work often brings together different art forms. The company features regularly in the annual Hull Dance Prize and will be performing a new piece at the end of September as part of the BBC/2017 Contains Strong Language weekend. It is also working with the National Youth Dance Company to develop links in Hull. Its team of highly skilled dancers engage with primary and secondary schools, colleges and youth and community groups to encourage young people to consider a career in dance.

ABOUT LO:CUS

LO:CUS Dance Theatre was established in 2015 and works regularly with Hull Dance, including audience prize winners at Hull Dance Prize two years running! They are an all-female dance quartet from Hull who use the combination of dance and theatre to explore the physical and artistic realms of performance via the collaboration of their individual talents and choreographic preferences. They have also been supported as an emerging company by Hull and East Riding Dance Hub which involved them developing a new piece of work which also engaged young people in a final performance at Creative Voice Dance.

ABOUT HULL AND EAST RIDING DANCE HUB

Hull and East Riding Dance Hub is led by Hull City Council and Hull College with funding and support from Yorkshire Dance. It meets to support the development of professional community dance practice with a focus on inclusive work.

About Hull UK City of Culture

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 is a 365 day programme of cultural events and creativity inspired by the city and told to the world. Hull secured the title of UK City of Culture 2017 in November 2013. It is only the second city to hold the title and the first in England.

Divided into four seasons, starting with **Made in Hull**, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have made such a significant contribution to the development of art and ideas. Hull 2017's second season, **Roots and Routes**, runs from April to June and explore Hull's unique place as a gateway to Europe and one of the world's busiest ports. Its maritime history and global connections inspire the stories of the city; this season of work will also celebrate Hull's international links, including Rotterdam, Reykjavik and Freetown.

Freedom runs from July to September. Building on the legacy of Hull-born anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce MP, *Freedom* will explore the concept of freedom in all its many forms. The final season, **Tell the World** will run from October to December.

The Culture Company was set up to deliver the Hull 2017 programme and is an independent organisation with charitable status. It has raised £32 million, with over 70 partners supporting the project, including public bodies, trusts and foundations and local and national businesses.

Key contributions are coming from: **Host City** - Hull City Council; **Principal Partners** - Arts Council England, BBC, Big Lottery Fund, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, KCOM, KWL, Spirit of 2012, Yorkshire Water and the University of Hull; **Major Partners** - Associated British Ports, Arco, BP, the British Council, British Film Institute, Green Port Hull, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, P&O Ferries, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Siemens, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group. The National Lottery has contributed more than £10m of this funding, making it the largest single funding body for Hull 2017.

68 per cent of the funding is dedicated to public facing activities, including the widest range of cultural events in every corner of the city, with a further 11 per cent for legacy and contingency. More than £5 million is being invested in volunteering, learning and community engagement. £1.6 million is being invested to ensure a legacy after 2017. This includes capacity building, such as supporting existing events so they can grow, staging curtain-raiser events, developing future programming for after 2017 and building a new platform to support a unified ticketing system for the city.

Hull 2017's International Partners are: Aarhus, Denmark, which is European Capital of Culture 2017; Reykjavik, Iceland; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Freetown, Sierra Leone (twinned with Hull). These relationships are reflected in a number of events throughout the year.

For information go to www.hull2017.co.uk

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