



PRESS RELEASE

19 October 2017

★★★★ “Bringing hip hop into thrillingly new terrain” *THE GUARDIAN*

★★★★ “This is the new generation of street dance” *THE TIMES*

★★★★ “A talent to watch” *EVENING STANDARD*

Emotionally charged hip hop show exploring gender dysphoria comes *Back To Ours*

A hip-hop theatre show exploring one boy’s intimate journey of gender transition, directed by an award-winning choreographer who has worked with the likes of Lady Gaga and Coldplay, is heading to Hull.

After a sell-out international tour of their production *Smother*, 201 Dance Company’s contemporary hip-hop style returns with *SKIN* a journey of self-discovery as part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017’s *Back to Ours* festival.

Blending urban and contemporary styles and original music, *SKIN* is a fast paced, emotionally driven story of identity and belonging.

Crafting the choreography is the founder of 201 Andrea Walker, who recently choreographed and danced Ebony Bones’ tour and opened Lady Gaga’s Born This Way Foundation Show in Miami.

Andrea - who has also worked with Coldplay, Aggro Santos, Kimberly Walsh (Girls Aloud), Impact Dance (Peacock Theatre), Xbox, T-Mobile, Martini and D&G - directs a cast of seven dancers, whose credits include Britain’s Got Talent, MTV and N Dubz.

Andrea said: “*SKIN* follows a trans boy’s journey of belonging and acceptance that many of us will find familiar. We see his battles with anxiety, family and ideologies imposed by today’s society. It’s become something very emotional that anyone who has ever felt out of place will be able to relate to.

“LGBTQ themes are not usually tackled through urban dance, so it’s a boundary I purposely set out to break. I like to tell stories that expose issues in an accessible way. Hip-hop makes this possible, and I believe LGBTQ stories now need to be told more than ever.”

He added: “The show is a real rollercoaster of emotions, with some powerful choreography and genuine performances.

“If you didn’t think hip-hop could make you cry, you might be in for a surprise.”

SKIN will be performed from Tuesday 31 October (7.30pm) to Wednesday 1 November (2pm & 7.30pm) at Winifred Holtby Academy. Tickets, which cost £2.50 for children and £5 for adults, are available from www.hull2017.co.uk/backtoours

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NOTES TO EDITORS

SKIN

201 Dance Company has created a buzz with their vibrant dance-theatre that crosses genres. They are driven to confront issues and challenge social prejudices. The company has performed to much acclaim in New York at the Manhattan Movement Center and New York Symphony Space, had two consecutive sell-out years at Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and won an outstanding award for choreography developed at The Broadway Dance Center. Their sell-out show 'Smother' is currently touring the UK. In August 2015 choreographer Andrea Walker was nominated for an Inspire: Change Maker Award by London Dance.

ANDREA WALKER - DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER

Andrea Walker is the founder and artistic director of 201 Dance Company. London based, he began dancing aged 14 in Rome, Italy, and continued his study and exploration of dance at The Metropolitan Arts Institute in Phoenix, Arizona (USA), and at The Broadway Dance Center in New York City, from which he graduated with a Certificate of Excellence and winning the Outstanding Award for Concept Choreography. Most recently, he choreographed and danced Ebony Bones' tour, and opened Lady Gaga's *Born This Way* Foundation Show in Miami with the band. Other credits include Coldplay, Aggro Santos, Kimberly Walsh (Girls Aloud), Impact Dance (Peacock Theatre), Xbox, T-Mobile, Martini and D&G.

KIT REDSTONE - DRAMATURG

Kit has also written a play about masculinity called Testosterone, which he co-created with Rhum and Clay Theatre Company. It was shortlisted for The Oxford Samuel Beckett Award and selected as part of The British Council Showcase. He also wrote The Word Was God, an absurdist love story between a transgender man and a call centre operative which premiered at Graz's National Theatre, Austria.

LUCA CATOGGIO - DANCER

Luca has danced on last year's ITV's Britain's Got Talent, and has appeared on commercials for big brands such as HP.

OLIVIA ROSE SHOULDER - DANCER

Olivia dances regularly for renown hip-hop company Boy Blue Ent. Recently, she was a dancer for Warner Brother's licensing awards, MTV's Super Sweet 16 and a backing dancer for Simon Webb, N-Dubz and So Solid Crew.

PATRICK COLLIER - PRODUCER

Patrick is a London based theatre producer. Other recent work includes Graeae Theatre's "Re:Imagine India" Project (part of the UK/India year of culture), Theatre Temoin's 'The Marked' (Pleasance King Dome 2016), Access All Areas' 'The Misfit Analysis' (VAULT Festival 2016, Pleasance and touring 2015), Sparkle and Dark's 'I Am Beast' (Pleasance 2015), Fourth Monkey Ensemble's 'Elephant Man' (touring 2014-15), Sparkle and Dark's 'Killing Roger' (touring 2014), Theatre Témoïn's 'The Fantasist' (London, Edinburgh and touring 2011-2013), Access All Areas' 'Eye Queue Hear' (touring 2013-15), Theatre Témoïn's 'Nineveh' (Riverside Studios London 2013), Theatre Re's 'The Little Soldiers' (Pleasance Queen Dome 2013), Metta Theatre's 'Monkey & Crocodile' (Touring 2013), 'The Rub' for the New York's Tremor Theatre Collective (New Orleans 2012), and Iris Theatre's 'As You Like It' (Covent Garden Open Air Theatre 2012). Patrick trained at Trinity College Dublin and is a recipient of the Natwest Young Producer's bursary.

WEB: 201dancecompany.com



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Hull UK City of Culture 2017

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, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have contributed to the development of art and ideas.

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.

For information go to www.hull2017.co.uk Follow us on Twitter @2017Hull Instagram @2017hull Facebook HullCityofCulture