



NRTF in association with  
China Plate, Take Art and The Place  
present the **Rural Touring**  
**Dance Initiative's** first

# DANCE PERFORMANCE MENU

Covering September 2016 - April 2017

## Welcome to the National Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI) first Dance Performance Menu



The National Rural Touring Forum has joined forces with The Place, Take Art and China Plate to launch a brand new 3-year initiative for making and touring dance performances to and for rural areas. The project has been made possible by a grant from Arts Council England's Lottery funded Strategic Touring Programme.

Four of the 8 companies selected for this first menu; **Panta Rei**, **Phoenix Dance**, **Spiltmilk** and **Sonia Sabri Company**, were pre-selected as part of the biennial New Directions showcase 2014. The other four companies; **Joan Clevillé Dance**, **Lila Dance**, **Lost Dog** and **Protein**, applied as part of the open call which saw 155 companies and independent artists apply to be part of the menu.

Several touring schemes advised on the selection process and we are delighted by the range and quality of work on offer.

Many of you will have seen extracts of performances by Panta Rei, Phoenix, Sonia Sabri and Spiltmilk at New Directions in York in 2014. Both Panta Rei and Spiltmilk will be offering two shows apiece – ones that were showcased in York alongside new shows. Phoenix will be curating an evening of dance drawing on their repertoire and Sonia Sabri are offering a new show.

A further four companies are touring shows that have already been made and which have been adapted, with support from the project, to work in rural venues. Again some of you will have seen their featured shows and you will read quotes from rural touring scheme staff and promoters peppering the copy for each show.

While the cost and resourcing of the different shows might vary from company to company, you will see that the cost of most performances remains constant at £600. This is the figure that the local touring scheme combined with each rural community will be contracted to pay and is based on offering an opportunity for you to book all the companies on an equal basis.

*Photo: Joan Clevillé Dance, by Nicole Guarino*

## Eddie Nixon writes about how dance is changing...

There's been a bit of a 'chicken and egg' scenario with dance and the rural touring circuit. Most small-scale dance is made for black-box theatres and they don't easily adapt to other kinds of spaces. This means that there are a very small number of dance shows touring rurally. So because there are so few opportunities to perform rurally, choreographers don't really make shows that can work in that context. Whichever came first, the upshot is that lots of audiences are not getting the chance to see some really great shows.

This initiative is going to break this cycle. We've selected some of the best dance makers and if we get their shows touring successfully to your venues then we are pretty confident that more and more dance companies will sit up, take notice and start to create shows designed for rural places. So we've picked shows that we know will work. Not just technically – although we are making sure of that – but also because of the content.

**Dance has changed.** This definitely isn't a menu of traditional 'contemporary dance', it's not 'experimental' either. Very few choreographers making shows these days rely on abstract movements and gestures to convey meaning. They want to tell stories and are determined to use all kinds of tools – spoken word, humour, live music, stage design, songs, food

and community casts – to make themselves understood.

This doesn't mean these shows are some kind of incomprehensible, cross-genre stew either. Instead what makes them impressive isn't only the high calibre of the dancing but it's the way they draw on many different elements with consummate skill. Their virtuosity might exist as much in the timing of a joke or the structure of the script as in the athleticism of the performers. There are no secret codes to be understood or complex narratives hidden inside an incomprehensible language of movement. They aren't going to leave anyone searching for the 'meaning'. **These are just performances that will make audiences laugh, cry, gasp, clap and think as much as any theatre show or music gig.** You could argue that some of the shows defy the stereotypical label of 'dance' completely.

This menu provides a rich spectrum of dance. Within it there is scope to choose physical performances that will give audiences an entirely unexpected experience. We want people to be talking about dance shows like never before and we hope you'll join us in this by making some bold choices from the menu.



*Photo: Sonia Sabri Company*



Photo: Spiltmilk Dance by James Dodd

## BOOKING SHOWS – RELEVANT TO SCHEMES

**There is a separate booking form included with the menu.** Please note that we are working to a timeline which has been requested by the dance companies to enable them to contract dancers well in advance of bookings. **We are aware that this might not fit into some schemes' customary booking timeline.**

The deadline for confirmed bookings is **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016**, allowing time for information to be circulated to promoters, choices and options discussed by schemes with promoters and returning of the booking form with your decisions by the deadline. We will then create a series of touring schedules for each company, aiming to offer schemes as many first choice options and dates as possible. Schemes may find it useful to speak to fellow schemes in their region and beyond to co-ordinate shared interests. We aim to confirm touring dates by the end of March 2016.

We aim to offer companies as much certainty as possible with bookings and wish to avoid 'grey areas' where dates are taken by schemes and subsequently cancelled due to a lack of take up from village promoters. We hope we have given schemes adequate time to discuss the programme with local promoters. Therefore the expectation is that once a show has been allocated to a scheme they will find a venue and audience for it.

Please list the companies (and preferred touring dates for that company) that your scheme wishes to book in order of preference. In order to moderate and plan national tours it may not be possible to offer you your first choice company or date. Please consider taking mid-week dates which will help to make tours viable and in the case of Lila Dance we are looking to book two performance and residency packages in a six-day week.

Please only indicate the companies that you are definitely interested in and indicate the total number of shows that you would ideally like to book. We are planning to support 50 shows over the first touring period and it may be possible to offer approximately 1 to 4 supported shows per touring scheme depending on scheme demand. It may be possible for you to book extra shows at a full fee cost and we can support you in your discussions with the companies. There will be a contract between the scheme and the NRTF relating to bookings and schemes will pay the agreed fee to the NRTF.

If you have any questions please phone or email Claire to talk through your queries: [claire@nrtf.org.uk](mailto:claire@nrtf.org.uk).

## WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Each company will be offering 'wraparound' activity for each of their shows and this will vary from show to show. This could take the form of a workshop for people local to the venue in advance of a show and/or an informal post-show discussion with the artists. It is important schemes commit to these activities alongside the shows.

## NRTF RESPONSIBILITIES

The NRTF will be responsible for providing financial support for shows, contracting and paying companies, providing marketing support and resources, liaising on tour dates with companies and schemes, collating data and evaluating success of tours. Please also see additional support noted over the page.

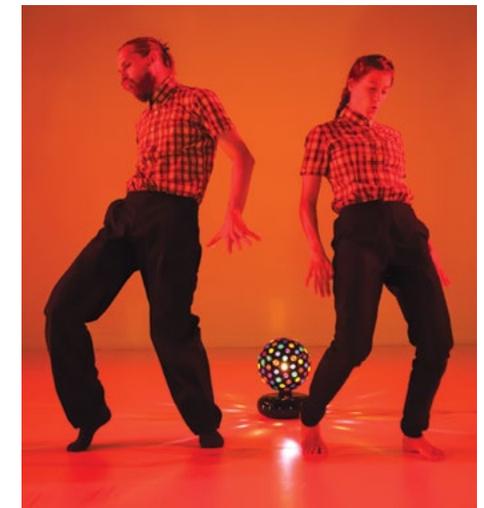
## SCHEME RESPONSIBILITIES

For those schemes that wrote a letter of support, your commitment is to take at least one performance from each menu. You will also enter into a contract with the NRTF to pay the agreed fee for each performance.

We have appointed Annabel Jackson Associates to be the project evaluator and we will ask you to participate in a limited amount of quantitative data collection (such as audience data for each performance) and qualitative evaluation at both audience and scheme level.

Our overall target for average audience attendance is 50 and we would like to exceed this; Claire and the partners will work with you, the companies and the local promoters to achieve successful, high quality experiences for audiences and a growing interest in dance performance.

Photo: Joan Cleville Dance, by Maria Falconer





### VILLAGE PROMOTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Promoters are responsible for choosing, booking, publicising (locally) and selling tickets for shows; ensuring venues are safe, accessible and comply with all insurance and licensing regulations; liaising with companies leading up to performances and managing the show on the day; hosting the companies if appropriate and paying the local scheme an agreed fee.

### TICKET PRICES

Final ticket prices decisions rest with the scheme and local promoter. We are keen to value the professionalism of the companies while at the same time understand there might be local circumstances that might influence your decision on ticket prices.

### MARKETING

Companies will send posters and fliers to each promoter direct. Companies will send schemes a press release for them to distribute to local promoters well in advance of performances. In addition to the publicity the companies will provide, we are offering further support to market the shows and support

the promoter to sell tickets. These include NRTF grants for scheme staff and local promoters:

- To visit other schemes who are marketing dance shows to see how they do it
- For other schemes to visit you to advise you on how to sell tickets
- To see the show prior to your performance if dates are available
- To see shows at the annual NRTF Conference if they are programmed.

Furthermore:

- Claire will also be on hand to support you on a bespoke basis
- There will be a national PR and social media campaign to promote the tours.

**We all hope you are excited by the offer and look forward to working with you,**

**Claire Smith**, Project Manager

([claire@nrtf.org.uk](mailto:claire@nrtf.org.uk))

**Ralph Lister**, NRTF

**Ed Collier**, China Plate

**Katey Leader**, Take Art

**Eddie Nixon, Christina Elliot and**

**Catherine Greenwood**, The Place



Photos, clockwise from top left: Lila Dance, by James Rowbotham; Protien by Chris Nash; Lila Dance; Panta Rei, by Trine Simnes.



## JOAN CLEVILLÉ DANCE: Plan B for Utopia

You have a plan, and then you don't. You have a dream, and then you wake up. You fall in love, and your heart gets broken. The question is: do you pick up the pieces and try again?

**Plan B for Utopia** is a playful and uplifting dance theatre work by Scotland-based company Joan Clevillé Dance. It's a show about how we choose to live our lives; about having a dream, giving it up and trying again, but above all, it's a story about friendship. Mixing dance, theatre and storytelling with a good dose of humour, the performance features classic songs like 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow', 'When You Wish Upon a Star' and 'What a Wonderful World'.

*"It made me laugh and it made me cry - this show was excellent, and up there with the best I saw suitable for rural touring at the Edinburgh Fringe"*

**Emyr Bell, North East Arts Touring network**

*"Plan B for Utopia asks a series of big questions and then distills them down using dance, theatre and spoken word to explore the notion of utopia and what it means for you. The movement is explosive, funny... with great energy and charisma. It is a very playful show."*

**Lyndsey Wilson, Spot On Lancashire**

### SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 60 min (no interval)
- **Min. performance space (width x depth):** 7m x 7m
- **Performed:** on stage or on the floor
- **Get-in / get-out:** 7 hours (negotiable) / 1 hour
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes
- **Accommodation required?** For 4 please
- **Target audience:** 9+
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** Ideally we require a wooden sprung or semi-sprung floor. The company tours its own dance floor that will be laid on top. The seating configuration can be adapted to maximise sight-lines according to each venue. We use a smoke-machine during the show, so any fire-alarm system needs to be switched off during the afternoon tech rehearsal and performance.
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £600
- **Website:** [www.joanclevilledance.com](http://www.joanclevilledance.com) / <https://vimeo.com/132943878>
- Supported by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland

### DATES AVAILABLE

- **2016:** 12-15 Oct / 26-29 Oct / 2-5 Nov
- **2017:** 8-11 Feb / 15-18 Feb / 22-25 Feb

### WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

#### Post-show talk

Meet the dancers and the choreographer after the performance for an informal talk, where everyone will have a chance to ask questions and share their feelings and thoughts about what happened on stage. The company will share a chocolate birthday cake which is featured during the show!

#### Interactive installation

Take a 'selfie' wearing one of the show's costumes, write a wish and hang it on our wish wall or have a go at building a castle in the air. Joan Clevillé Dance will transform the performance space before and after the show with an interactive installation made up of props, texts and images giving some context and information about the themes of the piece in a playful way.

#### Creative dance workshops

Available on the day of the performance in a nearby space. Join Joan Clevillé Dance for a creative dance session and feel energised, inspired and connected to your body! This inclusive workshop will be based on **Plan B for Utopia**, exploring the role of creativity and imagination as a catalyst for change. Come on your own, with friends or your family. No previous experience required, for all abilities / ages 9+. Workshop lasts 75mins, for up to 25 people.



## LOST DOG: Paradise Lost (lies unopened beside me)

A one man staging of Milton's epic poem **Paradise Lost** and not like whatever came into your head when you read the first bit of that sentence. Combining theatre, comedy and movement this is a journey through the story of the creation of everything, condensed into 75 minutes.

It is a show which brings you the highlights of this well known but often forgotten story beginning with Lucifer's rebellion and ending with Adam and Eve's expulsion from the garden of Eden. A single man plays all the characters, creates all the scenes and, despite his best efforts, falls a little short of perfection. Things don't always turn out as planned and as the performer struggles to keep his offstage problems out of the picture the divine challenges he is trying to represent start to look surprisingly domestic.

**Paradise Lost (lies unopened beside me)** was shortlisted for a Total Theatre Award at Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2015.

Co-commissioned by The Place and Battersea Arts Centre with further commissioning support from ICIA Bath University. Developed with support from The Point, Eastleigh and South East Dance. Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Ben Duke is a Work Place artist.

### SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 75 minutes; no interval
- **Min. performance space (width x depth):** 6m x 6m
- **Performed:** On stage if big enough, otherwise on floor
- **Get-in / get-out:** 10 hours ideally / 1.5 hours
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes, though ideally an overhead bar and access to a nearby water source required
- **Accommodation required?** For 3 please
- **Target audience:** 14+
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £600
- **Website:** [www.lostdogdance.co.uk](http://www.lostdogdance.co.uk)
- **Trailer:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZg8kF2jVkg>

### DATES AVAILABLE

- **2016:** 29 & 30 Sept / 1, 5-8 and 12-15 Oct
- **2017:** w/c 22 Jan / 26-29 April / 3-6 and 10-13 May

### WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

**Post-show panel discussion** - Ben Duke, creator and performer of the show, along with a community panel, will lead an informal discussion, with refreshments including humus (the significance of which will become clear once the show has been seen). The show touches on many large themes: Christianity, the Bible, poetry, parenthood, and creation. We would like to invite members of the community who have a particular interest in these themes to form the panel to pose some questions, or discuss the ideas with Ben. Our ideal panel would be made up of a vicar, a poet and a parent. The discussion would last about 30 minutes, including time for the audience to ask any additional questions.

**Workshops** - Available on the day of the performance in a nearby space. Ben can offer a poetry workshop for community members - young people and adults. It will explore how we can create our own contemporary poetry using physical and written tasks and will also look at how poetry we consider old and boring can have huge relevance if we treat it with less respect.

*"This piece is a beautiful and humorous piece of classy storytelling. I know audiences will love it. Entertaining but thought provoking. Perfect!"*

**Claire Smith, Cheshire Rural Touring Arts**

*"The comedy is divine, but the images of love and loss are achingly human"*

**The Independent \*\*\*\*\***

*"In the role of God, with an interlude of Adam in a bodystocking and fig leaf, Ben is sometimes ridiculous, sometimes hilarious and always thought provoking."*

**The Church Times**



## PANTA REI: I Wish Her Well

**I Wish Her Well** is an intricate performance, combining storytelling, high tempo energy and an evocative sound score by British composer Nathaniel Reed that infuses the performance with melody and atmosphere. It is a captivating production that seeks to move and engage.

Act one is based on the stories of four women who are closely related to the dancers, whilst act two is based on the diaries of a 16 year-old girl. She is now an 85 year-old woman who generously shared her thoughts and experiences with the choreographers and dancers.

The production period took place in Norway, Sweden and Tanzania, culminating in a premiere performance for CODA Oslo International Dance Festival's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Dance House, Oslo, in 2012. After the premiere the performance has continued on tour in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, England, Zimbabwe and Tanzania. The tour continues in 2016-17.

### SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 60 mins (double bill 2 x 30 min pieces, with interval)
- **Min. performance space (width x depth x height):** 8m x 8m x 5m
- **Performed:** in the round, of two rows on all four sides (or three sides if four not possible).
- **Get-in / get-out:** 4-10 hours / 2 hours
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes. Sprung floor preferable, to be covered with black lino dance floor.
- **Accommodation required?** For 5, singles if possible please
- **Target audience:** All ages
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £750
- **Website:** [www.pantareidanseteater.com/en](http://www.pantareidanseteater.com/en)
- **Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/55344416>

### DATES AVAILABLE

- **2016:** 22 September - 10 October
- **2017:** February and March

### WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Available on the day of the performance in a nearby space. The company would like to work with each venue/promoter to create the best possible workshop/outreach activity tailored to the local communities' needs and wishes. The company can offer a 1 – 2 hour workshop on a theme related to the production such as storytelling or to the specific interests of the participants or meet the company. Maximum of 30 participants (ideal number 20) from ages 10+.

*"I just wanted to say a massive thank you for programming Panta Rei. They were incredible - such strong dancers and the choreography was so inspiring. Loved being so close to the action. A brilliant evening!"*

**Audience feedback at Dulverton, Somerset**



## PANTA REI: Lullaby

**Lullaby** presents three men to the audience who, through dance, demonstrate their power, strength, energy and also their aggression and humour. Accompanied by a beautiful live music counterpoint featuring piano and cello, the relationship men have with each other is played out through two pieces both of which are choreographed by women. The dancers are at the peak of their profession and explode with energy, verve, dexterity and fluidity throughout. The evening will leave audiences breathless, thoughtful and stimulated through a rich experience. During the interval the musicians will continue to play offering an additional dimension to the evening.

“How I wished during those sleepless hours that I belonged to a different nation, or better still, to none at all. Is constant movement the solution? Between night and day, is there still a lullaby that can comfort me?”

How I wished during those sleepless hours that I woke up from a bad dream. Is constant laughter the solution? Between night and day, is there a moment of relief we still can find comfort in?”

### SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 60 mins (double bill 2 x 30 min pieces, plus interval)
- **Min. performance space (width x depth x height):** 8m x 8m x 3m
- **Performed:** preferably in the round but can perform on stage or the floor.
- **Get-in / get-out:** 4-8 hours / 1-3 hours, depending on venue.
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes. Sprung floor preferable, to be covered with black lino dance floor. 30 chairs required if possible for the performance.
- **Accommodation required?** For 6, singles please
- **Target audience:** Recommended for ages 11+. Some venues might want to target boys in particular due to the theme.
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £850
- **Website:** [www.pantareidanseteater.com/en](http://www.pantareidanseteater.com/en)
- **Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/140560652>
- Co-produced and financed by Scenekunst Østfold with support from Nordre Aker Bydel, Oslo, Norway

### DATES AVAILABLE

- **2017:** January and February

### WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Available on the day of the performance in a nearby space. The company would like to work with each venue/promoter to create the best possible workshop/outreach activity tailored to the local communities' needs and wishes. A particular focus on men and boys in dance and a wider perspective on masculinity could be an interesting angle on the workshop. However, the theme lends itself well to work with both genders and all ages. Length of workshop should be tailored to each group. For ages 10+ and up to 30 participants.

*“A striking dance show with a cast of three dynamic and committed young male dancers... which explores progressively friendship, joshing, friction, needling and aggressive behaviour, and the dynamics of mediation between bickering factions. **Lullaby** provides a thought-provoking and contemporary metaphor for peace-keeping roles in current international politics. That may sound a bit hi-faluting for rural touring but it's not! And that is because Anna and Pia, the co-choreographers and directors of Panta Rei, go right to the heart (again) of pressing social and personal issues with an honesty which is startling.”*

**Tim Smithies, Carn to Cove**



## PHOENIX DANCE COMPANY: ReFINED

Formed in 1981, Phoenix Dance has become one of the UK's most well-known and respected contemporary dance companies. Touring to mid-scale venues internationally and across the UK, Phoenix presents a repertoire of work from both established and up-and-coming choreographers, focussing on producing compelling, entertaining and diverse mixed programmes. The work on stage is supported by a dedicated education programme which helps widen access to dance for people of all ages and abilities and provides world class training for young, aspiring contemporary dancers.

**ReFINED** will be a thrilling mixed programme packed with solos, duets, trios and quartets plucked from some of Phoenix's most popular pieces from the company's repertoire. This programme showcases some of the most breathtaking movements choreographed by some of the industry's leading names. Designed specifically for smaller stages, **ReFINED** is an opportunity for budding young dancers and seasoned enthusiasts alike to get up close with some of the UK's most talented dancers.

### SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 60 mins plus interval, short film and Q&A
- **Min. performance space (width x depth x height):** 6m x 6m x 2.5m. Company tours own dance floor but please note this cannot be laid on top of a concrete floor.
- **Get-in / get-out:** 10am / 1 hour
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes
- **Accommodation required?** For 8 please, preferably in separate rooms
- **Target audience:** All ages but particularly youth, families
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £600
- **Website:** [www.phoenixdancetheatre.co.uk](http://www.phoenixdancetheatre.co.uk)
- Supported by National Rural Touring Forum
- Supported using public funding by Arts Council England

### DATES AVAILABLE

- **2017:** March / April

### WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Available on the day of the performance in a nearby space.

A 1-2 hour workshop with 20 young people in a nearby space can be offered as part of the package. Workshops can be bespoke or repertoire based depending on the conversation and the need of the participants.

The performance can be preceded by a short piece created by a local youth dance group. This could be discussed in advance with the promoter.

The show will be followed by a Q&A session with the company.

*"As part of ON Tour from 2013-15, each year **ReFINED** received interest from promoters and audiences. The company has a strong rural following with most shows selling out or reaching around a 70% capacity. I thought their performances were captivating and audience members seemed amazed by the dancers ability, definitely a show for all ages."*

**Sophie Backhouse, ON Tour Manager, Rural Arts North Yorks**

*"Jaw dropping - I could have watched all night"; "Great to bring a national standard of dance to Thirsk where otherwise access is limited"*

**Audience feedback**



## PROTEIN: May Contain Food - May Contain You

Award-winning dance theatre company Protein presents a playful, immersive show that explores our relationship with food in an evening of indulgence, nostalgia and mischief.

Transforming the venue into a dining room, with themed tables set around a performing space, audience members are welcomed upon arrival by two host dancers. The show gradually emerges from this informal gathering and develops into an unusual, humorous dinner party that uses song, dance and text to engage with stories and issues around food and eating. Protein's performers will prompt thoughts about what we eat and where it comes from, as well as exploring the sensory aspects of food: the nostalgic reminiscences of a grandmother's recipe; life around the family table; or the sometimes irresistible temptation to help ourselves to another person's leftovers.

One of the most distinctive voices in British dance theatre, Protein uses a blend of original choreography, text, humour and music to entertain and provoke audiences. Its socially relevant material connects theatrical experiences with the everyday and real life stories that engage audiences and participants in both on- and off-stage productions around the world.

### SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** Approx 1 hr 30 minutes with a choreographed 'interval'. Activities such as a raffle can be built in if known about in advance, but it will not be possible to open a bar during.
- **Min. performance space (width x depth x height):** 3m x 3m x 4m. Reasonable quality floor required
- **Performed** on the floor. The space is configured in cabaret style layout, with audience sitting at round tables around a central performance area. Throughout the performance the dancers may move in between and around the tables. The company will bring tables, and the number will depend on size of the space. This will affect audience capacity (116 max).
- **Get-in / get-out:** 5 hours / 1.5 hours
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes
- **Accommodation required?** For 4 please, in separate rooms
- **Target audience:** 12+ (guidance) and families welcome
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £600
- **Website:** [www.proteindance.co.uk](http://www.proteindance.co.uk)
- **Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/6VzzCWP8KcA>
- Supported by Arts Council England and supported by The Place

### DATES AVAILABLE

- **2016:** 5-8 / 12-15 / 19-22 / 26-29 October

### WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

**Pre-show:** Audience members will have been invited by their promoter to bring homemade local dishes to the show. Upon arrival the two performers will meet and greet everyone, talk to people about any dishes they have brought along and invite them to sit down, in an informal general mingle. The bar, if there is one, can be open at this point.

**Post-show:** At the end of the performance, the performers will invite the audience to stay and eat / drink with them. The bar can be opened again at this point, and there will be an opportunity to eat any local homemade dishes together and chat with the dancers.

*"I found it really exciting, totally engaging and innovative as well as accessible and relevant to a wide audience. The variety of themes covered meant that there would be something that everyone could relate to. So cleverly put together with gentle and informal interaction with the audience so we all felt like guests at a dinner party rather than an audience in a theatre"*

**Karen Kidman, Community Touring Manager, Creative Arts East**

*"Savvy, highly entertaining dance theatre"*

**The Times**



## SONIA SABRI COMPANY: Salaam

**Salaam**, meaning 'peace', is Sonia Sabri Company's latest stunning creation, originally created in response to the unrest around the world and it aims to refocus and reminisce on all that is good. This double-bill programme cleverly weaves a dialogue between live music and Kathak dance, celebrating the simple bliss of being alive. **Salaam** combines a rare treat of Tabla music by the world-renowned maestro Sarvar Sabri, performing outstanding compositions of rhythm, who is accompanied by the talented Shoma Dey on the harmonium along with powerful vocals, fuelling and vibrating a resonance in the performance.

Internationally acclaimed for her electric stage presence, Sonia revisits the roots of Kathak in a remarkable performance, which embraces a rich, joyful spirit and builds to a heartpounding rhythmic crescendo. Sonia presents sheer magic through expressive and rhythmic dance with live music. The audience is taken on a journey with Sonia's poignant metaphorical narratives and through her command of intricate footwork, eloquent gesture and rapid spins. Salaam to us all!

Sonia Sabri Company is one of Britain's leading South Asian Dance and Music companies. Exciting the national and international dance scene by presenting Kathak dance in new spaces and contexts, and to new audiences, developing a distinctive, contemporary style which speaks to the here and now.

### SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 2 x 40 minutes plus 20 minute interval
- **Min. performance space (width x depth):** 7x7m
- **Performed:** in any configuration
- **Get-in / get-out:** 5 hours / 45 mins
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes
- **Accommodation required?** 1 double and 1 single please
- **Target audience:** all ages and backgrounds
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £600
- **Website:** [www.ssc.org.uk](http://www.ssc.org.uk)
- **Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/132148048> (password 'salaampromo')
- Supported by Arts Council England

### DATES AVAILABLE

- **2016:** October - December
- **2017:** January - April

### WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Available on the day of the performance in a nearby space. The company offers a wide range of learning and participatory activities suitable for those interested in learning about Kathak and Indian Music. The activities are catered for all ages and backgrounds; no previous experience is needed. Sonia and Sarvar are highly skilled teachers making the learning experience truly inspirational. Choose from:

- Kathak and/or Tabla masterclasses
- Introductory Kathak workshops
- Choreographic development
- Theme-based workshops

*"Sonia Sabri drives Kathak to new heights in myriad ways. Dramatic vigour, powerful precision and formidable stage presence are all elements that characterise the performances of the Sonia Sabri Company and **Salaam** was no exception. Sonia Sabri Company has certainly made a characteristic mark on the artistic landscape in Britain"*

**Pulse Connects**

*" Fine, intense, and intelligent.."*

**The Times**

*"Such grace and beauty, superb musicians"  
"I didn't want to blink, the performance was spectacular!"*

**Audience feedback**



Photo: James Dodd

## SPILTMILK: Spiltmilk Say Dance

**Spiltmilk Say Dance** reinvents social dance crazes that have swept dancefloors all over the world, the kind of dances we all end up doing at discos, weddings and family gatherings.

It is a show of two halves. The first half of the evening sees the company's three dancers put their unique spin on familiar dance favourites; think disco dancing to Sinatra, the YMCA to Mozart, and the twist on chairs.

In the second half the chairs are pushed back, and everyone is invited to join in a social dance like no other, with the dancers mingling and a caller making sure you all go the same way. You'll get to have a go at long-forgotten folk dances you learned at school, daft novelty dances you only do at weddings and elegant ballroom moves, all to some unexpected musical choices played live.

Brimming with nostalgia, wit and mind-boggling moves, **Spiltmilk Say Dance** is a family friendly event with something for everyone! The company says, "We want to give everyone the chance to dance, regardless of age, ability or mobility and so are committed to making Spiltmilk Say Dance as accessible as possible and are keen to work with venues to ensure this is possible."

### SHOW INFORMATION

- **Duration:** performance 45 mins / interval 15 mins / social 45 min - 1 hour
- **Min performance space:** 3m x 5m
- **Performed:** on stage
- **Get-in / get-out:** 4 hours / 40 mins
- **Technically self-contained?** Can bring technician & equipment if needed
- **Accommodation required?** For 3 women and 2 men please
- **Target audience:** 5+, families, older adults
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £600
- **Website:** [www.spiltmilkdance.co.uk](http://www.spiltmilkdance.co.uk)
- **Trailer:** <http://spiltmilkdance.co.uk/gallery/video/spiltmilk-say-dance-trailer/>
- Supported by Arts Council England

### DATES AVAILABLE

- October **2016**

### WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Available on the day of the performance in a nearby space. Spiltmilk have extensive experience of delivering workshops for a wide range of ages and abilities. They can deliver suitable workshops for schools, colleges, universities or established dance groups in the local area, giving them a taste of the show's content. Maximum of 30 participants.

*"What an amazing show! Our family aged from 5 to 60 all enjoyed it"*

*"Absolutely brilliant - not had as much fun in ages"*

*"Can't dance won't dance... danced tonight. Great fun!"*

#### Audience feedback



## SPILTMILK: Blast From the Past

From Elvis to Selfies: A fast paced race through seven decades of British Pop Culture.

Jam-packed with hits, **Blast from the Past** is a fast-paced race through seven decades of the blockbusters and bestsellers we all remember, and the fads and fashions we might prefer to forget. Set to a soundtrack of chart toppers from 1952 to the present day, the show honours British pop culture and it's ability to unite us all in weird and wonderful ways.

Somewhere between a dance performance, sketch show, TV gameshow and the ultimate compilation album, **Blast from the Past** will have you feeling nostalgic, singing along, laughing out loud and playing a swift game of pass the parcel!

Described as "Dance but not dance... like hiding vegetables in kids' food", Spiltmilk Dance have been sticking a big fat ray of sunshine into the world of contemporary dance since 2006.

### SHOW INFORMATION

- **Duration:** 2 hours plus 15 minute interval
- **Min performance space (width x depth):** 5m x 4m
- **Performed:** on stage
- **Get-in / get-out:** 4 hours / 1 hour
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes, can bring technician & equipment
- **Accommodation required?** For 3 women and 1 man please
- **Target audience:** Recommended for 10 years up, particularly families, older adults, dance/performing arts students and nostalgia enthusiasts
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £600
- **Website:** [www.spiltmilkdance.co.uk](http://www.spiltmilkdance.co.uk)
- Commissioned by artsdepot and made at The Place. Supported by Arts Council England, In Good Company and Live & Local

### DATES AVAILABLE

- February/March **2017**

### WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Available on the day of the performance in a nearby space. Spiltmilk have extensive experience of delivering workshops for a wide range of ages and abilities. They could deliver suitable workshops for schools, colleges, universities or established dance groups in the local area, giving them a taste of the show's content. Maximum of 30 participants.

*"Sheer, unserious delight"*

*"Ingenious audience participation"*

*"Stupendously mad fun, just brilliant!"*

*"A wonderful show - lots of laughter and very clever!"*

**Audience feedback**

PERFORMANCE  
& RESIDENCY  
- PACKAGE -



## LÎLA DANCE: The Deluge

An earthquake shook the sea, and now a huge wave threatens to destroy your town. See your local venue transformed into an evacuation centre and watch your friends and family perform alongside four breathtaking dancers in a magical piece called **The Deluge**.

Among the local community, four main characters arrive with only the clothes on their backs, and find themselves asking what has been lost, and what is left to lose? But in these darkest hours they start to understand how the strangers around them, and the contents of a mysterious unclaimed bag, might offer them all the hope they need as the sea returns as a giant wave.

This exciting dance experience features four dancers, a supporting community cast, an evocative soundtrack, and new writing. Lila Dance are rapidly becoming one of Britain's fastest growing dance companies, with a reputation for redefining community involvement in professional productions.

Upon arriving audience members enter the 'world of the piece', amongst sound, props, lights and community cast members, who will have been trained during residency workshops to usher people in and show them to their seats.

### SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 60 mins plus 15 mins pre-show community/company activity
- **Min. performance space (width x depth x height):** 10m x 15m x 3m to include audience seating area in part (see below).
- **Performed:** on the floor. The performance space is very adaptable, but the bigger the better. The audience seating will be configured in a horseshoe shape around the performance area, with a barricade of set/props making up the fourth side (not occupied by audience members).
- **Get-in / get-out:** 10 hours (to include rehearsal with extended cast on the day of the show - see wraparound activity below) / 2 hours
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes
- **Accommodation required?** Yes please, Mon-Wed for 2 / Thurs-Sat for 6
- **Target audience:** 8+
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £850 (£600 fee / £250 residency fee)
- **Website:** [www.liladance.co.uk](http://www.liladance.co.uk)
- **Vimeo:** [www.vimeopro.com/liladance/the-deluge](http://www.vimeopro.com/liladance/the-deluge)
- Supported by Pavilion Dance South West; The Point, Eastleigh; University of Chichester; Greenwich Dance; South East Dance; Arts Council England.

**DATES AVAILABLE** - we're looking to book two x 3-day packages over the course of a 6-day week, in the same geographical region

- **2016:** w/c 10 Oct / w/c 24 Oct / w/c 14 Nov
- **2017:** w/c 9 Jan / w/c 16 Jan / w/c 13 Feb / w/c 3 April

### WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

**The Deluge** 'recruits' an extended cast from the local community at each venue. This is a unique opportunity for community members of all ages and backgrounds to have an integral involvement in the professional work. The venue promoters will have an important responsibility to recruit participants for this show. Members from Lila Dance will work intensively with participants from each venue for 2 days (on the week of the show) and on the day of the show to rehearse and prepare the cast for the performance. The level of commitment required by community participants is flexible and can be discussed between the company and the venue - for example, some participants may only need to commit to one day of workshops, and then the performance day.

*"I don't think I've ever been so infatuated by movement, performance and performers in my life... still in shock and awe"*

#### Audience feedback

*"Such an inspiring time dancing with Lila Dance for the last three days #TheDeluge is an incredible piece with some incredible dancers"*

#### Residency participant

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*Our scheme wishes to further develop dance as part of our organisation's activities. We have been pleased to offer dance within our cross artform 'menus' of shows on offer for many years and find that dance offers a brilliant opportunity for new audiences to experience live performance. However the range of affordable high quality shows available and suitable for rural touring is very limited and we would love to build on the strengths of the rural touring network to encourage new work.*

”

**Ian Scott, Artsreach**

The **Rural Touring Dance Initiative** is a 3-year national project, as part of a 5-year strategic partnership led by the National Rural Touring Forum, with China Plate, Take Art and The Place, along with rural touring schemes, primarily in England but also in Wales and Scotland. [Find out more at www.ruraltouring.org](http://www.ruraltouring.org)

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