

A photograph of a carousel with people riding horses and a zebra. The carousel is ornate with a dark metal railing and a decorative ceiling. The background is a bright, sunny day. The image is framed by a dark orange border.

NRTF in association with **CHINA PLATE**,
TAKE ART and **THE PLACE** present
the **RURAL TOURING**
DANCE INITIATIVE's
fifth

DANCE PERFORMANCE MENU

SEPTEMBER 2020
to JUNE 2021

Welcome to the fifth menu produced by

BACKGROUND

In 2015 The National Rural Touring Forum joined forces with The Place, Take Art and China Plate to launch a brand new 3 year initiative designed to assist in the making and touring of contemporary, accessible dance to rural areas. The project has been made possible by a grant from Arts Council England's Lottery funded Strategic Touring Programme. Due to RTDI's success, we were delighted to hear in November 2017 that the project had been granted just under £417,000 to continue the work for another 3 years.

THE FIFTH MENU

The fifth menu has three sections;

1. New Shows
2. Returners
3. Alumni

NEW SHOWS

These shows have gone through a rigorous selection process from an open call out that attracted over 70 applications. They represent an incredibly diverse canon of work that offers a very current and exciting view of what is contemporary dance.

"We have been delighted with the enthusiasm with which venues and audiences have embraced dance

through this project. This enthusiasm is matched by the artists taking part. In many cases it has been a revelation of what touring can be - warm welcomes, open minds and hearts, and an intimate connection and conversation between an audience and the work on stage. In those moments when the magic of live performance is palpable, it's clear that, despite the different priorities and challenges we might juggle, we - artists, promoters, programmers, producers - are all working towards this same uniquely special moment.

We are hearing a growing confidence in scheme managers and promoters in programming dance. In some cases we're being asked for 'more dance', and we're enjoying the provocation of 'what is dance?'

There's no one answer to this, and it seems to us that the question, and answer, matters less to audiences than to those of us concerned with programming. In the devastating final moments of Lost Dog's Paradise Lost, whilst sharing food with Protein, or grooving to Uchenna Dance's infectious beat, it only matters that the performers have reached out and touched us in some way.

When asked to talk about their practice, many of the artists featured in this menu start with the idea they

the Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI)

want to communicate, before delving into how they go about exploring it on stage. For lots of them dance is only one way in which they do this. They combine movement with circus, words, humour, conversation, music and design, and they don't dance for the sake of it. Movement is in there because it's the right way to explore a particular idea in a particular moment, and it's all the richer and more meaningful as a result.

We're drawing from a rich and diverse sector of makers who are playing with physicality in different ways to bring you a menu of shows which we think will connect with the diverse and equally undefinable rural touring audience. In this menu we're not just exploring what dance might work in rural locations, but also the huge potential of what dance can be - we hope you enjoy our choices."

Christina Elliot (Senior Producer and RTDI partner from *The Place*)

These companies are mainly new to Rural Touring but have all been attendees on our RTDI Artists Lab to help them 'Rural Touring' proof their shows and practice.

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 £650/700. The fee is based on offering an opportunity for you to book all companies on an equal basis. These companies are contracted by NRTF via RTDI.

THE 'RETURNERS'

We instigated this section in the last three menus to acknowledge the experience a company and show accumulates having toured once. If a show has been a success it's positive to allow other schemes/promoters to benefit from that knowledge by offering it again. These companies are directly contracted, and paid for, by schemes. Schemes can claim back a proportion of the fee from RTDI to help pay for the show.

THE 'ALUMNI'

These are companies who are offering work in the same time frame who have been programmed before by RTDI so have been 'rurally proofed'. This information is included for your information to consider within your dance programming but there is no subsidy available from RTDI.

We are really excited by the choice of companies and shows on offer - we hope you will be too...



Sonia Sabri Company, photo: Simon Richardson

BOOKING SHOWS

This section is most relevant to scheme managers

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 returning expressions of interest bookings is **Monday 17th February 2020**, allowing time for information to be circulated to promoters, choices and options discussed by schemes with promoters and returning of the booking form. 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 coordinate shared interests.

We aim to confirm touring dates by **1st April 2020**.

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. 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 65 shows over the course of Menu 5 so it is possible to offer 1-4 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 / **07720 032546**.

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 the 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. Those schemes who are Dance Ambassador Schemes in RTDI 2 have agreed to a higher degree of responsibility around the development and sustained programming of dance in their scheme. They have also committed to programming a minimum of 2 companies from each menu and 3-4 performances overall.

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 66 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: New Art Club by Zoe Manders

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 flyers 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 an enhanced package of support.

We are lucky to have the expertise of Stephanie Jessop as our part time Marketing Manager. She will be 'rural proofing' copy and images that come from companies and can be on hand to support schemes and promoters with advice. Stephie also runs RTDI's Social Media.



Photo: Blacklist by Andy Philipson



YOUTH

Children and Young People's participation is a particular priority. Each year we are offering 24 workshops (linked to ticket deals) and 6 x 2-4 day residencies. Workshops will be heavily subsidised but we will be asking schemes for a contribution of £100 per workshop and £200-£400 towards the 2-4 day residencies.

Claire Smith, Project Manager
(claire@nrtf.org.uk)

Ralph Lister, NRTF

Ed Collier, China Plate

Alison Lord, Take Art

Eddie Nixon & Christina Elliot,
The Place

We have resources to make rural touring friendly trailers for most of our companies and provide financial assistance if they need to adapt their printed marketing. Contact her on stephie@culturapedia.co or **01254 674777**.

'GO AND SEE' GRANTS

We have grants available ranging from £150 to £500. We would like to support scheme managers, promoters and loyal audience members;

- To visit other schemes who are marketing dance shows to see how they do it
- To see a show prior to it being performed locally
- To see shows at the annual NRTF Conference if they are programmed, or any festival.





Photo: Camilla Greenwell

LANRE MALAOLU : Elephant in the Room

Something's wrong. Can't get out of bed, can't concentrate, can't shake the mounting tension. Something unspoken is building up, leaking out, taking over...

Fusing physical theatre, hip hop dance and spoken word, *Elephant in The Room* is an explosive solo that explores the mental health crisis and the phenomenon of toxic masculinity.

The show takes a sharp sideways look at the insidious stigma around mental health issues, asking how race, class and culture can affect the way we choose to address them. And what happens when we don't...

"This was a wonderful show, a one-man exploration with words and movement of the inner conflict of a young black man and the expectations that masculinity imposes on him and the mental conflicts that had to be hidden. Lanre is an actor as well as a dancer, and in both forms he was exceptional. It was a show where you almost held your breath until you got to the end, so powerful was the message!"

Sue Hardacre, Cheshire Rural Touring Promoter

SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 1 hour; interval before the Question and Answer and Film.
- **Min. performance space (width x depth):** 6m x 6m
- **Performed on floor or stage:** Floor
- **Get-in / get-out:** 6 – 7 hours get in. 1 - 2 hours get out. Format roughly Show 7.30pm, Break: 15 mins, Film 15 mins (TBC). Potential Q&A.
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes
- **Accommodation required?** 3 singles. Performer and live sound manipulator and stage lighting operator, genders TBC
- **Target audience:** 14+
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** Ideally raked/raised seating. Ideally performed end on, but is being adapted for semi-circle/horseshoe seating. Flat wooden floor, no carpet. Dance floor if possible.
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £650
- **Website:** lanremalaolu.com
- **Trailer:** youtube.com/watch?v=V_JIM4XvXkw

DATES AVAILABLE

- **2020:** 19 – 29 October; 5 – 30 November

PROMOTERS HOOKS

- An opportunity to open up a conversation in your community around mental health and masculinity.
- A fantastic show that had a sold out three-week run at Camden People's Theatre.
- The show has elements of theatre, spoken word, hip hop and physical theatre alongside contemporary dance, so will appeal to a wide range of audiences.
- Rural Touring promoters and programmers saw the show at a recent National Showcase and loved it.

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

- Post-show Question and Answer session
- Film
- Workshops tbc

"The 'elephant' is never named, but it is shown – beautifully"

The Stage

"A powerful tour de force"

The Upcoming



Photo: Alfred George Bailey

EDIFICE DANCE THEATRE : Salomé

A twisted, dark story of rejection, religion, lust and death. Based on Oscar Wilde's Salomé, the company takes you on an extraordinary and dark journey where music, ballroom, latin and contemporary dance bring to life the characters and themes of Wilde's tragedy.

A rich and sensual dance theatre experience with live classical music and an electronic original score.

EDIFICE Dance Theatre is co-directed by choreographer-dancer duo Carmine De Amicis and Harriet Waghorn. Together they have developed a hybrid language for choreography that combines the speed, passion and connection of ballroom, with the fluidity, freedom and connection of contemporary dance.

"An audacious, thrilling, brilliant, emotion-packed technically perfect and riveting evening"

Authentic Blue

***"INCREDIBLE. If you are free then GO GO GO!
If you already have plans, cancel them and GO GO GO"***

Audience member, London

SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 60mins no interval
- **Min. performance space (width x depth):** 6m x 6m, min height 3m (all negotiable)
- **Performed:** On the floor
- **Get-in / get-out:** Get-in 5 hours / Get out 2 hours (negotiable)
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes
- **Accommodation required?** for 6 people. Ideally 1 twin/double room and 4 single, otherwise 3 twin rooms. *Note from Claire; We realise this a lot of people to accommodate so please get in touch if you need help.*
- **Target audience:** 16+ The show contains visual reference to sex.
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** Ideally raked seating.
- Flat floor no carpet. seating can be in-the-round, horseshoe, or semicircle. The company will help with setting up the seating for audiences during the get-in time.
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £650
- **Website:** edificedancetheatre.com
- **Trailers:** youtube.com/watch?v=xbWrwXOUz-U
Audience reactions: youtube.com/watch?v=aKGUG9Y8uzQ

DATES AVAILABLE

- **2020:** 27 Sept - 3 Oct (possibly available); 8 Nov - 8 Dec
- **2021:** Spring - flexible

PROMOTER HOOKS

- Live classical music
- The show includes ballroom dancing
- Narrative show based on a tragedy by Oscar Wilde

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

- Post show Q&A with the artists
- Screening of EDIFICE site sensitive film work as part of the evening if desired
- Ballroom workshop at an additional cost (either the day before or the day after the show)

***"This is so beautiful, took me to another place immediately.
Amazing choreography and wonderful dancers.
Thank you so much for this"***

Audience member



Photo: Zoe Manders

NEW ART CLUB : Cupid's Revenge

In today's disposable world where love is used to sell us everything from fizzy drinks to insurance policies... where did real love go?

This dance theatre comedy show by New Art Club is about love... Mythical love that drives the creation of the universe and everything in it. Romantic love. Love between friends. It is funny, sad and reflective. It is not a story but it holds lots of stories inside it. In that way it is like you. It has a huge glowing red heart that has crashed landed onto the stage.

Cupid's Revenge was made as a response to the cynicism and division that is all around us. It is made with Love.

"Dynamic, physical, touching and hilarious"

Broadway Baby (*Feel About Your Body*)

"Physical comedy with brains, I laughed 'til my face hurt"

The Observer (*Feel About Your Body*)

"Even those who hate dance will love this show"

The Guardian (*This Is Modern*)

SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 60 minutes. Interval followed by Q&A with the performers.
- **Min. performance space (width x depth):** 6m x 6m (company in the process of adapting show so could be flexible).
- **Performed:** on the floor
- **Get-in / get-out:** 7 hrs get-in, 2 hrs get-out
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes – the company will supply all the technical equipment they need.
- **Accommodation required?** 3 single rooms
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** Flat floor. Preference for raised seating, but can be flexible dependent on audience size.
- **Target audience:** Theatre and comedy as well as dance. 12+ (mild swearing)
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £700
- **Website:** www.newartclub.org
- **Trailer:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxgOEOGovX4#action=share

DATES AVAILABLE

- **2020:** 21 – 26 Sept: the company would like to be in residency in one space for 2 days reworking the ‘tech light’ version of the show, with performances on 24, 25 and 26 Sept. 15 – 17 Oct.
- **2021:** 21 Jan – 27 Feb – Thursday/Friday/Saturday the company would like touring during this period to be over two consecutive weeks

PROMOTER HOOKS

- This show perfectly blends the lines between theatre comedy and dance. The performers are both award-winning comedians and dancers.
- New Art Club have been together for 20 years, their shows have been translated into French and Mandarin, have toured to China, USA and all over Europe. Now they’re taking on rural touring.
- Sometimes funny, sometimes heart-breaking, the show is a wonderful night out that brings people together and gets them talking about love and how it affects us all.
- Original music composed by an award-winning composer.

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Each performance will be followed by a Q&A with the performers. A chance to reflect on the themes of the show and to find out more about the artists.

Podcast – This will be developed during the tour and will reflect thoughts on love and relationships

Workshops – available for Youth dance/theatre groups professionals or older people see ‘Youth Offer’ on p7.



Photo: Andy Philipson

JOSHUA 'VENDETTA' NASH : Blacklist + Figleaf

A double bill of shows from one of the UK's leading Krump dancers. Krump: a form of street dance characterised by free, expressive, exaggerated, and highly energetic movement. It's the Rock and Roll or Heavy Metal of the Hip Hop world, a way of expressing difficult emotions, the ones that get you all twisted up inside.

Blacklist is an explosive piece asking how do we cope with inner conflict? Delving into brotherhood, isolation and friendship explored through hip hop, krump and theatre.

Fig Leaf asks what does it mean to be a man? And when does masculinity become toxic? Swinging from love and support, to anger and aggression. The dancers fight the urge to compete with one another and instead attempt to create a support network, brotherhood and community bond.

"Nash offers a mission statement that he 'aims to change perceptions of krump being nothing more than an aggressive dance style' With BLACKLIST he achieves this and much, much more"

Ian Abbott, dance critic

SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 70min plus 15 min interval
- **Min. performance space (width x depth):** 6m x 6m but flexible
- **Performed:** On stage or on floor
- **Get-in / get-out:** 6-7hr get in, 1-2hr get out
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes the company will bring any technical equipment required
- **Accommodation required?** 5 on the road, 2 twins and 1 single (RTDI can help out if finding accommodation for 5 is a struggle).
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** Normally performed end on but can be adapted for the round or with the audience in a horseshoe shape.
- **Target audience:** 10+
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £650
- **Website:** [Instagram @joshuavendetta.nash](https://www.instagram.com/joshuavendetta.nash)
or [Twitter @joshuavendetta](https://www.twitter.com/joshuavendetta)
- **Trailer:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=TV354T-LCUQ

DATES AVAILABLE

- **2020:** November
- **2021:** March/May

PROMOTER HOOKS

- Krump is a very new, very physical style of dance, and will appeal to audiences who enjoy a highly athletic style of dance.
- An opportunity to open up conversations around mental health in your community.
- Krump isn't something you just watch, you experience it as well, afterwards everyone feels like they've released some emotions and tension!

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Post show discussion or workshops led by a member of the company in the style of Krump for all abilities. Duration 1-2hrs at an additional cost.

"Nash's fiercely intelligent FIG LEAF harnessed the heightened aggression of krumping to grapple with toxic masculinity"

Donald Hutera, dance critic



Photo: Boneshaker Photography

SLANJAYVAH DANZA : 6 Feet, 3 Shoes

A heart-warming show for all the family. Dance, storytelling and foot-stomping live music bring to life the true story of friendships that cross borders and generations. This is the story of three female dancers who forged a bond, and a language all of their own, through sharing life experiences and their love for Flamenco, Scottish and Contemporary dance and music.

See and hear how these three women united their families, developed a shared culture and navigated the ups and downs of life. The dancers will be joined on stage by musicians playing the Scottish fiddle, the flamenco drum and guitar. *6 Feet, 3 Shoes* is a tale that's sometimes funny, sometimes tender, told through feisty percussive Flamenco, energetic Scottish Strathspeys and beautiful contemporary dance.

And if that wasn't enough, audiences can join the cast after the show for an evening of socialising, singing and dancing.

***"Your show has been the talk of the village!
Everyone enjoyed themselves and feedback was excellent,
I thoroughly enjoyed it and will recommend your show as it's for all ages!"***

Barbara Birch – Promoter, Gleaston Village Hall

SHOW INFORMATION

- **Duration:** 60 mins of performance, followed by an interval which then segways into a post show discussion or/and a community Ceilidh (barn dance) for all ages to join in.
- **Min performance space:** 6m x 6m (but happy to discuss)
- **Performed:** Floor please (usually audience in a shallow half moon shape)
- **Get-in / get-out:** Get in 2pm for a 7.30 start, anticipate doors opening at 6.45pm.
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes
- **Accommodation required?** For 5 females and 2 males. Can share rooms. 3 twins and a single are ideal but also 2 twins, 1 double and a single. *Note from Claire; we realise this is a lot of people to accommodate so please get in touch for additional help if required.*
- **Target audience:** Any age, any background.
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** Wooden floor. Company suggest they perform along the longest wall with chairs laid out along 3 sides, for best sight lines. If there is an opportunity to raise seats then the company will. Seats can be put on a stage if there is one.
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £700
- **Website:** slanjyvahdanza.com
- **Trailer:** vimeo.com/slanjyvahdanza
40 minute excerpt of full show: vimeo.com/357593900
Password: grassmarket

DATES AVAILABLE

- **2020:** 28 October to early December
- **2021:** Anytime February, March, April

PROMOTER HOOKS

- Evenings are tailor made to your venue and the company will work with you closely to bring the best experience to you and your community. The company welcomes the idea of pairing the show with tapas/a themed night/quiz etc.
- An opportunity for everyone to dance together in an after-show Ceilidh (Barn Dance) where the team lead you through the dances.
- This show started rural touring in Autumn 2019 and will be continuing in Spring 2020 so there is the opportunity to go and see the show.

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

- Workshops/residencies prior or on the day of performance for all ages – choose from Scottish social dance, flamenco and can include music and song.
- Q&As, quizzes or ceilidhs can be paired with the show at no extra cost.



Photo: Simon Richardson

SONIA SABRI COMPANY : Same Same... But Different

A fun and magical dance show, engaging for children and grown ups alike. The show explores our curiosities and fears, the times we feel different and when we belong.

Same Same... But Different mixes 3 exciting dance styles: Kathak, Hip Hop and Contemporary dance, plus beatboxing, moments of live music, comedy and physical storytelling. In this jam-packed show, our 3 very different dancers together conjure up a playful and colourful world for everyone to enjoy.

Inspired by the well-known Anglo-Asian phrase 'same, same...but different', meaning "Yes, something kind of similar", this is a feel-good dance show, celebrating our individuality, diversity and the bonds which connect us all.

**"A really special show... hugely entertaining [with]
a really powerful message at its core."**

★★★★★ The Family Stage blog

SHOW INFORMATION

- **Duration:** Approx. 50 mins (no interval). Company have predominately performed during the day or early evening.
- **Min performance space:** Min is 4.5 m x 4.5m but 6mx 6m is preferable
- **Performed:** On floor or stage
- **Get-in / get-out:** Min get-in time is 3 hours. Min get-out time 1 hour.
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes
- **Accommodation required?** For 1 male technician, 1 male dancer, 2 female dancers. Ideally single rooms where possible.
- **Target audience:** 5 years+ and their grown ups
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** Can be performed on wooden floor or clean floor, not carpeted. Cushions, mats, benches and seats can be used to help sightlines. The company suggests placing audience in semi-circle.
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £700
- **Website:** www.sscsco.org.uk
- **Trailer:** vimeo.com/323789609/a34c9bd54c

DATES AVAILABLE

- **2020:** September – end of November
- **2021:** Spring, anytime

PROMOTER HOOKS

- Family show
- A mix of styles including Kathak, Hip Hop and beat boxing
- Culturally diverse
- Funny, visually interesting

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

On performance day: a 1 hour workshop in addition to the performance (before or after). In a school setting this would be a workshop for 1 class, then the performance for the whole school. OR 1 performance followed by 30 mins participatory workshop/post show discussion/photos with the dancers for the whole audience - a bit like a 'stay and play'.

Performance day or at another time: Bespoke workshops available:

- Dance workshops using the dance styles in the show i.e. Kathak, Contemporary, Breaking/Hip Hop
- Physical theatre workshops
- South Asian inspired visual art workshops
- Thematic workshops on difference and identity
- CPD for professional teachers or dance students
- We enjoy doing 'Relaxed' version performances too



JO FONG & GEORGE ORANGE : The Rest of Our Lives

Specially commissioned by the Rural Touring Dance Initiative with funding from Arts Council Wales

Hopefully hopeful, *The Rest of Our Lives* is a cabaret of life and near death. Join Jo and George for a night of dance, circus and games. *The struggle is real. We're only at the beginning of the end. But we're all still here.*

Jo is an old dancer, George an old clown. They are international artists with 100 years of life experience between them. They've reached the mid-way point, and now they're looking at the rest of their lives and wondering, what next? Armed with a soundtrack of floor-fillers, a book of raffle tickets and a sprinkling of eco-friendly glitter. Join them as they negotiate middle-life together with humour, tenderness and outlandish optimism.

"I haven't had that much fun at a show in a long time"
Audience member

"One of the most joyful, celebratory and hilarious experiences of my life"
Hannah Robertshaw

SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 1hr 20 plus interval
- **Min. performance space (width x depth):** 6m x 9m
- **Performed:** Floor. Audience are seated on three sides forming a performance arena in the centre.
- **Get-in / get-out:** 5 hours get-in, 1 hour get-out
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes
- **Accommodation required?** 3 singles (2 performers, 1 technician)
- **Target audience:** 14+. At Ageless Festival, Leeds 2019: *"Our audience varied in age from 20 to 80 years old and were all on their feet at the end"*. Contains middle-aged themes and strong language.
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** If your hall has a badminton court this show and audience seating will easily fit into your space. The show can also adapt to different community spaces. Preferred floor - wooden (rather than concrete or carpeted). The team arrange the 80 chairs for audience members.
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £650
- **Website:** www.jofong.com / www.georgeorange.com
- **Trailer:** vimeo.com/376390894/e1dc7fa3e0

DATES AVAILABLE

- **2020:** 12-31 Oct and 1-15 Nov (avoiding Tuesdays and Wednesdays)
- **2021:** Mid March onwards (avoiding Tuesdays and Wednesdays)

PROMOTER HOOKS

- It's very funny
- Life-affirming
- Great dance tunes
- There is table tennis!

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Workshops

Jo and George are exceptional teachers, both currently teach workshops for any age and level of experience or ability. Both are highly experienced in leading workshops designed for people with different needs, disability and learning difficulties.

Jo Fong: A 2 hour movement workshop for adults who love to move.

George Orange: Clown / mime. A 1.5 hour workshop for young people.

"Utterly wonderful, moving and hilarious, and quite simply restored my faith in humanity"

Audience response



Photo: Niccolò Guarino

Commission

JOAN CLEVILLÉ and SCOTTISH DANCE THEATRE : Antigone Interrupted

Specially commissioned by the Rural Touring Dance Initiative

A young girl ready to die to defend what she thinks is right. A king determined to impose his will as the rule of law. *Antigone, Interrupted* re-imagines a classic story for the modern world through the body and the voice of a single performer.

From the team that brought you *Plan B for Utopia* and *The North*, this new work by choreographer Joan Clevillé packs all the drama, passion and big ideas of a Greek tragedy into a one-woman show, created specifically for village halls.

Mixing dance with storytelling and sprinkled with a dash of humour, *Antigone, Interrupted* is a tour de force by acclaimed performer Solène Weinachter, who RTDI audiences will remember well from her recent appearances in Clevillé's works and Lost Dog's *Juliet and Romeo*.

"Beautiful and tragic"
Audience member at RTDI sharing

SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 60mins (no interval) followed by a Q&A with the performer
- **Min. performance space (width x depth):** 12x12m, including the audience sitting in a circle around the performer (negotiable down to 8x8m).
- **Performed:** on a floor or on stage
- **Get-in / get-out:** Get in: 5hr. Get out 1.5hr
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes
- **Accommodation required?** 4 singles
- **Target audience:** 14+ Dance, theatre and literary audiences. People interested in social and environmental issues.
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** The performance is in the round so the audience will be seated in a circle around the performer. Depending on the size of the venue, we ask venues to provide up to 50 chairs. In larger venues, the company will provide high stools to provide a second row of seating and increase capacity.
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £650
- **Website:** www.scottishdancetheatre.com
- **Trailer:** vimeo.com/379564453/

DATES AVAILABLE

- **2020:** 8 Oct – 1 Nov
- **2021:** 10–30 May

PROMOTER HOOKS

- Joan Clevillé and Solene Weinachter have earned the trust and esteem of rural audiences in previous tours of *Plan B for Utopia*, *The North* and *Juliet and Romeo*.
- Performance with a narrative thread based on a classic tragedy by Sophocles and blending theatre, dialogue and dance.
- Despite being a tragedy, the piece seeks to empower audience members, particularly women and young people.
- The work opens up a space for rich conversation during the post-show discussion.

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Workshops: Free 1 hour workshop included on the day of performance for participants with any dance (or no dance!) experience. In addition, the company offers an extensive programme of professional development/creative learning opportunities, i.e.:

- Creative sessions/workshops for all ages and experience levels.
- Inclusive creative sessions for participants with additional support needs – masterclasses and CPD for dance, drama and PE teachers.



Returner

Photo: Jorge Lizalde

MR & MRS CLARK : Louder Is Not Always Clearer

Meet Jonny. Jonny is a teacher, a workshop leader and an avid football fan. He's an artist, a campaigner, he's just become a father, and he is deaf. He loves to dance, but he can't hear the music unless the bass is turned right up. Jonny was born deaf and grew up in a hearing family, surrounded by hearing friends who did not use the word deaf. In fact some of those people didn't know Jonny was deaf until they saw this show.

Louder Is Not Always Clearer focuses on the importance of connection with others and the struggle to do so affectively. This one-man show is an honest portrayal of a man perceived to be full of confidence and who is outwardly social, but inwardly vulnerable and at times isolated. In a hearing world Jonny is different and *Louder Is Not Always Clearer* highlights those differences in a warm and humorous way.

"A brilliant exercise in empathy"

Lyn Gardner

***"Unashamed, unapologetic and something fully needed
in the forefront of society"***

★★★★★ Get The Chance

SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 80 minutes including 15 minute interval
- **Min. performance space (width x depth):** 4m x 4m
- **Performed:** Adaptable, can perform on stage or floor (preferably floor).
- **Get-in / get-out:** Get-in 4 hours / Get-out 45 mins.
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes
- **Accommodation required?** Company are 4 on the road - 2 on stage, 1 technician and a tour manager/support.
- **Target audience:** All ages, but please note there are some references to sex and some strong language used in context. The show has a strong theatre /dance crossover so would work well for both theatre and dance audiences. It is a fully accessible performance to a deaf audience with the use of a combination of BSL translation and captioning.
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** The show is end-on and can be performed on any type of floor.
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £1000 (Subsidy of £300 can be claimed back from RTDI)
- **Website:** www.mrandmrsclark.co.uk
- **Trailer:** vimeo.com/261149900

DATES AVAILABLE

- **2020:** October and November
- **2021:** March - May

PROMOTER HOOK (description of show):

Louder starts with Jonny, sat at a laptop, attempting to communicate with the audience through sign and actions. Some people get it, most don't. Some, especially children, laugh. This initial attempt to make contact is the premise for Jonny's story about his life. He converses through typed words that are projected on a screen but also through speech and movement. You hear the story of his 21st birthday told like a stand up in a nightclub (a good opportunity for the audience to get a drink and join the party). We learn how he held down jobs whilst hiding the fact that he was deaf and the audience gets to sing/sign a song at the end of the show. Sound can play an important part in the deaf world. The company will help promoters with outreach work to contact local deaf schools and groups.

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Post-show talk/discussion included in the fee for the show. Theatre workshops are available for all ages and abilities. Jonny is keen to share his practice with local deaf groups.



Returner

PATFIELD & TRIGUERO : Gibbon

Breakout juggler stars **Chris Patfield & José Triguero** present *Gibbon*, a humorous and surreal show combining mesmerising juggling with dance and physical theatre. Together they explore the absurd and comedic in what it is that drives us to try and try again.

Performers as skilled as this make juggling look easy, effortless even, but just how many times do you have to fail before you make something perfect? Lifting the veil on the rehearsal room *Gibbon* shows how two charming performers work at working as one.

Poetic and original, *Gibbon* is devastatingly slick and a wonderfully thought-provoking production.

"The combination of mesmerising manipulation and dry comedy left me wanting more"

Circus Diaries

★★★★

"Seriously interesting and wryly amusing"

The Guardian

SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 50 mins. No interval
- **Min. performance space (width x depth):** 6m x 4m; min height 4.5m but this is all negotiable
- **Performed:** On stage or on floor and can be adapted to unusual spaces.
- **Get-in / get-out:** Get-in 5 hours (probably less); Get-out 1 hour.
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes
- **Accommodation required?** 3 singles please
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** floor should be flat not raked. The company will try to arrange tiered seating depending on what is available at venue and may bring futon style benches for low level front row seating.
- **Target audience:** all ages interested in Circus, Dance and theatre
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** £1100 (£400 – can be claimed back from RTDI)
- **Website:** www.gandinijuggling.com/en/our-shows/view/36/gibbon
- **Trailers:** www.vimeo.com/301166520
www.youtube.com/watch?v=_KyrGZha8zQ

DATES AVAILABLE

- **2020:** Flexible
- **2021:** Flexible

PROMOTER HOOKS

- This is world-class juggling
- Mixing awe-inspiring tricks with comedy is sure to be an audience pleaser
- 'If at first you don't succeed, try and try again' is something everyone can relate to
- It's a show the whole family can enjoy - not just for kids, not just for adults.

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

The company will do an upbeat Q&A after each show and will be happy to do a post-show demo on how they learnt some of the juggling tricks featured in the show. They will be open to workshop participants doing a curtain raiser if this is appropriate. The activity above will be included in the fee.

Juggling workshops can be offered to children's activity groups, schools, dance groups or enthusiasts. The company will include ball making tutorial video for workshop leaders and a starter video workshop. People interested could make their own balls before our arrival to use in the workshop and keep them to practice in the future. Workshops are available, costs vary; see p7: YOUTH.

Returner



Photo: Dougie Ewan

LÎLA DANCE: The Hotel Experience

Lila Dance welcome you to *The Hotel Experience*, where the ordinary and extraordinary stories of our guests are unpacked in a high energy, physically enthralling dance theatre show. As *The Hotel Experience* checks in to your venue come and watch your friends and family as they guest star alongside our four breath-taking dancers in this exciting night of dance.

When the sun rises, there is an important decision to make. This hotel is not what it seems, as the clock ticks the walls blur and dissolve, fragments of memory tumble into the room as the hotel staff are transformed to past friends and lovers. We invite you to peep behind the do not disturb signs and eavesdrop on our characters as the hotel accommodates their hopes and dreams.

The Hotel Experience is brought to life through an exciting moving set, four powerful 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.

"Stunning dance, atmosphere and powerful storyline. World class"

Rural Tour audience member

SHOW INFORMATION

- **Show duration:** 1hr approx. No interval. Optional Q&A post show.
- **Min. performance space (width x depth):** performance area 8m x 8m (does not include audience space)
- **Performed:** On floor. Performance space is adaptable but needs to accommodate the company's set so the bigger the better. The audience seating will be a traditional end-on arrangement.
- **Get-in / get-out:** 9am get in / 1 hour get out post show.
- **Technically self-contained?** Yes. The company will provide own lights and sound system and will tech the show themselves. They will liaise with venues to discuss performance space/power points.
- **Accommodation required?** Yes please, 6 beds singles or twin. Accommodation for additional wraparound 2 beds singles or twin.
- **Additional comments regarding performance space:** The floor needs to be safe for dance, ideally sprung. It must not be carpeted. Venue to provide seating where everyone has a good view, and dressing room spaces for community cast and for professional cast please.
- **Target audience:** Dance and Theatre attenders. The work has an exciting set design element so may also attract people interested in design.
- **Fee (to the rural touring scheme):** The fee for the show and residency package is £2000 (subsidy of £1050 can be claimed back from RTDI – making the show approx. £700 and the residency package £250)
- **Website:** www.liladance.co.uk
- **Trailer:** facebook.com/ruraltouringdanceinitiative/videos/516112675459483/

DATES AVAILABLE

- **2020 / 2021:** from Sept 2020 to Summer 2021

PROMOTER HOOKS

- Participation element really helps audience development
- Don't be put off by the space – it's a spectacular show and the company are willing to be very flexible
- The visual images and the idea of quirky goings on in a hotel really appeals

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

The Hotel Experience features an extended cast from the local community at each venue. A unique opportunity for community members (maximum 16 participants) 12+ with no experience of dance necessary, to have an integral involvement in the professional work. Lila Dance will work intensively with participants for 2 days (in the week of the show) and on the day of the show to rehearse and prepare the cast for performance. Level of commitment required is to attend the 2 workshops prior to the show, the dress run and performance.

LOST DOG : Juliet & Romeo

With Lost Dog's blend of dance, theatre and comedy this duet reveals the true story of Romeo and Juliet. It turns out they didn't die in a tragic misunderstanding, they grew up and lived happily ever after... well, they lived at least.

Running time: 75 minutes

Suitable for: 13+

Tour team: 2 performers & 2 technicians

Minimum space dimensions: 6m x 6m

TOURING: Autumn 2020

CONTACT: info@lostdogdance.co.uk

FEE: £800 per show

WORKSHOPS: Dance/theatre workshops, led by touring company members, are suitable for different age groups and experiences.



ALTERED SKIN : Sense of Being

Written & directed by Shane Shambhu



A beguiling fortune-teller welcomes the audience into her mystical world. She charmingly and playfully entices audiences to hear their futures through gazing through the crystal ball, picking out tarot cards and performing rituals from unknown worlds. As she begins to unravel the mysteries of the audience we embark upon a journey of short stories that connect us to five distinct cultures/myths from across the world (Hindu, Islamic, Japanese, Norse and Aztec). A sensory journey, using dance, theatre, music and spoken word to reassess our sense of belonging. Show is for all ages. 2 performers and a technician on the road.

TOURING: 2021

CONTACT: Sarah-Jane Watkinson:

sj@outercirclearts.co.uk / 07971 234752

FEE RANGE: TBC

WORKSHOPS: Shane is a highly skilled workshop leader. Details TBC.

KEIRA MARTIN in collaboration with SIODA ADAMS : Good Blood

Keira and Sioda use traditional Irish dance, live music, song and storytelling to bring hilarious, nostalgic and familiar family scenarios to the stage. Their honesty and humour sheds light on the bonds that hold us together, the people that make us who we are and the ties that bind us.

TOURING: March 2020 onwards

CONTACT: keiradance1@gmail.com / 07967915696

FEE RANGE: £650-£1000

WORKSHOPS: Irish traditional dance, song, music, storytelling, contemporary dance. creative sessions to all age ranges.



SPIITMILK DANCE : Desert Island Flicks



A blockbuster, adventure and a rom com rolled into one! Desert Island Flicks sees two leading ladies reimagine, remake and spoof 90 of the most memorable movie moments of all time in just 90 minutes, taking on all the lead roles, stunts, and special effects!

Running time: 90mins + interval.
3 on the road. Suitable for age 10+.

TOURING: Autumn 2020 & Spring 2021

CONTACT: info@spiltdance.co.uk / 07841 818384

FEE: £750 minimum per show inclusive of all marketing, accommodation and travel.

SCHEME THAT COULD RECOMMEND YOU: Live & Local / Creative Arts East

“

It's been a brilliant experience to be part of the Rural Touring Dance Initiative since the project first started. In that time we've hosted as many dance companies as we've been able to – from heart-stopping dramatic work with 7 dancers on stage, to incredibly intimate and thoughtful dance in a specially built digital environment. We've seen first-hand how dance designed for rural spaces can transform expectations for what a night out in a village hall can be, for both audiences and promoters.

It's also been a real journey for our dance ambassadors. One of the most rewarding elements of the project has been to see how the confidence and experience of our volunteers has grown. They have shared with their communities not just performances that they might not have otherwise seen, but a wide range of wrap around activity – from a post show talk to a full on residency and participation in the performance.

It's a fantastic project which has taken our programme to new levels of quality and distinctiveness.

”

Claire Marshall – Deputy Director, Carn to Cove

The **Rural Touring Dance Initiative 2** is a second 3-year national strategic touring project, as part of a 10-year 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. RTDI 2 has the additional support of Arts Council Wales, associate partners, Pavilion Dance South West and DanceEast. Find out more at: www.ruraltouringdance.com



**National Rural
Touring Forum**



take
art **HA**



**DANCE
EAST**



FOYLE FOUNDATION

Supported by Arts Council England via their Strategic Touring Fund



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**RURAL TOURING
DANCE INITIATIVE**

Making the best dance happen in small spaces