

PRESS RELEASE | FESTIVAL FRINGE 2018
DANCE, PHYSICAL THEATRE and CIRCUS



**DANCE BASE FESTIVAL 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Edinburgh's year-round Home of Dance announces its programme for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2018

This year, the Dance Base Festival programme is interwoven with themes of choice, restriction and identity; welcoming 24 shows, from 11 countries, to perform as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2018.

In its 17th year, the Dance Base Festival showcases professional companies on an international stage, and the 2018 programme may be the most varied yet. From the first full-length, full-scale Ballet production ever presented at the venue, to a playful twist on the Indian performing art of *Bharatanatyam*, to authentic flamenco from Seville, to minimalist Finnish breakdance-influenced contemporary, to South African Shangaan Electro... Dance Base opens its doors to a wide range of dance styles from across the globe.

Performers from countries including Australia, Taiwan, South Africa, Switzerland and Hong Kong will join Scottish, English and Irish-based companies in a programme that showcases the venue's reputation and commitment to audiences and to the dance community, and reflects Dance Base's international credentials.

Exploring timeless themes such as childhood and shared reminiscance, questioning gender, existential dread, choice, rights and identity, probing the dark humour around the tragedies of humanity and the genesis of momentous points in history, this year's programme brings live music, physical theatre and sensorial experiences to the Fringe, as artists give their take on the world around them and how they, and we, are unified as one.

Talking about the programme, Artistic Director, Morag Deyes, MBE, said:

"History! Phew... it's just one thing after another... and in the year since our last festival there have been changes almost everywhere, and we feel that our programme for 2018 tells that story.

Dance does love to bend the rules, and we see that in shows that reflect our evolving understanding of identity and gender. We treat your ears to beats from Africa, Seville, LA and from the coolest of Belgian technogeeks. We salute Ireland for its recent spirit of change and we welcome its full-length ballet (a first for Dance Base), and open doors even more to our friends from Taiwan. The Year of Young People gets the respect it deserves in our youth showcase and fantastic kids shows. So, at Dance Base, history is NOW!"

Delve in to uncover the full Dance Base Festival 2018 programme; a diverse line-up offering something for everyone.

For the first time ever, thanks to its continuing partnership with **Culture Ireland**, Dance Base welcomes a full-length, full-scale ballet to the Fringe: **Giselle**. Brought to Scotland by **Ballet Ireland**, the National Ballet Company of Ireland, this modern retelling of the romantic classic revives a timeless tale about the redemptive power of love. Betrayed by Albrecht, Giselle dies of a broken heart but her spirit returns to forgive her now repenting lover and protect him from death at the hands of the vengeful Wilis. Choreographed by Ludovic Ondiviela, former Royal Ballet dancer and choreographer, Ballet Ireland's *Giselle* is a story of love transcending death that will capture the hearts and minds of audiences today.

This year, Dance Base welcomes back companies from Taiwan Season, marking the fifth year in which performances from the showcase are hosted at Edinburgh's home of dance. The first of two performances from this year's line-up is **Chang Dance Theatre's *Bon 4 Bon***. In this smart serving of fresh, engaging dance, four real-life brothers take to the stage in a quite literally moving story of childhood memories and mangos.

An open-hearted trio present a richly patterned performance in the second show from Taiwan, ***Varhung – Heart to Heart* by Tjimur Dance Theatre**. In this sincere and honest piece, Tjimur's work embraces a bounty of intoxicating, artfully expressed sensations in which private feelings are on the verge of being made public. Working in close collaboration with the company's founding artistic director Ljuzem Madiljin, in-house choreographer (and sibling) Baru Madiljin, three dynamic dancers bring ancient Paiwan cultural traditions up to date.

From Taiwan to Hong Kong, **Joseph Lee Wai-Nang** gives us ***Folding Echoes***, a solo dance piece that deconstructs the rules of dance as a form. Originating from audiences' urge to understand a contemporary dance performance in general across cultures, Joseph Lee Wai-Nang creates a unique theatre experience to reconstruct audiences' perception of the theatrical space as well as contemporary dance. It explores the boundary between realities of performance and existence but most importantly, it opens the space for the audiences to explore their connection to themselves by creating another layer of awareness and understanding in their viewing experience. It's dancing. It's a solo. But it's much more than that.

Live music is on offer for all ages this year, as **Njobo Productions (FKA After Freedom Productions)** return to Dance Base with ***SOWhEreTO Africa*** following a sold-out show of *I am Rhythm* at the 2016 Edinburgh Fringe. Experience the sounds and rhythms of the South African street life, with live music, contagious energy and invigorating vibes through an everyman's daily journey.

Some of our artists focus on hard-hitting topics this year, some with a dark, comedic spin and others channelling raw emotion. **Liz Roche Company's** hugely topical ***WRONGHEADED***, merges film, voice and movement, exploring the stark realities that women face around choice over their bodies in Ireland today. Fierce words by poet Elaine Feeney drive the piece, with electrifying performances by Sarah Cerneaux and Justine Cooper. Intensely emotional and physical, *WRONGHEADED* opens a space to consider these issues from a new perspective.

Following similar themes ***The Spinners*** – by **Limosani Projekts and AI Seed Productions** – questions life, death, and our perceptions of choice in an emotionally charged and visually stunning dance theatre performance. On an exhilarating journey into myth and imagination, the Scottish and Australian collaboration tells the story of the Moirai – the Fates of Greek mythology.

Cultured Mongrel and **Tess Letham Dance** add to the emotive focus with a powerful Scottish double bill: ***It's Not Over Yet...*** and ***How to Survive the Future***. *It's Not Over Yet...* performed by Emma Jayne Park, reveals a personal, funny, angry and undeniably honest and dark take on surviving cancer. Tess

Letham presents a powerful, captivating account of how to react when life is falling apart. Expect a journey through a collection of oddly humorous, tragic and alluring scenes derived from momentous life events.

Dark humour is further explored in **Ramesh Meyyappan's *Off-Kilter***. The internationally renowned visual theatre artist returns with a dark, comic and highly physical production incorporating illusions and masterful non-verbal storytelling. *Off-Kilter* explores mental wellbeing, identity, feeling a little bit different from everyone else, and not being quite yourself.

Following their highly acclaimed Fringe debut *Fall Out* last festival season, **Old Kent Road** return to Dance Base with their new work ***OSCILLATE***. From original electronic dance music to its coordination between light and sound, Old Kent Road reveal a ground-breaking tap dancing show that explores human interactions and relationships through movement and sound.

Music continues to weave its way through the programme as **Leslie Mannès** presents ***ATOMIC 3001***, a futuristic dance ritual where body, sound and light become one. The piece submits a being to a perpetual and incoercible pulse drawing her into some infernal dance machine. This sound implacably brings her to exhaustion, trance and incandescence. Collaborating with composer, Thomas Turine (Sitoid) and light designer, Vincent Lemaître, choreographer Leslie Mannès aims to create a form in which their different practices combine to generate one powerful sensorial experience. One same machinic and warlike energy. Precise, unceasing and metamorphosing.

Ima Iduozee adds to the sensory focus this August with ***This Is the Title***; a delicate performance that captivates the imagination and senses on a blindingly white dance floor. Unfolding with fluid elegance, the performer emerges into a space that radiates around him, reviving our thirst for light, calm and freedom. The distinctive approach to movement comes from Iduozee's background in breaking, contemporary dance and physical theatre. Since its premiere in 2012 *This Is the Title* has received international acclaim, touring in 14 countries across Europe, North America and Asia.

Looking to the working body as a focal point, **Roberta Jean's *Brocade*** presents a poetic response to historical and contemporary notions of craft and physical work, and takes on new meaning in the beautiful setting of the Council Chamber at Edinburgh City Chambers. In this delicate, sensorial experience, movement and sound are propelled along a catwalk and sonic textures resonate with the presence of women forging alliances. Somewhere between a procession and a concert, this meditative performance has the precision, strength and delicacy of an intricate piece of lace.

It wouldn't be the Fringe without some family fun and a hint of quirkiness and ***Stick by Me***, created by **Andy Manley, Ian Cameron** (co-creators of hit show *White*) and **Red Bridge Arts**, provides it all in a new, inventive and cheeky show for the younger audience about friendship, play and the importance of treasuring little things.

The fun continues with ***Four Go Wild in Wellies*** offered by Glasgow's own **Indepen-dance 4**. Scotland's inclusive professional dance company present a whimsical adventure featuring bobble hats, scarves, tents with a life of their own and lots of fun in wellies in this playful look at how friendships are built, broken and mended.

Humour is found in charismatic performer **Shane Shambhu's *Confessions of a Cockney Temple Dancer***; a one man show that draws on personal stories, lived experiences and hilarious personal reminiscences about one of the first generation of British Asians, born in London and learning the classic Indian dance form of *bharatanatyam*.

After touring Australia with sell-out shows and wildly enthusiastic audiences, **Andy Howitt** returns to the Fringe for the first time in six years with **Sunshine Boy**. Dance, text, fashion, art, sex and music feature in this in-your-face look at the life of the legendary Leigh Bowery and the genesis of queer culture in 1980s London.

A glorious Fringe tradition, Dance Base's eclectic **Heads Up** returns with a curated pick-and-mix of new work from invited artists. Two days and two separate programmes, the ticket offers an enticing taste of new work and new ideas hot from the studio in one affordable dance showcase.

Another group carving out a recurring place of honour in the Dance Base programme is **in the making**, the collective of Scottish-based artists and musicians, improvising scores in the studio. *iii* is their third appearance in the Dance Base programme and they continue to delight and intrigue.

Also intriguing is **Ian Spink's** return to Dance Base as part of **airfield collective**, with **Messages Deleted** – a one-off session with post-show discussion, in which a collective of Scottish-based artists and musicians interact with re-purposed objects, live projection, found text and broken toys – art meets noise, chaos and clarity.

Adding to the wordy texture of this year's programme is **Flamenco: Up Close** by **FabFlamenco** – a dose of authentic, earthy flamenco straight from Seville, danced by the inspirational Antonio Amaya "El Petete" and Adela Ramos, and accompanied live by award-winning flamenco singer Iván Ramos – "El Pumu".

We wander off and out into glorious eccentricity with a celebration of the Glasgow 2018 European Championships and their mascot, Bonnie the Seal, with a series of synchronised swimming-inspired flashmobs. **Bonnie and her Splashmob** is a multi-generational work featuring **PRIME, Lothian Youth Dance Company, and Guests**, and choreographed by Bridie Gane. It will be popping up and making waves around the city between the 6th and 11th of August.

Finally, an insight into the formidable talent and energy of some of Scotland's best young dancers. **Lothian Youth Dance Company** and Edinburgh based hip hop crew, **Mini Jackers** join **TIM Scottish Dance Theatre Creative Learning** and **Fusion Youth Dance Company** to present a showcase called **Starting Now** designed to light up The Year of Young People. In *Starting Now*, young dancers from across Scotland express themselves through dance choreographed by leading makers. Four groups give us styles such as hip hop, contemporary, physical theatre and more in a show that celebrates Scotland's youthful energy, putting them directly in the spotlight for the Year of Young People 2018.

Colonialism is central to **Pink Mama Theatre's** performance **Jungle**. Choreographed by Slawek Bendrat, Pink Mama Theatre questions what colonialism means today and to what extent it continues to shape our nominally post-colonial world and its inhabitants. Four heroes, Vicky, a British feminist, Carmen, a Venezuelan transgender woman, Theresa, a lost missionary and Billy, a young traumatised American soldier, meet in an unknown place where humankind has vanished entirely. As the leader of a young utopian nation appears, the four characters are invited to join her, considering one rule:

"Either dance, or die."

Tickets for Dance Base shows are available through the Edinburgh Festival Fringe website: tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/dancebase.co.uk/festival18

ENDS

Note: Press Days and Times, alongside Notes to Editors, found below

Press Days

Please note, the Dance Base Press Day will fall on **Friday 3 August** but a selection of performances open later in the run. The first available performance of each show is listed below.

RSVP for the Preview Day (Fri 3 Aug) Emma Lawford on emma@dancebase.co.uk by 17.00 on Fri 6 Aug

All general ticket requests are to be sent to Emma Lawford on emma@dancebase.co.uk

Andy Manley, Ian Cameron and Red Bridge Arts	Stick by Me	Fri 3 Aug	12.30 (40 mins)
Liz Roche Company	WRoNGHEADED	Fri 3 Aug	13.30 (30 mins)
Indepen-dance4	Four Go Wild in Wellies	Fri 3 Aug	14.10 (25 mins)
Njobo Productions (fka After Freedom Productions)	SOWhEreTO Africa	Fri 3 Aug	14.30 (40 mins)
EJP Cultured Mongrel and Tess Letham Dance	It's Not Over Yet... and How to Survive the Future	Fri 3 Aug	15.20 (60 mins)
Ramesh Meyyappan	Off-Kilter	Fri 3 Aug	15.30 (45 mins)
Limosani Projekts	The Spinners	Fri 3 Aug	16.45 (50 mins)
Chang Dance Theatre	Taiwan Season: Bon 4 Bon	Fri 3 Aug	17.00 (35 mins)
Lothian Youth Dance Company, Mini Jackers, TIM Company, and guests	Starting Now: Youth Showcase 2018	Fri 3 Aug	18.00 (60 mins)
Tjimur Dance Theatre	Taiwan Season: Varhung – Heart to Heart	Fri 3 Aug	18.15 (50 mins)
Ima Iduozee	This Is the Title	Fri 3 Aug	19.30 (25 mins)
Pink Mama Theatre	Jungle	Fri 3 Aug	19.45 (40 mins)
Ballet Ireland	Giselle	Fri 3 Aug	20.45 (100 mins)
Various Dance Artists	Heads Up (two separate bills)	Fri 10 Aug & Sat 11 Aug	12.45 (60 mins)
Roberta Jean	Brocade	Mon 13 Aug	21.00 (60 mins)
Joseph Lee Wai-Nang	Folding Echoes	Tue 14 Aug	18.00 (40 mins)
Old Kent Road	OSCILLATE	Wed 15 Aug	15.20 (40 mins)
airfield collective	Messages Deleted	Sat 18 Aug	20.00 (75 mins)
in the making	(iii)	Mon 13 Aug	16.00 (45 mins)
Leslie Mannès	Atomic 3001	Tue 21 Aug	16.45 (40 mins)
Andy Howitt – HowittMoves	Sunshine Boy	Tue 21 Aug	19.15 (40 mins)
Shane Shambhu	Confessions of a Cockney Temple Dancer	Tue 22 Aug	19.45 (60 mins)

FabFlamenco	Flamenco: Up Close	Thu 23 Aug	21.15
PRIME, Lothian Youth Dance Company, and Guests	Bonnie and her Splashmob	Mon 6 – Sat 11 Aug	Various times and locations

Notes to Editors

About Dance Base:

- Dance Base is Scotland’s National Centre for Dance, situated in Edinburgh, and encourages and celebrates the potential for dance in everyone. Providing classes and workshops for the community, masterclasses and residences for professional dancers, and an extensive programme of outreach work, Dance Base reaches out to inspire wellbeing and creativity, and cultivates a future for dance in local, national and international communities. Dance Base is a Creative Scotland Regularly Funded Organisation (RFO).
- Dance Base’s Festival programme is curated by Artistic Director, Morag Deyes, MBE.
- Dance Base’s Festival 2018 programme has 24 shows from 11 countries: Australia, Belgium, Taiwan, South Africa, Hong Kong, Spain, Ireland, Switzerland, Finland, England, and Scotland.
- During the Festival, Dance Base supports performers and visiting companies in Edinburgh with a special programme of classes and workshops. It offers a high-class venue for professionals to rehearse, a space for their practice and low-cost studio hire.
- Throughout the year, the £7m dance facility is visited over 50,000 times, for 130+ different classes and workshops. Alongside this, Dance Base’s professional programme exists to support and nurture professional dancers and their work at all levels through classes, workshops, and a programme of residences.
- Dance Base is a member of the European Dancehouse Network (EDN). With its acceptance as a full member of EDN, Dance Base is making history for dance in Scotland as it is the first Scottish dance house to be accepted to the network; opening opportunities for Scottish dance artists.
- For all press requests and media enquiries, please contact Emma Lawford on emma@dancebase.co.uk