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## **National youth festival celebrates decade of dance in Ipswich**

**One Dance UK's annual national youth dance festival, U.Dance, celebrates its tenth year with a performance hosted in the UK's eastern region for the very first time.**

The event will showcase a unique collection of excellent youth dance work. Twelve dance groups have been selected from over 290 entrants nationwide through a series of 20 regional heats.

This year, U.Dance partners with leading regional dance organisation based in the East of England, DanceEast, with the festival taking place at its impressive home, Jerwood DanceHouse. Here, the weekend-long event will present an exciting opportunity for youth dance groups to perform on-stage, hone their skills in professional dance workshops, and meet and work with other young dancers from across the country.

Andrew Hurst, Chief Executive of One Dance UK says:

“The U.Dance national youth dance festival is an important event on the national dance calendar. From the regional platforms to the Festival itself, U.Dance engages with more than 2,000 young dancers, encouraging them in the pursuit of excellence in dance and embarking on careers in dance, highlighting one of One Dance UK's key aspirations – to raise the profile of dance teaching and practice in all its diverse forms.”

Brendan Keane, Artistic Director & Chief Executive of DanceEast says:

“We are absolutely delighted to be welcoming One Dance UK, colleagues and participants from across the UK to Ipswich this summer. The U.Dance events offer the opportunity for young dancers to celebrate their achievements together through a festival full of passion, energy and ambition. We look forward to welcoming everyone and ensuring that their time spent in Ipswich is truly memorable.”

The groups selected include:

Saturday 14 July, 7:30pm

<b>Region</b>	<b>Selected Group</b>
North East Region	Twister
East Region	Boys United
London Region	Trinity Laban Youth Dance Company
Yorkshire Region	Horizon Community College
South East Region	Drishti Dance
North West Region	Ludus Youth Dance Company

Sunday 15 July, 3:30pm

<b>Region</b>	<b>Selected Group</b>
East Region	Advance Dance Company
South West Region	Exeter Youth Dance Company
West Midlands Region	Chicane Dance Company (George Salter Academy)
East Midlands	Northampton School for Boys
DanceEast CAT	DanceEast Centre for Advanced Training
Yorkshire Region	High Storrs

This year, U. Dance has a dance-digital focus. The shortlisted entries to the annual screendance competition [U.Dance On Screen](#) will be shown throughout the weekend. The weekend's performances will also be live-streamed on the One Dance UK website.

For further information and to book tickets to the performances, visit the [DanceEast website](#).

- ENDS -

**For further information and images, please contact Communications at One Dance UK, on 020 7713 0730, or [comms@onedanceuk.org](mailto:comms@onedanceuk.org).**

## NOTES

### About U.Dance

To find out more about U.Dance, view One Dance UK's [Highlights Film](#).

U.Dance 2018 is presented in partnership with DanceEast with additional support from Ipswich Borough Council and University of Bedfordshire.

# DANCE EAST

## About One Dance UK

One Dance UK is the sector support organisation leading the way to a stronger, more vibrant and diverse dance sector. We provide one clear voice to:

- Support all those working in the sector to achieve excellence in dance performance, education and management
- Advocate for the increased profile and importance of dance in all its diverse forms and settings
- Enhance dancers' health, well-being and performance
- Identify gaps, provide opportunities and improve conditions for dance to be learnt, discussed and seen

We provide membership packages for a range of individuals and organisations to support, advise and connect people across the dance sector.

Our aim is to create a workforce that is well-equipped to secure dance's prominence in the cultural landscape of the future. We do this by providing services, information and opportunities for:

- Dance organisations
- All dance professionals including:
  - Dance artists and choreographers
  - Dance teachers, educators and practitioners
  - Dance managers and producers
  - Dance medicine and science/research professionals
  - All children and young people.

One Dance UK is supported by:

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