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## **St Albans dance group selected for national youth festival**

**A group of talented young dancers from St Albans have been selected to take part in national youth dance festival U.Dance 2018.**

Advance Dance Group, from St Albans, will perform their successful dance piece at the nation's largest national youth dance festival, taking place this July at the beautiful Jerwood DanceHouse in Ipswich.

They join an impressive line-up of twelve dance groups, selected from over 290 entrants nationwide through a series of 20 regional heats.

One Dance UK's Head of Children and Young People, Claire Somerville, comments:

"We were overwhelmed this year with hundreds of applications from youth dance groups from across the country. The standard was exceptionally high and each group can consider themselves winners, having come as far as the regional platform."

Coming to the East of England for the first time, One Dance UK's national youth dance festival this year partners with regional agency, DanceEast. Based at its home, Jerwood DanceHouse, U.Dance 2018 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 region.

Advance Dance Group's piece is entitled *Super Oceanum*. Advance Dance Company are the elite dance company of St Albans Girls' School, and all members attend the school. The company has been in existence for eight years and auditions for new members each year. The company rehearse in the purpose build studio at the school and dancers are encouraged to collaborate in the choreographic process.

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."

**- 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 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.

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