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Dance groups from Colchester and Billericay selected for national youth dance festival at London's Southbank Centre

Groups of talented young dancers from Colchester and Billericay have been selected to perform in the national youth dance festival, U.Dance 2019

Colchester Sixth Form #1 Group from Colchester and Live Love Dance from Billericay will both perform at U.Dance 2019. U.Dance is a national youth dance festival presented by One Dance UK, in partnership with the ISTD, which returns to London's South Bank this summer with a line-up of youth dance groups from across the United Kingdom.

The Colchester Sixth Form #1 Group are excited to bring a piece entitled *NEFELIBATA*, choreographed by Hayley Lemon to the festival and comment "This is the first year we have been part of this incentive, it has provided an invaluable opportunity for the dancers to push themselves, to commit and be inspired by each other and the other groups taking part. The importance of dance to each of the members of the group is significant. They each study a mixed programme of A Levels at the college, Dance is the one subject where they all have the opportunity to explore themselves and their abilities through creative freedom. Dance is where they learn about themselves and each other, about what their possibilities are and about what potential they have. They learn to communicate, to commit and to explore their potential. Dance brings out the best and the most honest side of each of them."

Being selected for U.Dance is also pivotal moment for Live Love Dance who will be performing *Take Me Home* choreographed by Ediz Ibrahim at U.dance and remark "To have been chosen to perform at U.Dance 2019 means so much to us, proving hard work and dedication from our students and teaching team does pay off. We can't wait to be a part of such a fantastic event. Each student in our Live Love Dance Troupe has a passion to perform, and train in numerous styles of dance. They just love to be on stage!!"

They join an impressive line-up of twenty dance groups, selected from over 290 entrants involving thousands of young people nationwide through a series of 20 regional heats. The groups will perform at Queen Elizabeth Hall, housed within Europe's largest centre for the arts, and take part in activities spanning the South Bank, including National Theatre, Rambert and BFI Southbank.

One Dance UK's Head of Children and Young People, Laura Nicholson, comments:

“We were overwhelmed this year with hundreds of applications from youth dance groups from across the country. The standard was exceptionally high, demonstrating that young people in the UK are passionate about creating and performing groundbreaking and high-quality dance work.”

Each year the U.Dance national youth dance festival showcases a selection of the best dance groups from all over the country in a range of performances and gives the opportunity for hundreds of young people to take part in workshops and masterclasses with dance industry professionals, inspire each other with a love of dance and develop their understanding within the dance sector.

Andrew Hurst, Chief Executive of One Dance UK says:

“The U.Dance national youth dance festival is an important event on the dance calendar we are delighted to be working in partnership with the ISTD to deliver this year’s event. 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 images please follow this link

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/15j1ek4y3wf8n98/AADhsCMoTr8zsCFDr40ZrN-Ca?dl=0>

For further information please contact comms@onedanceuk.org or U.Dance Project Manager, Cameron Ball, at One Dance UK, on 020 7713 0730, or U.Dance@onedanceuk.org.

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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.

About Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 17 acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. Southbank Centre has a number of performance and dance Associate Companies including Forced Entertainment, Shobana Jeyasingh Dance and ZooNation Youth Company and Artist in Residence Deborah Colker.

For further information and to buy tickets for the performances visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk.

About Colchester Sixth Form #1 Group

The Colchester Sixth Form #1 Group consists of 6 dancers, all currently studying A Level Dance together. A seventh member of the group has worked as our costume director, she also studies Dance with the others. The backgrounds of the dancers are diverse, all coming together from different secondary schools and from various genres of Dance. They each auditioned to be part of this group, a "choreographer in residence" project earlier this year. Our visiting choreographer, Hayley Lemon, is an ex-student of Colchester Sixth Form. Returning to us having successfully completed her Masters degree in Dance at University of Bedfordshire. Hayley worked with the dancers and our costume director, for 6 weeks to create this piece.

About Live Love Dance

Live Love Dance opened its doors in April 2017 in Billericay Essex, by its director Danielle Smith. LL Dance offers students as many opportunities to perform on stage and at numerous events. The dance school provides students with an enjoyable place to learn, build confidence and nurture their passion for performing. The dancers are aged from 7 to 18 years old, and rehearse every Tuesday evening. All the students are from Billericay and the surrounding areas in Essex. At LL Dance classes are from 3 years old, and on top of performing on various amazing stages, we offer ISTD exams, end of year shows, and has a competition team that have already won awards.