



One Dance UK
Ensign House
Battersea Reach
Juniper Drive
London SW18 1TA

020 7713 0730
info@onedanceuk.org
www.onedanceuk.org

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Dance groups from Wembley, Brent, Carshalton, Highgate and Harrow selected for national youth dance festival at London's Southbank Centre

Groups of talented young dancers from London boroughs including Brent, Wembley, Highgate, Harrow and Carshalton have been selected to perform in the national youth dance festival, U.Dance 2019

I Dance Studio Group from Wembley, Sujata Banerjee Dance Company from Brent, Deltoro from Carshalton, Highgate Ballet School Choreographers Collective from Highgate, and Srishti Yuva Culture from Harrow will all 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. CAT Groups from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and The Place will also be making a guest appearance at the festival.

I Dance Studio Group are excited to bring a piece entitled *Thumping Keys*, choreographed by Prasath Krishnaraj to the festival and comment "U Dance has so far been a platform to promote our dance group as well as exhibit and promote our culture via our dance. It has been a spectacular journey and we hope to bring this vision to life on the national platform."

Sujata Banerjee Dance Company will be performing *Kathak Bandish* choreographed by Sujata Banerjee and remark "It [U.Dance] is a very prestigious platform to be performing at"

Deltoro are excited about the chance to perform *Made of Stone* choreographed by James Harris and explain "U.Dance means opportunity. Opportunity to perform, opportunity to support and an opportunity to give back to the national dance school community that have supported schools like ours by giving young people a chance to live out their dreams of performing on stage."

Highgate Ballet School Chorographers Collective will take to the stage with *Landmark* choreographed by their dancers, led by Magdalene Woolf, and are inspired to be at the festival commenting "Being able to be a part of U.dance gives us an opportunity to be a part of something inspiring, giving us the chance to meet other dancers, and see other dance, expanding our horizons. We can't wait"

Srishti Yuva Culture are set to perform *Sparsh - the touch* choreographed by Nina Rajarani MBE. They are excited to be part of the festival and value “The chance to interact with youth groups from across the country.”

All these groups 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 these links

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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.

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.

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 I Dance Studio

I Dance Studio UK was originated in 2012 and based in North Wembley. The professional team consists around 10 dancers who come together from different parts of the London. They run classes for different age groups starting from the age of 5 and host a show once every 2 years named *Adhrit*. The motto behind the show is to exhibit different dance styles and celebrate the team's journey. They were also the title winners for a UK based dance competition called Nadanrajas at SSE Wembley Arena.

About Sujata Banerjee Dance Company

Sujata Banerjee Sujata Banerjee Dance Company (SBDC) is a reputed South Asian Dance organisation, which is in the forefront of promoting dance education through performances and teaching. It has trained many young people to a professional level, including the winner of the BBC Young Dancer South Asian category final Vidya Patel and the other finalists each year. They create work with young people, mainly working with those who have been trained through their Academy.

About Deltoro

Founded in 1989, Del Toro School of Dance aims to promote a love of dance, sense of team work and community. They encourage the highest standards in our fun and friendly dance studios and

offer a wide range of classes. Extra opportunities are also available including workshops and masterclasses to prepare our students for regular performances held locally and in the West End.

About Highgate Ballet School Choreographers Collective

The Highgate Ballet School Choreographers Collective is made up of senior dancers from HBS who show a passion and unique talent in choreography. All of the dancers study ballet and contemporary dance intensively, and rehearse together on a weekly basis, under the guidance of Magdalene Woolf. It has grown out of the Highgate Ballet School Youth Dance Company and aims to foster the creative talents of the young choreographers of the group, and giving them tools to explore and expand their own artistic voices.

About Srishti Yuva Culture

Srishti Yuva Culture was founded in 2006 by Nina Rajarani MBE with senior members of her dance school based at the Harrow Arts Centre. The group was created in response to the need for training and performance opportunities in a professional setting to give committed dance students performance opportunities beyond the annual school show. This youth dance company specialises in Bharatanatyam and works on challenging, new choreography, sometimes collaborating with guest choreographers and composers. The aims of the group are to promote healthy recreation, equality and diversity through the provision of facilities for classical Indian dance education, and to increase public access to performances of Indian classical dance across the UK and beyond.