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## **Dance group from Durham selected for national youth dance festival at London's Southbank Centre**

**An inclusive dance group from Durham has been selected to perform in the national youth dance festival, U.Dance 2019.**

D+, an inclusive youth dance company from Durham, will 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.

Being selected for U.Dance is a pivotal moment for D+ who will be performing a piece called *Running Out Of Time* choreographed by Tess Chaytor, Maria Mandezadeh and dancers, comment " [U.dance is] A chance to celebrate and demonstrate excellent inclusive practice. With half of our dancers experiencing disability or long-term medical conditions, when we originally started creating the piece we wanted to unpick the emotions attached to feeling or being different. The piece has since evolved into a world of fantastical creatures but at its heart retains the exploration of what it means to be in the minority and whether the voice of the minority is ever truly heard or understood."

They join an impressive line-up of 20 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 further information please contact [comms@onedanceuk.org](mailto:comms@onedanceuk.org) U.Dance Project Manager, Cameron Ball, at One Dance UK, on 020 7713 0730, or [U.Dance@onedanceuk.org](mailto: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](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk).

**About D+**

D+ is an inclusive youth dance company drawing young people from across all of TIN Arts various classes and programmes. The group meet in Durham City for 2 hours a week to take part in contemporary dance technique class, creative workshops and choreography skills.