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

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

Ceyda Tanc Youth Dance from Brighton, and Drishti Dance a South Asian dance group from Reading 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.

Being selected for U.Dance is an exciting opportunity for Ceyda Tanc Youth Dance to perform their piece called *TÖREN*, choreographed by Ceyda Tanc and comment "*TÖREN* is a contemporary dance work taking influence from folk dance. The piece is inspired by ritualistic ceremonies and traditions within different communities and tribes around the world."

Drishti Dance will perform a piece entitled *Euphoria* choreographed by Anuradha Chaturvedi and are excited for the chance to express their passion for dance the festival commenting "Dancing for our youth group is a way of life - many of them have been practising this form since their early years and it is now an expression of their being. They are extremely passionate about dance and this is reflected in their chemistry on stage where their individualities clash and blend in a unique cohesiveness. Dance for us, is a continual striving to create exquisite portrayals through movement and sound that have the potential to evoke powerful emotions for both the performers and onlookers and create unique bonds between them. For us dancing brings the exciting challenge of building the skill of combining emotional capability, coupled with a professional artist's objectivity, to interpret the concept and choreography and render an enthralling experience that would speak to audiences. Dancing is important to us, as it pushes all of us to work outside our comfort zone and produce work that challenge our own preconceived notions and motivate us to think innovatively and out of the box. "

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

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<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sp7bjviej9aj8c0/AAqKsZwiujs71APcPSd67Ga?dl=0>

For further information please contact comms@onedanceuk.org 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 Ceyda Tanc Youth Dance

Since its conception in 2012, the company have built a solid reputation throughout the South East and reached the finals of Youth Dance England's national youth dance platform, U.Dance, in 2013, 2015 and 2017. After seeing the company perform at U.Dance 2015, Richard Alston invited them to perform alongside his professional company at Theatre Royal, Brighton. Previous youth company members have gained places at London School of Contemporary Dance, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Laban, University of Chichester and University of Roehampton. Ceyda Tanc Youth Dance is a company for talented young dancers aged 15-19 years with strong technique and excellent potential, who are looking to pursue further dance training.

About Drishti Dance

Drishti Dance was established in 2008 and took in, its first youth students within Reading in 2012 and from that time onwards, it has grown from strength to strength with additional dance centres now in Oxford and Didcot. Drishti Dance Youth group however, draws most of its dancers from Reading and surrounding areas. Extensive and in-depth dance lessons are conducted through the week, in the dance centres with the aim to build a sound knowledge of all aspects of the dance form. The students take great pride in their growing ability to translate the language of Kathak and push its boundaries into more contemporary contexts.