

ACE dance and music with Virevolte present: "Qui Sommes-Nous? / Who Are We?"

Welcome to an evening of excellence in European youth dance! Tonight you can enjoy an international mixed bill of exciting dance from the U.K. and Switzerland. The show is the culmination of 2 weeks of collaboration between young dancers from Birmingham's premier youth dance company ACE Youth, and Geneva's superb company of young dancers Virevolte. Both groups of young people are passionate about, and at the forefront of, contemporary dance practice in Europe today.

This evening showcases the second step in a year-long exchange between our 2 companies: ACE Youth first visited Geneva in October 2012 and this week we have been so pleased to host Virevolte and share the city of Birmingham with them. We hope to return to Switzerland in October 2013 for the final stage of our project together. Over the course of this week they have been working together at both the Link Dance Space and at mac, exploring their similarities and differences, exchanging ideas and practice in their particular dance forms and creating a new dance piece together, which you will see tonight.

ACE dance and music and Virevolte share similar approaches, for example both work hard at offering progression routes to their young dancers. Testimony to that ethos are the performances you will see tonight from two emerging and cutting-edge professional companies: ACE Graduates (U.K.) and eamb (Switzerland), both of whose dancers have been trained through our two companies.

ACE dance and music's adult community performance group Impulse will finish off the night, adding a feel-good vibe through their traditional African dance and drumming forms.

Running times: First half 45mins // Interval 15 mins // Second half 45 mins.

Welcome// Gail Parmel, CEO and Artistic Director of ACE dance and music, and Manon Hotte, Artistic and Education Director at Virevolte Company and l'Atelier Danse Manon Hotte

Secrets//Fused//Choreography: Laura Vanhulle and Iona Waite

Fused have been working on the theme of secrets and keeping secrets. They all know something and are keeping it from you, the audience. Sometimes one person might want to tell you, but another member of the group will stop them. They are working together to keep this secret from you – but will they decide to tell you in the end? You will have to wait and see...

La Manifestation (The Protest)//Virevolte Company//Choreography: Manon Hotte, assisted by Marion Baeriswyl; music: Marie Schwab

Normally performed outdoors this is a space of protest by young people who are hungry to assert an identity, the right to create and to dance.

'La Manifestation' was originally conceived of as part of the choreographic installation 'The Low Cost Dance Project', presented at

the Galpon Theatre in Geneva. On stage at mac birmingham this piece is performed by a completely new and very young group of dancers

and grows more and more into a military dance. www.ateliermanonhotte.ch/virevolte/

Together //ACE Youth New Recruits //Choreography: original choreography Sade and Kristina Alleyne; adapted by Shanelle Clemenson and Iona Waite

In summer 2012, ACE Youth had an exchange with on-going collaborators Untold from Amsterdam. In July ACE Youth went to Amsterdam, and in August Untold came to Birmingham, bringing with them 2 further Dutch youth dance groups, called Picture 6 and Incredible Kids. It was a fantastic exchange, where nearly 40 young people exchanged their cultures, talents and experiences. The companies worked with ACE dance and music company dancers Sade and Kristina Alleyne, to create a new collaborative performance themed around the coming together of these varied groups, whose dance styles range from Hip-Hop, the Street, to African, to Contemporary. The young people were asked to show off and be proud of their individual styles, sharing with and teaching the other young people their specialties. From this process they came together in uniformity, producing a sensitive, sensual, dynamic and upbeat piece, which evidences the respect and understanding they feel amongst each other, both despite and because of their different backgrounds and cultures. ACE Youth New Recruits act as a feeder group and training ground for our ACE Youth touring company. They have continued to work on the 'Together' dance piece with Shanelle and Iona in their weekly sessions and present it to you tonight.

Nous responsabilisons toutes les déclinaisons (We give responsibility to all the variations)//eamb//Choreography: Marion Baeriswyl and Elodie Aubonney; music: Matéo Luthy

eamb was established in 2009 by two young Swiss dancers/choreographers, Elodie Aubonney and Marion Baeriswyl, to develop a shared vision of choreographic research. Both were trained at ADMH/Virevolte Company. This duo collaborate with the musician Matéo Luthy who works mostly from a base of self-recorded sounds. *Nous responsabilisons toutes les déclinaisons* is a work exploring the shape of the duet where the presence of the other is essential as a trigger, providing resonance to the movement. The gestural movement in this piece is based on a variety of defined choreographic vocabulary, which came out of a long process of improvisation. In a shifting atmosphere of complicity, two dancers play with codes and references, using writing and improvisation. <http://eamb.tumblr.com/>

-There will be a short interval-

Ubuntu Bam (My Humanity)//ACE Youth//Choreography: Luyanda Sidiya; artistic collaboration from Gail Parmel

The inspiration for the piece came from choreographer Luyanda Sidiya's personal experiences. He says: "I tried mixing tradition and modernity. In

Southern Africa we have a massive diversity within our society and cultures, but one major thing that brings our art together is RHYTHM. Even though

we now live in an influenced society, where you see more western ways of living, we still find ourselves through events such as feasts, marriages, initiations and gatherings. In these you find people ululating, clapping, stamping feet, etc."

Flux//ACE Graduates//Choreography: Rudi Cole with the Company; artistic collaboration from Gail Parmel

Flux: 'the rate of flow of a fluid, radiant energy, or particles across a given area.' Generated by diverse and complex rhythms; the dancers explore the utility of a feeding in and out of a steady heartbeat style rhythm, overlapping and feeding into one another.

"Qui Sommes Nous?/Who Are We?"/ACE Youth and Virevolte Company//Choreography: Iona Waite and Marion Baeriswyl with the Company; artistic direction from Gail Parmel and Manon Hotte; music: Marie Schwab and Ian Parmel

The new collaborative dance piece created by ACE Youth and Compagnie Virevolte is themed around the international cultural heritage of both their home cities. Geneva is a global city of great international significance where just under half the population are resident foreign nationals. Switzerland as a whole boasts four national languages and is a melting pot of people from different countries, cultures and religions. Evidently this has echoes in Birmingham's proud culturally diverse demography. The young people from ACE Youth and Virevolte were asked to consider how the many cultures and mixture of people in each of their two cities have created a unique and distinct cultural heritage in both Birmingham and Geneva. The young people from the 2 groups are themselves from diverse backgrounds and through dance they will access, share, learn from and express that heritage and tell their own, new modern European heritage story.

West African Dance and Drumming//Impulse

Impulse is a project celebrating African Caribbean culture through traditional dance and music. Adults from across Birmingham work with international artists from Senegal and Guinea on a weekly basis, as well as ACE dance and music's Directors Gail and Ian Parmel, to bring together a series of West African Dance and Drumming pieces for performance. The project is led by ACE dance and music, in partnership with Jamo Jamo Arts, and supported by Birmingham City Council. You can expect energetic dance, infectious rhythms and an uplifting, feel good vibe! Impulse will be taking a break over the summer term whilst our home, the Link Dance Space, is refurbished, but if you would like to know when classes are starting up again in the Autumn, then please email: education@acedanceandmusic.com to register your interest.

ACE dance and music's team: Gail Parmel (CEO and Artistic Director), Ian Parmel (Executive Director), Louise Sutton (General Manager), Charlotte Gregory (Project Manager), Iona Waite (Education Assistant and ACE Youth Group Leader), Koko Mathibela (Bookkeeper), Nicky Everett (Marketing Associate), Laura Vanhulle and Amayra Fuller (Dance Teachers), Shanelle Clemenson (ACE Youth Assistant), Jessie Gayle (Space Hire).

With thanks to the mac, the ACE dance and music Board, and all the ACE Youth parents who have been so supportive this week.

www.acedanceandmusic.com

