

PRESS RELEASE

7 JULY IMMEDIATE

URBAN MOVES INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL - FULL PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED!

The second Urban Moves International Dance Festival will take place in Manchester City Centre, Oldham and Bury Friday 25 - Sunday 27 July. Come and delight in live professional dance performance outdoors - up above and all around the city! The festival will surprise the crowds again with a unique blend of dance and spectacle to celebrate the cityscape and architecture of Manchester. For three days some of the best companies from Britain, France and Spain will be out there in the parks and in the fountains, in the squares and in the gardens. Watch out for some awesome aerial dance involving skyscraper cranes and some wicked waterplay!

Approximately 6000 people enjoyed the city's first Urban Moves in 2005. At this year's performances you'll find a fascinating mix of styles and some exhilarating ideas. All performances are free and suitable for all ages.

LIZ LEA (Britain & Australia)

Bluebird

Floating in a sea of blue a woman arises; with a series of costumes and forty metres of electric blue silk this exotic Bluebird rises to the occasion and plays with mood, character and a mesmerised audience.

Liz Lea has previously been seen in Manchester at the 2002 Commonwealth Games and returns from a tour of India with this transfixing and imaginative work for Urban Moves.

FRIDAY 25 JULY

6.00PM ALBERT SQUARE M2, 9.30PM CATHEDRAL GARDENS M4

SATURDAY 26 JULY

OLDHAM see website for times and location

8.00PM ALBERT SQUARE M2

SUNDAY 27 JULY

2.30PM & 3.30PM EXCHANGE SQUARE M4

CIE RETOURAMONT (France)

Vide Accorde

An awesome and thrilling piece of aerial dance using skyscraper cranes, Vide Accorde will catch the breath in your throat. Based on the knowledge that human beings can't fly, the dance strives to create impossible movement in the void.

The vertical dancing of Cie Retouramont is inspired by and directly related to the objects, shapes and spaces that are part of city architecture. This company are an original creator of urban dance adventure!

FRIDAY 25 JULY UK, PREMIERE
6.30PM ALBERT SQUARE M2

AXIAL DANCE (Britain, North West)

Night Cocoons

A visually extraordinary performance, Night Cocoons is a brand new work with seven dancers encased in seven giant transparent pods. Watch from outside as movement unfolds and unfurls within.

Night Cocoons is a special commission for Urban Moves 08. Axial Dance has worked with dancers based here in the North West on this new piece and will offer the work for touring after the festival. Axial Dance is a company committed to offering dance to the widest possible audience. This project is supported by Carcoons SSI Ltd.

FRIDAY 25 JULY & SATURDAY 26 JULY, URBAN MOVES COMMISSION
10.00PM & 12.00AM CATHEDRAL GARDENS M4

DANCE IN TENSION (Britain, North West)

Point of Synthesis

A high energy piece from Liverpool trio Dance In Tension, Point of Synthesis is a modern and fresh combination of several different dance styles. Flamenco, Kung Fu, Contemporary and Street Dance to name but a few meld together, weave and compete creating a new and exciting experience - cultural fusion!

FRIDAY 25 JULY

1.00PM EXHIBITION SPACE, KAY GARDENS, BURY

11.45PM CATHEDRAL GARDENS M4

SATURDAY 26 JULY

1.00PM & 3.45PM PICCADILLY GARDENS M1, 11.45PM CATHEDRAL GARDENS M4

SUNDAY 27 JULY

2.15PM & 3.15PM EXCHANGE SQUARE M4

HOFESH SHECHTER (Britain)

Uprising

Hofesh Shechter Company present an explosive extract of audience favourite Uprising - a chance to see this acclaimed work for seven men up close. Young and urban and very much in Shechter's own world of fluid movement and complex dance sequences this highly charged work, set to a throbbing percussive score composed by Shechter himself, leaves audiences buzzing.

Hofesh Shechter's work is supremely physical and atmospheric. He has recently choreographed a much talked about dance piece for Channel 4's Skins.

SATURDAY 26 JULY

1.15PM & 4.00PM PICCADILLY GARDENS M1

SUNDAY 27 JULY

1.00PM & 4.00PM PICCADILLY GARDENS M1

CIE GIANNI JOSEPH (France)

Ladies and Men

Wearing vivid expressions, fresh smiles and doll dresses, four ladies search for for a charming prince...in a fountain. Can they find one?

Dear ladies - meet four!

Gianni Joseph likes to create the extraordinary from the ordinariness in everyday life. Inspired by what he sees in the streets of the world he brings a humorous take to the inexhaustible subject of love at first sight. A jubilant, graceful and rather wet celebration!

SATURDAY 26 JULY & SUNDAY 27 JULY

1.30PM & 4.30PM PICCADILLY GARDENS M1

PROVISIONAL DANZA (Spain)

Calle 4

A romantic and spectacular performance from Madrid that features a climactic dance under water, courtesy of a firemans hose!

Provisional Danza prove there is poetry and magic to be found on every street corner. Supported by Instituto Cervantes

FRIDAY 25 JULY
1.30PM KAY GARDENS, BURY
SATURDAY 26 JULY
8.30PM ALBERT SQUARE M2

HIP HOP FROM THE DIES DE DANSA INTERNATIONAL DANCE Festival (Spain)

In a show slot featuring the best hip hop from Barcelona's recent international festival, bold and radical performance comes to Manchester for Urban Moves.

Dies de Dansa is one of the biggest festivals in the Dancing Cities worldwide network.

SATURDAY 26 JULY
OLDHAM see website for times and location
SUNDAY 27 JULY
3.00PM PICCADILLY GARDENS M1

COLLISION (Britain, North West)

The Line

A large-scale choreography, involving people from all walks of life, this project is designed to connect and unite. Scores of participants will join hands to form The Line and perform a repeated dance sequence to specially commissioned music.

Anybody interested in taking part in The Line on Sunday 27 July should contact 0161 232 7179 for details.

An inspired and uplifting experience The Line links all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Spidering its way to a public space near you soon!

SUNDAY 27 JULY
2.00PM, 3.00PM & 4.00PM EXCHANGE SQUARE M4

[EK!] EKLECTIKA (Britain, North West)

The Greenman

The Eklectika dancers make their way across the city using pedestrian crossings to mark their route, waiting in stillness for the green man to light up and give the signal to perform. Motorists and onlookers are treated to a surreal few seconds of dance.

[EK!] have begun a series of EK!speriments, using the City Centre as a performance playground and to bring dance to the public in a way that confounds expectation!

SUNDAY 27 JULY

2.05PM EXCHANGE SQUARE M4 TO PICCADILLY GARDENS M1

[EK!] EKLECTIKA (Britain, North West)

Garden Project

The history of Piccadilly Gardens is a rich and rambling one. They once housed an asylum and the tunnels below them played an essential part during war time in Britain. Garden Project brings history to life and looks at the way the gardens are used by the public today.

SUNDAY 27 JULY

3.30PM PICCADILLY GARDENS

WIRED AERIAL THEATRE (Britain, North West)

Fervorosa

A skin-tingling collaboration between UK based Wired Aerial Theatre and Brenda Angiel from Buenos Aires. Two world-famous aerial companies come together to present a heart racing, high-tempo spectacular that will spiral, twist and lunge high above the crowds to an original tango sound score created by Argentinian composers.

Fervorosa is a special commission by Without Walls, a consortium of seven of the UK's street arts festivals. Wired Aerial have previously been commissioned by the Royal Opera House, the O2 Dome for its opening, and for the Lord of The Rings Premiere in New Zealand.

SUNDAY 27 JULY

2.30PM & 5.00PM PICCADILLY GARDENS M1

LATIN LOUNGE - LIVE AT THE LEGENDARY RITZ

A chance for you to shake, swing and salsa on the dance floor till late with live bands and latin DJ!

FRIDAY 25 JULY, THE RITZ, Whitworth Street M1

7.30PM - 2.00AM. Over 18s only
TICKETS £10 (£5 Conc) or £3 (£2 Conc) after 11.00PM
BOX OFFICE 0161 274 0600

BANDS:

TANGO Frambuesas con Nata 7.45 - 9.15pm
SALSA Bourbon y Tequila 9.30 - 11.00pm
LATIN DJ 11.00 - 2.00am

FREE CLASSES are available for Latin Lounge ticket holders at Green Room, Whitworth Street M1. Limited availability, places on a first come first served basis. 0161 232 7179 for more information.

BEGINNERS TANGO 6.30 - 7.30pm
with Tango Manchester
BEGINNERS SALSA 7.45 - 8.45pm
with Salsa de Cuba

IN BURY...

FRIDAY 25 JULY
1.00PM EXHIBITION SPACE KAY GARDENS
DANCE IN TENSION (Britain, North West)
Point of Synthesis
1.30PM KAY GARDENS
PROVISIONAL DANZA (Spain)
Calle 4

IN OLDHAM...

SATURDAY 26 JULY
See www.urbanmovesfestival.co.uk for updates on times and locations
LIZ LEA
Bluebird
THE BEST OF HIP HOP FROM THE DIES DE DANSA FESTIVAL (Spain)

The adventurous Urban Moves has taken its place in the network of European dance festivals alongside Barcelona, Zurich and Genoa, to become an official festival of worldwide Cities That Dance? http://www.cqd.info/home_eng.htm

Presented by Dance Initiative Greater Manchester and Manchester International Arts. www.digm.org, www.streetsahead.org www.streetsahead.org.uk

Urban Moves is funded by Manchester City Council; Arts Council England North West; all events in Piccadilly Gardens supported by Piccadilly Partnership; the Metropolitan Borough Councils of Oldham and Bury; AGMA; Instituto Cervantes;

Alliance Francaise; Carcoons SSI Ltd and Salford University.

Supported by Xtrax; Arts About Manchester; The Met; Zion Arts Centre, Green Room, Contact Theatre.

For press enquiries please contact Rachel Bartholomew at rachelbartholomew@mac.com tel: 07768 614865

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Background

DANCE INITIATIVE GREATER MANCHESTER

DiGM is the dance agency for Greater Manchester. The agency runs creative projects throughout the region, and provides grants, advice and information. Current active projects include: Signatures Youth Dance Showcase; Older People Dancing Network events; District Dance Forums; Greater Manchester Community Dance Network; Danceworks - community dance showcase; Commission of Chameleon Dance Theatre; Partner in the development of Comotions Youth Dance Company in Salford; Partner in MOVES dance and film festival; Partner in Discover Dance, audience development project; Dance Train - training in community dance for dance practitioners; CONNECT - a network for Greater Manchester dance practitioners and artists; Pro-Active professional level contemporary technique classes held on a weekly basis; Pro-Active Plus - professional level contemporary workshops led by a visiting artist. □ www.digm.org

MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL ARTS AND STREETS AHEAD

EVENTS MIA is a leading promoter of international performing arts in the North West, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The organisation remains driven in bringing the best international work and local community arts to a widest possible public audience. MIA festivals have an all important goal - to create an exciting, energising atmosphere in a town or city centre that maximises its existing potential, (shops, cafes, restaurants, open spaces and squares), by the addition of carefully chosen special events. These are all free or nearly free, with an inclusive family friendly atmosphere and an appeal to people from many different cultures. Almost all of MIA's work is outdoors and branded as Streets Ahead Events. www.streetsahead.org

XTRAX AND WITHOUT WALLS X.TRAX is Britain's largest and most significant showcasing agency, responsible for managing large events attracting programmers from across the world to see the best in outdoor and culturally diverse performance available in the UK. Xtrax will host the British and international dance promoters attending as delegates for Urban Moves. Without Walls is a consortium of seven of the UK's most strategically significant street arts festivals. Without Walls has commissioned five pieces of work for

presentation and support for a further four at this year's major festivals throughout the UK. www.withoutwalls.uk.com

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Urban Moves is part of Manchester City Council's seasonal events programme, there is a variety of events taking place throughout the city all year. Other highlights include the BUPA Great Manchester Run, the Garden of Delights and the European Christmas Markets. For a complete list and updated information visit www.manchesterlive.co.uk or call Manchester Visitor Information Centre on 0161 234 3157 for a full 2005 Events Calendar.

Councillor Mark Hackett, Manchester City Council's Executive Member for Culture and Leisure says:

"Manchester City Council is delighted with the breadth and quality of the 2005 events programme. It's good news for everyone in Manchester who will benefit from the wide range of events to enjoy, many of which are free, and from the improved profile of the City as a world-class destination."

For press and media enquiries, contact Martin Hellewell, Manchester City Council Press Office, tel: 0161 234 3729; email m.hellewell@manchester.gov.uk