

PRESS RELEASE

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Transitions Dance Company: Triple Bill

Trinity Laban's leading student training company showcases dancers in three brand new works from established choreographers

Choreographed by Dog Kennel Hill Project, Theo Clinkard and Ederson Rodrigues Xavier

UK Tour 19 February – 27 May

“Performances by this enterprising company are always an eye-opener.” (*Guardian Guide*)

Transitions Dance Company's triple bill showcases the next generation of contemporary dance performers from Trinity Laban with twelve MA students performing three brand new pieces from choreographers Dog Kennel Hill Project, Theo Clinkard and Ederson Rodrigues Xavier. Since it was founded in 1982 by original Martha Graham Dance Company member Bonnie Bird, this pioneering company has aimed to bridge the gap between training and a professional performance career for graduate dancers. Transitions Dance Company aims to allow company members to gain practical experience of life in a touring dance company whilst simultaneously completing their MA Dance Performance. Past alumni of the company include distinguished artists such as **Sir Matthew Bourne** (New Adventures), **Luca Silvestrini** (Luca Silvestrini's Protein), and **Emma Gladstone** (Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Dance Umbrella).

Fieldwork from performance and research collective Dog Kennel Hill Project explores how, as a newly formed company, the dancers locate themselves now and in relation to their past. Through a deconstructed series of arrivals and departures and a language of stumbles, false starts, surges and going round in circles, *Fieldwork* asks “when do we truly arrive anywhere?”

my dance, your touch draws upon research that outlines how physical touch affects our behavioural, cultural, emotional and biological development. Through memories, connections and music the movements of the piece are each crafted by the touch of another.

12 is a physically demanding piece, following internal impulses or external attraction to capture the dancers' attention. Incorporating a specially created score composed by Trinity Laban student Ben Pearson, the piece develops bonds formed through dynamic and sensitive partnering, solitary movements, group passages and intricate physical puzzles.

Dog Kennel Hill Project is a performance and research collective formed by dance artists Ben Ash, Henrietta Hale (a former Transitions Dance Company member) and Rachel Lopez de la Nieta. *Fieldwork* follows the success of the surreal, witty and subtly threatening *hold on, let me go* made for Transitions '14. Recent associates with Dance4, their work aims to question what dance is, who can dance and where it can happen. Since they formed in 2004, their work has evolved for a variety of contexts and included productions for theatre, screen, gallery and specific outdoor sites. Their current touring project, *Etudes in Tension* and *Crisis* involves a collection of associated works exploring the act of role play and appropriation of drama in conflict situations.

Theo Clinkard is a Cornish born, Brighton-based choreographer, dancer, teacher and theatre designer. Following his training at The Rambert School, he spent 20 years performing internationally in work by some of the UK's most celebrated choreographers and five years co-directing PROBE with Antonia Grove. In 2012 he formed his own 7-strong company to develop a portfolio of works that explore the communicative potential of the body, the power and vulnerability of the individual, and the empathetic nature of dance in performance. His

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inaugural company work, *Ordinary Courage*, toured to 21 venues across the UK. *Of Land and Tongue*, his recent double bill, is conceived for unconventional spaces and an audience of just 60.

Ederson Rodrigues Xavier is an independent choreographer, dancer, teacher and video artist. Following a successful performance career in the Netherlands and internationally, he has developed an intense physical language, investigating the body's relationship with space and time, and using it as a medium to communicate concepts driven by a deep understanding of the mechanisms that make us move and exist. He is inspired by the intersection of dance with other disciplines such as architecture, painting, music, sculpture, design, science and film. The focus of Xavier's work is underpinned by a musical fascination and chameleon-like perspective.

Trinity Laban will be holding auditions for next year's Transitions Dance Company across March and April, following the announcement of Cristian Duarte, Oded Ronen and Charles Linehan as the choreographers for next year's tour in 2017. For more information, visit <https://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply/dance-applications/dance-auditions>

@transitionsdc | #Transitionsdc2016 | www.trinitylaban.ac.uk

Running Time: 90 minutes | **Suitable for ages** 11+

Fieldwork

Choreographed by Dog Kennel Hill Project

Music by Steeleye Span

Lighting Design by Andrew Hammond

Recordings from Alan Lomax Archives and Jules Maxwell

Costume by Lizzie Barker

my dance, your touch

Choreographed by Theo Clinkard

Music by Paris Street Sounds by Mxsmanic (from Freesounds); Stay with me by Lorraine Ellison; One Hand, One Heart by Leonard Bernstein

Costume by Florence Meredith

Lighting by Fay Patterson

12

Choreographed by Ederson Rodrigues Xavier **Music by** Ben Pearson

Costume by Suzie Holmes

Lighting Design by Andrew Hammond

Company

Dalton Alexander, Fergus Alexander, Eilidh Brown, Olivia Edington, Kate Haughton, Finetta Mikolajska, Caitlin Murray, Ingvild Marstein Olsen, Samuel Pimm, Vera Ilona Stierli, Rachel Tack, Katherine Whale

Listings information

19 Feb

The Space, Dundee

Dundee College, Old Glamis Road, Dundee, DD3 8LE

Time tbc | Prices tbc

www.dundeeandangus.ac.uk | 0300 123 1010

23 Feb

Christ's Hospital Theatre, Horsham

The Quarter Mile, Christs Hospital, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 0LJ

7.30pm | Adults £10 (£9 concs) Friends £8

www.christs-hospital.org.uk | 01403 211293

25 Feb

University of Central Lancashire

UCLan Media Factory, Kirkham St, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 2XY

7.30pm | £8 (£5 concs)

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www.uclan.ac.uk | 01772 201201

- 12 March The Dance House**
 The Dance House / Ty Dawns, Wales Millennium Centre / Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru
 Time 7.30pm | £13.50 (£9.50 concs)
 www.ndcwales.co.uk/ | 029 2063 5600
- 15 March Stamford Arts Centre**
 27 St. Mary's Street, Stamford, PE9 2DL
 7.30pm | £12 (£10 concs) £8.50 students/groups of 10
 www.stamfordartscentre.com | 01780 763203
- 19 Mar The Performance Centre, Falmouth**
 Falmouth University, Penryn Campus, Trevelier Road, Penryn, Cornwall, TR10 9LX
 7.30pm | £12 (£10 concs)
 www.amata.org.uk | 01326 259349
- 13 Apr The Courtyard, Hereford**
 Edgar Street, Hereford, HR4 9JR
 7.30pm | £13 (£12 concs)
 www.courtyard.org.uk | 01432 340555
- 27 Apr Backstage Theatre, Longford, Ireland**
 Farneyhoogan, Longford, Ireland
 8pm | €15 (€12 concs)
 www.backstage.ie | 0353 43 33 47888
- 30 Apr Hamar kulturhus (Hamar Center of Performing Arts), Norway**
 Torggata 100, 2317 Hamar, Norway
 7pm | 100-200 NOK
 www.hamar-kulturhus.no | 62 56 18 00
- 5 May University of Chichester**
 Bishop Otter Campus, College Lane, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 6PE
 6.30pm | Prices tbc
 www.theshowroomchichester.co.uk | 01243 816000
- 18 May University of the Arts, Helsinki**
 Tölviksgatan 16, 00100 Helsingfors, Finland
 7pm | Prices tbc
 www.uniarts.fi | +358 9 72580000
- 25 - 27 May Laban Theatre, London**
 Laban Building, Creekside, Deptford, SE8 3DZ
 7.30pm | £12 (£8 concs)
 www.trinitylaban.ac.uk | 020 8463 0100

The MA Dance Performance students in Transitions Dance Company are all Leverhulme Arts Scholars.

Transitions Dance Company

David Waring is the Artistic Director for Transitions Dance Company. He has performed and choreographed with a range of artists including Ricochet Dance Company, Motionhouse, Walker Dance, Adventures in Motion

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Pictures, The Featherstonehaughs and his group, fishpool (co-directed with Gaynor Coward). His performance work includes Kate Brown's *and yet...*, Athina Vahla's *Listening Post* at the London Science Museum and his own solo *hustler* at the Capital Nights festival in Liverpool. He also choreographed for the launch of the new Fiat 500 in 2008. Continuing the series, *hustler #2* premiered in Big Dance 2010, and David was recently a mentor for Melanie Gonzales' Poupée Post-it creation and premiered *hustler #4.5* as part of the Nightingale's programme in 2013. He has studied Zero Balancing and is currently studying for an MSc Mindfulness degree.

Dalton Alexander

Born and raised in Southwest United States, Dalton has trained coast to coast and across "The Pond". He began dancing at age 18 upon entering the University of New Mexico, exploring the worlds of modern and ballet under Donna Jewell and Vladimir Conde-Reche. He often performed for students, faculty, and the New Mexico Ballet Company. After graduating from UNM Dalton moved to San Francisco, Portland, and eventually Berlin where he spent a year at Tanzfabrik-Berlin. Under the direction of Gisela Müller, Dalton discovered the subtlety and honesty that dance can harness. Through classes with Sasha Waltz & Guests he was exposed to new physical and somatic techniques, leading to Klein becoming a daily practice.

Fergus Alexander

Fergus was born in Scotland in 1989. There, he trained in contemporary dance from 2009 before auditioning for the Trinity Laban undergraduate programme. Gaining a place, Fergus trained at the Faculty of Dance for three years and graduated in 2015. After auditioning for Transitions he was offered a place to undertake studies at Masters Level. During his time in dance Fergus has worked with various choreographers and artists in research, staged performance and site-specific works in Scotland and around London.

Eilidh Brown

Eilidh's passion for dance began in her hometown of Livingston, Scotland, where she was introduced to contemporary dance at the age of 16. She took part in YDance's Project Y course from 2009-2011 and was a founding member of the National Youth Dance Company of Scotland, touring work around the UK. This led onto Eilidh being part of a selected group of young dancers, working under the guidance of Hofesh Shechter and premiering his work 'Tank' at the Southbank Centre. Eilidh recently graduated from Trinity Laban with a BA (Hons) in Contemporary Dance, during which she performed works by Shobana Jeyasingh, Tony Thatcher, Stephanie Schoeber and Lizzie Kew Ross.

Olivia Edginton

Originally from Edgworth, Manchester, Olivia studied under Lorna Cloherty and was a member of North West youth dance company Ludus Dance. Olivia moved to London in 2012 to study Contemporary Dance at Trinity Laban and graduated with a First Class Honours degree. Her solo atlas was selected for the Degree Show in June 2015; she also performed the work at the Lost Forever exhibition opening and at the Live event at London's Gallery223. Most significantly she has worked with dance makers Matthias Sperling, Anna Williams and Kate Johnson. Olivia is a member of Claj Collective, a dance/movement quartet with performers from Italy, Norway and the UK. Her continued interest in the body as an archive and the artist as a collector have and will continue to fuel her creative practice.

Kate Haughton

Kate was born in Dublin and began her training at the Debbie Allen School of Dance whilst performing with the Irish National Youth Ballet. She then went on to undertake the BA Modern Ballet programme at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, graduating in June 2014. Whilst there she performed at the Edinburgh International Festival in Samuel Beckett's Quad and was asked to join Scottish Ballet for their tour of Krzysztof Pastor's Romeo and Juliet in March 2014. The summer of 2014 saw her work with Kerry Nicholls as part of the Scottish Ballet Youth Exchange project, which was followed by performing with Ballet Ireland for its most recent national tour of Swan Lake. Kate is also studying for a BSc in Mathematics with the Open University.

Finetta Mikolajska

Finetta first started her contemporary dance journey in Devon with teacher and professional dancer Susie Reeves-Smith, who introduced her to Richard Alston and EDge. She went on to study for her BA (Hons) at Trinity Laban, during which she performed in a variety of works such as a recreation of Rudolph Laban's Nacht, Anna Williams' Another Flat Thing and Matthias Sperling's 17 Manifestos Manifested. In 2015 Finetta performed her own work,

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Before it Fades, in the Trinity Laban Degree Show, and alongside Trinity Laban's orchestra and Jazz Band at A Day in the Life of Trinity Laban, a celebration of the music and dance faculties' calibre and collaboration.

Caitlin Murray

Born and bred in the Scottish Borders, Caitlin's first dancing steps were taken on the English side of the border at the tender age of three. As a member of both the Jane Keenan School of Ballet and the Berwick Maltings Youth Dance, Caitlin performed regularly, including productions at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (2006, 2007 and 2009) and Alnwick Castle. She was also a founding member of the company Ballet Bewegung. In 2011 Caitlin was accepted into the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance. After completing her NQ year she auditioned and was offered a place on the BA Contemporary Dance programme at Trinity Laban, from which she graduated with first class honours in 2015.

Ingvild Marstein Olsen

Ingvild is originally from Brumunddal, Norway, and started dancing at a local ballet school at the age of five. She moved to London to gain more experience in contemporary art and graduated from Trinity Laban with a first class BA (Hons) in 2015. During her time at Trinity Laban she had the opportunity to work with choreographers such as Matthias Sperling, Anna Williams, Alison Curtis-Jones, Fred Gehrig and Gary Lambert. Since graduating, Ingvild has also been part of a Rudolf Laban recreation project which allowed her to gain experience in the choreological language and was performed in Switzerland.

Samuel Pimm

Samuel's interest in dancing was originally sparked when he was seven years old because he fancied his dance partner. Little did he know at the time that this was the first nudge into his future career. After attending North Hampshire Academy of Dance and continuing studies at Queen Mary's College, Samuel was fortunate enough to be accepted into Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. He graduated with his BA (Hons) in 2015.

Vera Stierli

Born in Bern, Switzerland, Vera trained in ballet and modern dance at a local dance school before studying at the Palucca Hochschule für Tanz Dresden, Germany, where she deepened her knowledge in classical and contemporary dance and completed her BA in Bühnentanz. During her studies she performed in pieces by Stijn Celis, Thomas McManus and Francesco Nappa as well as co-founding a performance collective, Bern Retour. After graduating she trained with Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company (Israel), refining her skills in contemporary dance under the guidance of Rami Be'er. Since 2013 she has been working full-time as a freelance dancer in Switzerland and Germany.

Rachel Tack

Rachel was born in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. where she began dancing at the age of 4 at Hershey School of Dance under the direction of Kelly Strange. Rachel went on to study dance and physical therapy at James Madison University where she received several dance scholarships, including the Earlynn J. Miller Scholarship, and was a member of the Virginia Repertory Dance Company which toured throughout the U.S.A. and to China. In 2013 she graduated magna cum laude and was named Outstanding Dance Graduate. After graduation, Rachel worked as a teaching artist with Attack Theatre in Pittsburgh as well as continuing her studies with the American Dance Festival, Pennsylvania Regional Ballet, Amy Marshall Dance Company and CityDance D.C. In October 2013 she moved to Berlin to work with Isabel Gotzkowsky in the CrossoverProjekt which toured through Germany and to Prague. Rachel began working with choreographer Salvatore Siciliano in early 2014 and is a founding member of Siciliano Contemporary Ballet.

Katherine Whale

From seaside town South Shields near Newcastle, Katherine has danced from a young age in many styles, including ballet, tap, modern and street. Finding a true passion for contemporary dance, Katherine obtained her Foundation Degree from Newcastle College with Distinction before moving to Dundee to study for her BA (Hons) Completion Award at The Space in 2015. Katherine is excited to be a part of Transitions Dance Company, working with different and talented artists to develop her skills and confidence as a creative and versatile performer.