

BIG DANCE 2012
18 May – 15 July

PRESS INFORMATION



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Introduction

Big Dance, launched in 2006, is the largest grass-roots dance initiative in the world. This year will be the biggest dance yet, engaging millions of people across the whole of the UK, and even stretching its reach internationally with the Big Dance Schools' Pledge choreographed by Wayne McGregor of Random Dance. Over 2 million people have taken part in Big Dance since it began, with large scale events taking place in unusual locations from parks to piers, squares to swimming pools.

More than a major biennial dance festival, Big Dance is a vibrant, high profile campaign to get everyone taking part – wherever they are, whatever their age, experience or ability. Big Dance is a wonderful opportunity for dance-lovers across the country, allowing a unique outlet for self-expression. Performances from some of the greatest names in dance are brought together with vibrant new talent, proving the value of dance as a catalyst to mobilise communities and inspire individuals.

Big Dance 2012 is one of the highlights of London 2012 Festival, the culmination of the Cultural Olympiad. In 2012, there will be events across the whole country, building up to Big Dance Week from 7 – 15 July.

Big Dance in London is funded by Legacy Trust UK, creating a lasting impact from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games by funding ideas and local talent to inspire creativity across the UK. The programme is delivered by the Mayor of London, Arts Council England and Foundation for Community Dance with a network of Big Dance Hubs, leading dance organisations around the UK. Five London Hubs (English National Ballet, Sadler's Wells, Greenwich Dance, East London Dance and Siobhan Davies Dance) are joined by a network of leading dance/arts organisations, including Citymoves, Dance City, Dance Cymru/Wales Millennium Centre, Dance South West, Dance4, Dance Base, DanceEast, Dancehouse, DanceXchange, Dundee Dance Partnership, Dylan Quinn Dance Theatre, East London Dance, Eden Court Theatre, English National Ballet, Greenwich Dance, Macrobert Arts Centre, Merseyside Dance Initiative, Sadler's Wells, Siobhan Davies Dance, South East Dance and Yorkshire Dance.

As Big Dance is passed on to the next Olympic city, Rio de Janeiro, it hopes to leave a lasting legacy as hundreds of dance events bring communities together in an inspirational display of energy, artistry and excitement.

Programme Highlights

INTERNATIONAL

Big Dance Schools' Pledge

Friday 18 May, 1pm

On the day that the Olympic Torch arrives in the UK, thousands of schools will be dancing together worldwide to the choreography of Wayne McGregor CBE, in a Guinness World Record attempt for the 'Largest Simultaneous Dance Routine – Multi Venue'. Schools will be performing the choreography at 1pm (British Summer Time – GMT +1) on 18 May 2012 in their school halls, playing fields or with multiple local schools in a central location.

Big Dance is working with the British Council to ensure that schools around the world are taking part. The specially created choreography, with an original score, *Céleste*, by Scanner and Joel Cadbury, can be viewed at: http://www.bigdance2012.com/schools_and_teachers.php

Big Dance- Beijing and Rio

Trafalgar Square

Saturday 14 July, 3pm

Commissioned by the British Council, these two 30 minute films will show the Big Street Dance Days taking place in Beijing and Rio on 7 July. Big Dance Beijing is led by the Beijing City Olympic Development Association and Big Dance Rio by the Mayor's office in Rio de Janeiro.

UK-WIDE

Big Dance Bus

Friday 18 May- Friday 15 July

The Big Dance Bus is a pop up ballroom, travelling around the country to get everyone dancing. The quirky double-decker route-master comes complete with its own dance-floor, pumping sound system, compere, DJ and resident dance company, presenting a high impact dance tour of London. As it races through town and country, the Big Dance Bus will be making a number of stops: from shopping centres, public squares and iconic locations to serene parks and secret places. There will be performances from professional dancers, local dance groups, impromptu dance offs and battles, and free workshops. There is also the chance to learn the choreography for Wayne McGregor's Big Dance Trafalgar Square.

Big Zumba Dance

Launched on Thursday 17 May: taught from Friday 18 May – Sunday 15 July

In celebration of Big Dance 2012, Zumba Fitness has designed Big Zumba Dance, featuring a track by world renowned Zumba® music producer, Sergio Minski. Zumba® is a Latin dance-inspired fitness programme which was created by dancer and choreographer Alberto "Beto" Perez in Colombia during the 1990s. The Big Zumba Dance programme coordinated by Maloca: www.malocauk.com.

Big Jubilee Dance

Sunday 2 June – Tuesday 5 June

Five-a-Day Fitness has produced a fun and simple dance routine film for all ages to perform in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend. The film explores music and dance over the six decades of the Queen's reign, and would be ideal to perform at the Big Jubilee Lunch, either from a screen or audio.

The film and music are available to download on the Big Dance website.

Big Dance Shorts for Channel 4 in partnership with BAFTA

Saturday 7 July – Sunday 15 July

Screened on Channel 4 and the Big Dance Pop-Up Cinema

Choreographers and filmmakers combine their skills in five commissions for short films to be screened to live audiences across the country. The completed films will be broadcast on Channel 4 during Big Dance Week as part of the Random Acts strand, and will also be shown at the Big Dance Pop-Up Cinema before going on to numerous screenings as part of BAFTA's nation-wide programme of events.

LONDON

Big Dance Official Launch*

5 July

St Pancras Station

The official launch of Big Dance 2012 by the Mayor will be a spectacular piece devised Kate Prince, the Artistic Director of ZooNation, with short performances of a range of dance styles by youth, community and professional groups breaking out all over the iconic international train station.

Trafalgar Square

Saturday 14 July

Big Dance Trafalgar Square 2012

Wayne McGregor has created a new dance piece to be performed in Trafalgar Square on July 14th 2012. The culmination of a unique creative process involving 1,000 performers from 40 London groups with music by Scanner and Joel Cadbury, this Olympic inspired performance is the finale for Big Dance in the UK. At 3pm, commissioned films will be shown of Big Dance Beijing and Big Dance Rio as part of the UK's Big Street Dance Day.

Akademi Arts in Parliament*

5 July

Palace of Westminster

South Asian dance company Akademi will be performing a large-scale immersive dance show, including a substantial ensemble cast, interactive elements and video projections at this prestigious event – one of a series that marks Parliament's own contribution to the Cultural Olympiad.

Shhhh.... It's a Secret*

18 May

Westfield Stratford City and Westfield London

To launch the Big Dance 2012 Countdown and to celebrate the arrival of the Olympic torch in the UK, hundreds of Londoners across the capital will be involved in a secret dance experiment conceived by English National Ballet, East London Dance, and world-renowned choreographer André Gingras (Dance Works Rotterdam).

West End Live

Saturday 23 June – Sunday 24 June

Trafalgar Square

Trafalgar Square will play host to a showcase of performances from many of London's most celebrated West End musicals. This free event offers an array of interactive activities in and around the square, providing the perfect family day out. Big Dance will be making an appearance, with Maloca teaching the Big Zumba Dance from the main stage.

More information can be found at: www.westendlive.co.uk

Pop-Up Cinema

Friday 18 May – Sunday 15 July

Inflatable screens will tour London, presenting evening outdoor screenings of classic dance-films and innovative new commissions. Events include presentations of favourites such as *Dirty Dancing*, *Strictly Ballroom* and *StreetDance*, as well as the five Big Dance Shorts Films for Channel 4. There will also be themed evenings such as Bollywood and Ballroom nights, with themed dance workshops held by Theatre Workout.

Big Youth Dance Weekend

7 - 8 July

The Scoop at More London, SE1

Two days of non-stop back to back dance performances at The Scoop, More London, hosted by Sadler's Wells. The outdoor amphitheatre will host 1000 performers from over forty youth dance companies from across London.

Dancing Voices

11 July

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre

With presenting partners *East London Dance*, hundreds of older dancers and singers will be performing *Dancing Voices*, a brand new piece of choreography directed by Natasha Gilmore (Barrowland Ballet) and with music direction from Fi Cunningham (VoiceLab). Held at the Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall, the dance will bring to life influential music tracks from each of the decades from the first London Olympics in 1948 to the present day, sung live by a choir. A social dance will be held after the performance.

Brazil Day

Sunday 15 July, 2-11pm

Wandsworth Park

Marking the handover of Big Dance to the next Olympic city, Rio de Janeiro, Wandsworth Park will be turned into a carnivalesque celebration of Brazilian dance forms, film, music and attitude. Dance workshops and performances led by the important figures in the Brazilian dance scene will be running throughout the day, culminating with a showing of the film *Rio* from the Big Dance Pop-Up-Cinema screen. Presented by Big Dance in partnership with London Borough of Wandsworth.

East London

Hub Partner: East London Dance

Havering Big Dance Weekender

18 May – 20 May

The Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch

This event introduces three days of dance in and around the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch. Local schools will take part in the Big Dance School's Pledge World Record Attempt, there will be an appearance from the Big Dance Bus, and the evenings will bring cinema, circus and a moonlit dancefloor. Performances include a specially commissioned performance of Romeo and Juliet by Ultimate Dance NRG. The weekend culminates with *First Feat*, showcasing the best youth dance on offer in East London and Essex.

Hidden Gems as Part of Spitalfields Music's Midsummer Street Party

23 June

Crispin Place, Bishopsgate Institute Library, Charnel House of St Mary, Christ Church Spitalfields

Hidden corners of Spitalfields will be permeated by intimate dance and music performances in the height of summer. Four East London choreographers have been specially commissioned, alongside composers and instrumentalists from the Royal Academy of Music, to create unique site-specific performances as part of Spitalfields Music's Midsummer Street Party. The day will end with **Street Dance the Maypole**, where audiences learn a street dance routine and mix it with folk maypole moves, such as the Chrysanthemum wrap and the Ripple, accompanied by live music from a traditional English bagpipe player and beatboxer.

I Love Dance: Hackney Dance Festival

31 May, 9 July, 11 July, 12 July

Various Locations in Hackney

A celebration of dance from schools, colleges and independent dance groups across Hackney, including the world premiere of a new commission from choreographer Tony Adigun (Avant Garde Dance), with music by Stephen Montague (BBC Proms, LSO).

New Movementz Under 18s Battle Event

3 June

Stratford Circus

A dance-battle event for young people, hosted by youth street dance company, New Movementz. Under 18s will be competing in hip-hop, house, breaking, popping and krump, with a judging panel of some of the best young dancers in East London.

One Giant Leap

4 June

Barking Abbey Ruins

As part of the Barking Jubilee Tea Party, *One Giant Leap* is a site-specific dance-theatre piece, with live musicians and a cast of all ages set in the stunning Barking Abbey ruins. Choreographer Cheryl McChesney Jones, a leap-year baby, is a rare breed with a birthday once every four years. Her dance piece, along with the Olympics, leaps across the four-year gaps, marking the significant changes that occur in peoples' lives.

Tomorrow's Men

30 June

Jubilee Plaza, Canary Wharf

An all male, high energy, athletic outdoor dance performance fusing street dance, hip-hop, contemporary and acrobatics, with a political bite. Over 100 young men from across East London have been working with a team of professional male dance artists to create this ambitious outdoor production, presented as part of Greenwich & Docklands International Festival's Dancing City.

Leaving Limbo Landing

7 July

London Fields

The premiere of *Leaving Limbo Landing* by Caroline Bowditch, an *Unlimited* commission. This large-scale outdoor production is based on stories of journeys, displacement, settling, arrivals and departures, and is performed in air, water, and on land. The performance features a powerful all-female cast of dancers and aerialists, with amazing costumes, a newly commissioned soundtrack, and a large set featuring a giant water wall.

Postcards from East London

18 May – 15 July

Cinemas and the Big Dance Pop-Up Cinema

A series of 60 second dance films of the ever-changing, bustling and iconic locations of High Street 2012: Stratford to Aldgate East/Brick Lane. Berlin-based dance artist, Jo Parkes (MobileDance), is working with three established East London choreographers and three film-makers, collaborating with the eclectic communities based along this long stretch of road. The result is a series of exciting and dynamic dance performance films inspired by their chosen location, by Sara Gordon (Avant Garde Dance), Alesandra Seutin (VOCAB Dance) and Rosie Whitney Fish.

West London

Hub Partner: English National Ballet

Sporting Dance

30 June

Twickenham Stoop

Young people from West London will be working with an expert choreographer, professional dancers and rugby players in preparation for a special pre-match dance performance in front of an audience of thousands.

Dancing Parallel

4 – 8 July

Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich

Internationally acclaimed filmmaker Nic Sandiland brings together 60 young dancers from three nations in a cutting edge film exploring their home cities through dance. Led by professional dance artists from English National Ballet, Scottish Ballet and National Dance Company Wales, this unique film fuses classical ballet, contemporary dance and the thrilling agility and speed of parkour. The film will be premiered alongside English National Ballet's performances of *Dance GB* at the Big Top Tent in the grounds of the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

The Big Top Tent:

5 – 9 July

The Grounds Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich

English National Ballet, Greenwich Dance and The Royal Borough of Greenwich will produce five days of dance activity in the grounds of the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich. The event involves professional masterclasses, workshops, schools' showcase, performances, tea dance, cabarets and more. The evenings will see the UK's three national dance companies sharing the stage for *Dance GB*: English National Ballet, National Dance Company Wales and Scottish Ballet.

Morris and Maypole

7 – 8 July

Gardens of Kensington Palace

English National Ballet and Historic Royal Palaces work with leading choreographer Simon Rice, the world Famous Hammersmith Morris Men and Maypole expert Mike Ruff to present Morris and Maypole, a new commission to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. Taking inspiration from Jubilee Dance, a dance made especially for Queen Victoria in 1897, dancers from West London perform a new Morris and Maypole in the beautiful gardens of Kensington Palace as part of the free public dance event, the 'Kensington Palace Party'. Central to the work is the Big Dance Maypole created by community artists from West London.

SECRETS: Hidden London- Like a Fish out of Water

Weeks commencing 2 July and 9 July

Like A Fish Out of Water is a site specific performance piece celebrating London Lidos, and is part of the *Secrets: Hidden London* series, which highlights the city's hidden treasures. English National Ballet with Seven Sisters will be performing *Like A Fish Out of Water* at Uxbridge Lido and Hampton Pool; produced by Zap Art, and presented as part of Mayor of London Presents.

Dance Holland Park

7 July

Opera Holland Park

Five emerging choreographers from West London's professional dance companies will present exciting new work inspired by Opera Holland Park's 2012 repertoire. On show will be a medley of ballet, contemporary, and South Asian and Romanian performances inspired by pieces such as *Falstaff* and *Così Fan Tutte*, all within the beautiful grounds of Opera Holland Park.

Design for Dance

Tuesday 10 July

London's Living Room, City Hall

Continuing the legacy of the *Ballets Russes*, choreographer George Williamson, designer David Bamber, and students from Marangoni Institute will be showcasing their extraordinary designs for English National Ballet's production of *Firebird*. The exhibition will provide a fascinating insight into the relationship between the dance and fashion worlds, focusing on the presentation of movement in design for life and art.

Big Dance Cheer

11 July

Twickenham Stoop

Over 200 cheerleaders from across the globe come together in a world record attempt to produce the World's Biggest Cheer in this iconic London location.

Dance in Focus

15-18 May: Photography Courses, Riverside Studios

25 June – 15 July: Photography exhibition, City Hall

9 July: Multimedia performance and demonstration, City Hall

The interconnections between dance and photography will be explored in upcoming photography courses, under the leadership of renowned dance photographer, Chris Nash. Participants will be given the chance to photograph some of West London's finest dancers from English National Ballet, Union Dance and Akademi. The images will be exhibited at City Hall and audiences will be invited to witness an exciting new multimedia performance created and performed by English National Ballet, revealing how photography can inspire dance.

Dance is the Word

May 18 – 15 July

Mentored by leading dance and theatre critic Donald Hutera, English National Ballet's team of dance writers will be reviewing and blogging their way across the Big Dance programme. *Dance is the Word* gives aspiring reviewers exclusive access to English National Ballet's programme of dance activity throughout Big Dance 2012.

English National Ballet and the Big Dance Bus

12 July

Leicester Square

The Big Dance Bus will find itself in one of London's most iconic locations as it sets forth on a truly international dance extravaganza, welcoming performers from across the globe. Participants from the USA, Australia, Italy, Romania, and several other countries will join hundreds of dancers from London for this Big Dance party.

Shall we Dance?

13 July

Duke of York Square, London, SW3 4LY

The classic 1937 film, *Shall We Dance?* will be shown as part of a nostalgic evening in the glamorous surrounds of Chelsea's King's Road. There will be dancing under the stars, and ballet and ballroom workshops inspired by English National Ballet's spectacular production of *Strictly Gershwin*.

Physical Ballet

14 July and 25 July

Trafalgar Square and Brent

As part of Wayne McGregor's *Big Street Dance* in Trafalgar Square, English National Ballet soloist Daniel Jones is collaborating with a parkour master and 16 dancers to create a fusion of gravity-defying parkour and virtuoso ballet. Physical Ballet will resurface in Brent with the arrival of the Olympic Torch on 25 July, showcasing a dance form that combines the intense energy and prowess of sport with the elegance and expression of dance.

North London

Hub Partner: Sadler's Wells

Rambert Dance Company Masterclass

19 May

Sadler's Wells, EC1

The internationally renowned Rambert Dance Company will be offering two workshops over the morning, extending across a range of levels and ages. The Youth Dance Workshop will be an opportunity for 14-17 year olds to learn some of the repertoires currently performed by the company. The subsequent masterclass is designed for dancers at an intermediate or advanced level; joined by dancers from the company, it offers participants a rare insight into the world of professional dance.

Happy Feet and Making Moves**26 May****Artsdepot, N12**

Sadler's Wells and Artsdepot present a day of workshops encompassing a range of levels. *Happy Feet* is a family workshop for beginners and non-dancers, whilst *Making Moves* offers amateurs of contemporary dance the opportunity to work with a professional choreographer to create and improvise on a professional stage.

Khatak Mughlia Masterclass with Akademi**26 May****Dance Studio 2, Interchange Offices, NW3**

A masterclass on the ancient North Indian dance form, Kathak, will be held in response to a performance by Fasih ur Rehman, an acclaimed master of the art. Technically controlled and precise, Kathak is generally performed in an upright position, involving fast rhythmic footwork combined with flowing arm movements and fast spins. The masterclass will focus in particular on Kathak's elements of storytelling (abhinaya) through the use of strong expressional movement.

New Adventures Masterclass**26 May 2012,****Sadler's Wells, EC1**

This challenging masterclass based on the technique and style of Matthew Bourne's choreography is designed for those who are of an intermediate or advanced level and at the beginning of their career as a professional dancer. It offers the opportunity to take part in an ambitious technique class followed by learning some of the New Adventures repertoire and meeting dancers from the company to gain an insight into the world of professional dance.

Wah! Wah! Girls: Post-Show Classes**12 June & 19 June****Peacock Theatre, WC2**

Free post-show classes are being held after two of the performances of the Bollywood inspired *Wah! Wah! Girls*, a vibrant contemporary imagining of the world of the Mujra dancers – dancers, who, for centuries have entertained the rich and powerful with their art. The classes present a heady mix of traditionalism spiked with an innovative contemporary edge.

Sampled – Presented by Sadler's Wells and Big Dance***29 & 30 June****Peacock Theatre, WC2**

Now established as a highlight of London's dance calendar, this year *Sadler's Wells Sampled* will take place at Sadler's Wells' West End venue, the Peacock Theatre. The programme includes performances by Jonzi D, Paco Pena, English National Ballet, and the winner of Sadler's Wells' Global Dance Contest 2011, Ihsan Rustem, performing *State of Matter*. On Saturday 30 June, workshops at Sadler's Wells will provide a fantastic opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to try some of the dance styles showcased during *Sampled*.

Big Dance in the Baylis**10 & 11 July****Sadler's Wells**

Over the course of two nights, based in the Baylis studio, Sadler's Wells highlights some of the best work created in North London for Big Dance 2012. This performance platform celebrates dance created and performed by youth groups, community groups and professional dancers.

Prologue

12 & 13 July 2012

Sadler's Wells

Britain's most popular choreographer, Matthew Bourne, celebrates the 25th anniversary of his company, New Adventures. An Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells where his company is resident, the theatre is marking the anniversary with three seasons of his work throughout the year.

Inspired by Bourne's thrilling dance drama *Play Without Words*, presented at Sadler's Wells from 12 July – 5 August, a cast of more than 70 dancers, encompassing all ages and levels of experience, present a curtain-raiser performance in the Lilian Baylis Studio drawing on the themes and choreography from the show.

Dancing Libraries

25 June - 15 July

Various Libraries across North London.

Sadler's Wells presents an interactive dance performance and workshop in North London libraries designed for children under four.

An intimate, engaging and inspiring interactive dance event, this short, fun and entertaining performance and workshop is designed to introduce young children and their families to dance. For a performance schedule and further details, email north@sadlerswells.com

South London

Hub Partner: Siobhan Davies Dance

Cinedance

7-15 July

In Cinemas and the Big Dance Pop-Up Cinema

Cinedance brings commissioned short dance films featuring south London communities into cinemas. The programme will offer cinema goers an extra screening before feature films for the festival week. The films are commissioned by Siobhan Davies Dance and made by Straybird – an organisation led by dance film artists Lucy Cash and Becky Edmunds.

Seven Ways South (2010) – 12 minutes

A film featuring groups from across the south London Big Dance Hub that are brought together through a common need or desire to move. From Capoeira to Morris dancing, gardening to climbing, members from each of them have been invited to explore and describe these movements.

Pedestrian (2012) – 3minutes

Pedestrian is an innovative and playful 3 minute film, engaging the viewer in a 'walk' composed of tiny fragments of movement from a diverse cast. Featuring south London people and locations, footage is cut together to give the appearance of a continuous walking movement.

Footfall

15 July

Siobhan Davies Studios

Siobhan Davies Studios will be hosting a wide-ranging event exploring and celebrating the act of walking. The event will consist of a new dance piece choreographed by Matthias Sperling, a film by dance film artists Straybird, as well as an interactive installation by Siàn Goldby and Sandy Dobson which combines dance, sound design and visual arts. These will be followed by a talk by the artists involved.

Graduate Fortnight Workshops

9 & 13 July

Siobhan Davies Studios

Graduate Fortnight is a popular two-week programme of workshops and talks which this year includes Siobhan Davies Dance artists working on commissions for Big Dance - Marie Forbes, Joe Moran and Matthias Sperling. Specifically created for final year dance students and new graduates the programme supports their transition from student to independent dance artist.

Land

7 July

Morden Hall Park

Dancers from the south London youth dance network *The Making Space* will perform site-specific choreography in the National Trust property, Morden Hall Park. The dancers will be working with choreographers Vanessa Cook, Janine Harrington and Charlotte Spencer to create a performance that will lead the audience through different outdoor spaces, highlighting features of the environment and interactions within it.

Pass it on: Extend it

31 May

Siobhan Davies Studios

Extend it is a dance workshop for anyone teaching children at primary level, led by Dance Artist Educator, Marie Forbes. It offers teachers an established framework for developing dance for a creative and kinaesthetic approach to the curriculum.

Still Moving

6 June – 18 July

Siobhan Davies Studios

Siobhan Davies Dance are running a dance photography course for professionals and non-professionals to work with established dance photographer Pari Naderi. Participants will explore different techniques and approaches to capturing dance and movement on camera. Photo-shoot opportunities will be set up with local dance groups in rehearsal and performance, in order for photographers to gain experience and get feedback as they develop their techniques.

Still Moving, On the Wall is a programme of large-scale projections after sundown in south London locations during Big Dance Week, featuring a selection of the photographs taken during the *Still Moving* course.

Walking Piece

21 April – 15 July

Siobhan Davies Studios

Choreographer Matthias Sperling is creating a new commission for Big Dance 2012. *Walking Piece* is an installation performance in which 50 people form a single file loop that continuously circumnavigates Siobhan Davies Studios.

Performers will take part in a creative process with the choreographer to develop the piece.

Audience members will be invited to view the work by moving along, around and among the performers' circular route, encountering not only different events mapped along the route, but also each performer's individual response to those events.

Your Move

18 May - 15 July

Online: www.siobhandavies.com/yourmove.

The *Your Move* public blog project will be a rich resource of 60 days of photographed movement from everyday life. To mark the launch of the Big Dance countdown, the blog goes live with user

photographs on 18 May. Participants are invited to add photographs every day during Big Dance, from phones, cameras or computers, capturing movement observed on a daily basis.

South East London

Hub Partner: Greenwich Dance

Ballroom of Joys and Sorrows

1-2 June

Greenwich Dance, The Borough Hall

A new dance theatre production, drawing on English and global folk traditions, has been created by choreographer Kate Flatt and composer Adriano Adewale. The performance takes the form of stories told through live music, dance and song, celebrating the universal rituals of life. Featuring an intergenerational cast of professional and non-professional dancers aged 7 – 70.

The Big Family Cabaret

19 May

Greenwich Dance, The Borough Hall

Greenwich Dance kick starts the Big Dance 2012 festival in South East London with a special Family Cabaret, as part of the Warm-up Weekend. Taking place in Greenwich Dance's beautiful 1930's Borough Hall, the event presents bite-sized bits of dance, acrobatic acts, film and music, with all the best bits of a traditional cabaret: table service, live band and a compere.

Big Dance Carnival

22 July

Crystal Palace Park

Brazilian Samba masters Paraíso will lead a spectacular parade through Crystal Palace Park to the iconic Concert Bowl, for a day of performances followed by free workshops led by professional dancers, in everything from Samba to Flamenco, Bollywood to Hip Hop. The finale event will be an official World Record Zumba attempt in aid of Harris Hospiscare.

Big Dance Big Top Tent

5-9 July

Old Royal Naval College

English National Ballet, Greenwich Dance and The Royal Borough of Greenwich will hold five days of dance in the surroundings of the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich. Over the course of the week, there will be professional master-classes, workshops, schools' showcase, performances, tea dance, cabarets and more. Each night brings the stars of the UK's three national dance companies for *Dance GB* into fantastic collaboration; English National Ballet, National Dance Company Wales and Scottish Ballet.

Big Dance Picnic at Bellingham Festival

30 June

Bellingham Green

Greenwich Dance and Trinity Laban in partnership with the Bellingham Festival will present a wide range of dance activities for all ages. On show will be a wide range of professional and community dance, including Street Dance, Line Dancing, Samba and more. In addition to dance workshops and performances there will also be stalls, sporting activities, face-painting and live music.

Big Dance Walk

Sunday 15 July**Oxleas Meadows**

Celebrating the green spaces that spring out of the city, Greenwich Dance are holding a site-specific dance in the form of a guided journey through Oxleas Meadows. The participants are a cast of intergenerational local people working with dance artists Thomas Goodwin and Petra Soor.

Big Dance Picnic at Trinity Laban**23 June****Trinity Laban**

This family event at the iconic Laban building in Deptford involves dance and circus performers, face painting, creative play areas and interactive inclusive activities. There will be performances by Trinity Laban students, local community groups and professional companies in the outdoor amphitheatre, including a specially commissioned open-air dance theatre performance with Protein Dance Company, choreographed by Artistic Director Luca Silvestrini.

Big Dance Picnic at the Horniman Museum**8 July****The Horniman Museum and Gardens**

Running alongside the Horniman's 'Mummers, Maypoles and Milkmaids' photographic exhibition, there will be an afternoon of Morris dancing, maypole dancing and folk music. Dance, music and craft activities will supplement the professional dance performances, which include a specially commissioned dance theatre performance with Protein Dance Company, choreographed by Luca Silvestrini.

Big Dance Schools' Pledge at the Painted Hall**18 May****The Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich**

Wayne MacGregor's choreography is to be performed by local schools as part of the Schools' Pledge World Record Attempt in the elegant colonnades of the Old Royal Naval College. The breathtaking Painted Hall at the ORNC will then be the backdrop for a specially commissioned dance performance by 6th form students from Plumstead Manor School.

Bromley Big Dance Fest**13 July****Churchill Theatre, Bromley**

Taking place at the Churchill Theatre Bromley, this is a showcase of dance from the best local groups. Headlining this event is the acclaimed Bromley-based inclusive dance company, Magpie Dance, presenting a dynamic new work created in collaboration with artists from Re:Bourne, the educational heart of Matthew Bourne's New Adventures. Being performed by Magpie's Youth and Adult Group dancers, the piece is inspired by Matthew Bourne's enchanting adaptation of the classic Tim Burton fairytale Edward Scissorhands.

Dance at Dusk**June 15****Tudor Barn, Eltham**

An outdoor screening of *Dirty Dancing* will take place at sunset in the beautiful gardens of the Tudor Barn, Eltham, with live dance performances and workshops led by local and professional dancers.

Dancing Streets**22 June****General Gordon Square, Woolwich**

A dance stage will be set up in General Gordon Square in Woolwich, to hold performances from local groups and professional dancers. The performances will stretch up and down the high street, and various workshops will be on offer. Dance films will also be shown on the BBC Live Screen.

Danson Festival

7 – 8 July

Danson Park

This year's Danson Festival will profile the Big Dance Bus, where an extensive range of dance forms will be performed by up-and-coming artists. The numerous dance styles on show cover everything from Irish dancing, to Eastern, to Street.

Greenwich World Cultural Festival

1 July

Eltham Palace and Gardens

Eltham Palace and Gardens will play host to an afternoon of dance, music and circus from around the world. Greenwich Dance and Greenwich Theatre will supplement the performances with a series of workshops.

Making Waves

28 June

The National Maritime Museum

Working with Greenwich Dance and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, children and young people from across the Royal Borough of Greenwich will create and perform their own music and dance pieces, inspired by the world-class collections of the National Maritime Museum.

On the Move: Dance Workshops

18 May – 15 July

Various

Throughout Big Dance, workshops teaching dance forms from street dance to lindy hop will be coming to unusual settings around the Borough of Greenwich, including libraries, children's centres, town centres and museums.

Highlights from the English Regions, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales:

East of England

Hub Partner: Dance East

The Ragroof Players: Ragroof Tea

6 July

The Forum, Norwich

Come and dance the afternoon away to vintage sounds from the glamorous heyday of ballroom dance, with a dash of luscious Latin and scintillating swing. Instant dance classes aimed at absolute beginners, and plenty of opportunity for more experienced dancers to show off their skills. Oh and tea and cakes, of course! Everyone welcome, all ages and levels of experience.

Big Dance at the Big Weekend!

7 - 8 July

Parkers Piece, Cambridge

The Big Dance marquee is part of the Cambridge City Council's Big Weekend celebrations, which includes Saturday showcases schools projects with a Ceilidh to finish. Sunday features The Beat Project (international dance including Flamenco, Belly Dancing, Capoeira, Japanese and English folk dance).

Big Dance Stage at Love Luton Festival

7 July

Market Hill, Luton Town Centre

The Big Dance Stage in Luton Town Centre will feature performances by local groups, independent dance schools, school groups and professional acts, and includes workshops to get the crowd moving.

Big Suffolk Dance Party

14 July

Christchurch Park, Ipswich

The world-renowned travelling Spiegel Tent is to be specially pitched in Christchurch Park for the Big Dance flagship event for the East of England. Throughout Big Dance Week the Tent will play host to a range of performances and participation opportunities for local community groups, culminating in the Suffolk Big Dance Party where dance forms swirl together in performance, before subsiding into a Silent Disco in the stained-glass surroundings of the travelling tent. Featuring Tommy Franzen, the Sugar Dandies, Bourgeois & Maurice, and Tina C.

Big Street Dance Day

14 July

Charter Place, Watford; Civic Square, St Albans; Waltham Cross Town Centre

On 14 July the public are invited to join a simultaneous dance routine across three town centre venues.

The Schools Dance Jam!

6-12 July

The Dance Jam is a performance platform specifically for schools and colleges in the East of England, providing an opportunity for young people to showcase their work to a wider audience in a professional theatre.

Time Gentleman Please

The Demon Barbers

Regional tour, 7 – 14 July

Watford Palace Theatre; Jerwood DanceHouse, Ipswich; Central Park, Peterborough; Luton Library Theatre and Norwich Playhouse

The UK's No.1 Folk and Hip-Hop Dance Extravaganza! Some of the UK's oldest dance forms are brought bang up to date as they collide with some of the youngest, in a fast-paced, new and innovative show bringing together some of the UK's top folk, clog, sword and Morris dancers with their counterparts from the worlds of B-boying, popping, krump and beatbox.

Polonaise on the Pier

Saturday 14 July

The Pier, Southend-on-Sea and The Pier, Sopot, Poland

Taking place simultaneously on both the longest pleasure pier in the world, based in Southend, and the longest wooden pier in Europe, based in Southend's Polish twin town of Sopot, Polonaise on the Pier takes one of the most traditional and iconic Polish dances and turns it into a multi-national, multimedia event. The Polonaise will involve hundreds of members of the public, with the two

events linked by live screens. Starting with a short masterclass by a London-based Polish dance group, Southend school children will then perform the dance across the whole length of the pier, accompanied by live traditional music. Audience members will then be invited to join, dancing far out to sea.

East Midlands

Hub Partner: Dance 4

Splashdance Weekend

7 July – 8 July

National Watersports Centre, Nottingham

Splashdance Weekend is a virtuosic intervention into new spaces for dance, with spectacular live performance, family activities and dance cinema across the 270 rolling acres of the National Watersports Centre. Dance will defy convention across the Park's 700m purpose built white-water course and 2km lake in the region's flagship performance by the award-winning New Art Club (Pete Shenton and Tom Roden). Their creation will take inspiration from Olympic Water Sports and Team GB rowers, based around the 12 Labours of Hercules in a mad-medley of choreographed elegance and sporting prowess. Visitors are invited to stay over in their tents or caravans and enjoy the full two days of events.

Routes

18 - 20 June

Belgrave and Braunstone, Leicester

Choreographer Vanessa Grasse will work with local people from two areas of Leicester to create a performance based on walking and community experiences. Workshops take place in Braunstone and Belgrave, where participants are led through a creative process of outdoor walking, listening, observing, recording sounds and hidden places.

Dream Walk

30 June

So Festival 2012, Skegness, Lincolnshire

UK-based contemporary performance company Bodies in Flight will deliver a choreographed costal walk. Accessible for all ages the walk will explore Lincolnshire's beautiful costal district. Bodies in Flight productions are often collaborations between performers, musicians and visual artists.

Follow the Light

Wednesday 27 June, Skegness and Lincoln

Thursday 28 June, Nottingham Friday 29 June, Derby

Monday 2 July, Leicester

A special mass-participatory commission for the East Midlands from carnival pioneers Mahogany Carnival. Building on the work they have done over the past four years in the region, Mahogany have brought together a world-class creative team to work with local communities to create a spectacular on-street procession to welcome the Olympic Torch as it travels through the East Midlands. Each procession will feature at least 100 local people dressed in Mahogany's trademark costumes, dhol players, djembe drummers, a specially commissioned musical score and choreographed sequences.

Absolute Salsa Party

25 May, 22 June, 27 July, 26 May, 23 June, 28 July, 8pm - 1am

Déda, Derby

Show off your moves and spice up your social life with a night of *Absolute Salsa*, the East Midlands' biggest and most popular salsa promoter.

Games Time

Southfields park, Loughborough, 9 June

Delapre park, Northampton, 7 July

Live outdoor stage show combining music, video, fireworks, professional dancers and 160 members of the local community. With a backdrop of giant video projections, four teams dressed in amazingly colourful costumes take part in an exciting choreographed battle. Created by Déda Producing with Lea Anderson (Artistic Director), Walk the Plank, Mahogany, Mick McNicholas, Arts Agenda and Quad.

North East England

Hub Partner: Dance City

A Grand Dance Out

10 June – 13 July

Throughout Alnwick, Northumberland

A collaborative outdoor dance performance featuring youth and community groups with live music and workshops, travelling on our own Old Red Routemaster London Bus to ten different locations over four days with over 150 dancers, bringing dance classes and professional performance to local people in back gardens, village greens and folk festivals. Created by Dansformation, the programme includes professional performance of excerpts from their new work Northumbriana, music by artists including traditional folk musician Alistair Anderson, and offers the opportunity for youth and community dance groups to hop on the bus and take their dance forms to new locations.

Tynemouth Station – Diamond Jubilee Festival

4 June

Tynemouth Station, Tynemouth

A special event to celebrate both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the restoration of Tynemouth Station featuring music, dance and street theatre performances – including the Demon Barbers and Bad Taste Cru.

Big Dance Launch

7 July

Centre for Life, Times Square, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

The region's opening event for Big Dance week will see youth dance groups from across the region sharing the stage with three live bands and professional dance companies: Bad Taste Cru, Lindy Jazz, Dora Frankel Dance and Urban Games.

Big Street Dance

14 July

Albert Park, Middlesbrough

Joining with Middlesbrough Mela, Big Street Dance hosts youth and community performers from across the region to share the stage with Bad Taste Cru, Lindy Jazz and Dora Frankel Dance as well as Tai Chi, Gymnastics and Martial Arts demonstrations.

Big Dance - Live at the Bandstand

15 July

The Bandstand, Abbey Grounds, Hexham

Local groups and people, from babies to octogenarians, performing in all styles - from street to clogging, ballroom to contemporary. Also featuring professional companies Bad Taste Cru, Lindy Jazz, Dora Frankel Dance, and Urban Games, closing with a newly commissioned work by Nadia Iftkhar.

SummerScene Festival

15 July

Ridley Park, Blyth, Northumberland

Includes performances from Bare Toed Dance Company and Bad Taste Cru, audience mass dances, performance of eight new dance commissions and an opportunity to try out dance and aerial activities.

North West England

Hub Partner: Merseyside Dance Initiative

The Moment When...

29 May, Chester Race Course; 16 June, Orford Jubilee Park; 15 July, Tatton Park

This dynamic participatory dance and performance project takes place across Cheshire and Warrington, and is inspired by the defining moments that change and shape the flow of life and will celebrate the return of the Olympic Games to the United Kingdom. The three site-specific events and the accompanying community engagement work will connect thousands of people across Cheshire and Warrington through dance, performance and cultural celebration.

Lancashire's BIG Dance at the Guild

23 June

Preston Flag Market, Preston

Ludus Dance and the Preston Guild lead this event to mark the premier performance of the Lancashire BIG Dance 'Link Up' groups, part of a huge region-wide event. BIGF Dance at the Guild celebrates the Olympic torch passing through Preston and includes a mass 'wake up shake up' led by Ludus Dance, an opportunity to learn and perform new dance choreography and performances from youth and community groups.

Brouhaha International Street Festival

14 July

Princes Park, Liverpool

Big Dance performers take part in Brouhaha International Street Festival and bring the streets alive alongside local national and international street theatre performers, dancers, acrobats, musicians, circus performers, stilt-walkers and carnival artists.

Big Dance North West Link Up

15 July Grand Finale

Liverpool ONE, Liverpool city centre

The five counties of the North West link up with their performance casts of 250 people each for one finale event of over 1,250 dancers at the iconic Liverpool ONE. Choreographer Jeanfer Jean-Charles and Director Lisi Perry have led a team of 25 North West based artists to create a unique choreographic framework in each county, working with 50 local groups and involving all ages and mixed abilities, recruited from schools, workplaces, community groups and all those with a love of dance. Each of the county performances will take place in the countdown weeks, before this finale performance on the last day of Big Dance Week.

City Steps

15 July

Liverpool City Centre

Performance by professional artists to animate city squares and bring dance in to the heart of Liverpool. Featuring Wired Aerial Theatre, Axial Dance and China Pearl.

Urban Moves

27-29 July

Various locations, Manchester city centre, Bolton and Bury

A three-day festival featuring live outdoor professional dance performance by local and international artists. Surprising the crowds with a unique blend of dance and spectacle, Urban Moves celebrates the cityscape and architecture of Greater Manchester - out in the parks and in the fountains, in the squares and in the gardens. The festival is renowned for some awesome aerial dance performance and for the use of some unusual stages

South East England

Hub Partner: South East Dance

Big Dance at Margate Hosts the Boat Project

14 July

Beach Shelter, Margate

Motionhouse, one of the UK's foremost dance theatre companies, perform at the beach shelter and lead a processional dance performance with the Karavan Ensemble.

Big Dance Brighton

Hove Lawns, Brighton & Hove

14 July

Join Big Dance in Brighton & Hove for a jam-packed celebration of dance where we will welcome local artists, teachers and groups to share their skills. Get involved in our 'have a go' sessions, watch community and professional performances at this iconic sea-front location and be inspired by the talent that this vibrant city has to offer!

Charlotte Spencer at Jerwood Gallery

14 July

Jerwood Gallery, Hastings

A dance performance in response to the new Jerwood Gallery environment by choreographer Charlotte Spencer.

International Dance Federation World Dance Championships

24 – 27 May

Devonshire Park Centre, Eastbourne

Four days of an international multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary dance competition involving competitors from over 24 different countries competing for medals and trophies in belly dance, break dance, Caribbean, dance show, folk, funk, hip-hop, street dance, tap dance, musical theatre and lots more.

Surrey Libraries' Big Dance

7 - 14 July

Venues across Surrey

Series of dance workshops, performances and films for all ages including: 3 Wheelers Dance Company, StopGap Dance Company and 2nd Hand Dance Company in libraries across Surrey.

The Caucus Race at Merton Fields

8 July

Christ Church Meadow, Oxford

An outdoor event appealing to all ages with dance, street theatre and music inspired by The Caucus Race - Chapter 3 in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

Woking World

7 July

Woking Park, Woking, Surrey

Featuring a dance stage, pop up performances by professional artists and local youth groups, a 'making' tent to learn choreographic skills and a vast range of dance styles.

South West England

Hub Partner: Dance South West

Big Dancing Terraces

Sat 16 June, Sat 21 July, Friday 27 July, Friday 24 August

Pavilion Dance Terraces, Bournemouth

The terraces of Pavilion Dance will form the location for a series of Friday evening free outdoor dance classes, overlooking the Pavilion Gardens and the English Channel. Pavilion Dance, Bournemouth's national dance house, is hosting Dancing Terraces, an opportunity to learn a different dance style each week, for free! Choose from Bollywood, African, Funk, 1940s Social Dance, Salsa, Samba. The dance classes are open to all ages and abilities, are accompanied by live music and make a great family evening out.

Desert Crossings

3 and 6 June, Exeter Respect Festival, Belmont Park, Exeter

13 - 14 July, Nothe Fort, Weymouth, Dorset

Once a single continent with a desert environment called Pangaea, the world was torn apart through 250 million years of history. Desert Crossings reunites the deserts of Africa and the UK through a journey of dance, text and music examining common themes of landscape, location and shared memory. This is a collaboration between UK-based producers, State of Emergency and South African choreographer Gregory Maqoma of Vuyani Dance Theatre, performed by a company of five dancers from different cultural backgrounds, with an original score by Steve Marshall.

Urban Moves

7 – 13 July

Swindon Town Centre – Various locations

A unique interpretation of Swindon's landscape fusing movement with architecture to create Swindon's very own 'dancescape' created by award-winning choreographer James Wilton.

A Hooligan's Game

10 - 13 July

Sterts Theatre, Upton Cross, near Liskeard, Cornwall

A new production about how Cornwall represented Great Britain in the rugby final at the 1908

London Olympics! Cornwall Youth Theatre Company tackle the story in a new play by Emma Spurgin Hussey, directed by Rory Wilton (both of Bedlam Theatre Company) with Cornwall Youth Dance Company choreographed by Sally Williams (Cscape dance company) original music by Rob Eldon and the Hall for Cornwall's Kernow Voice Choir. A large score, a huge show – a great night out!

Landance in 2012

14 – 15 July, 6pm

Eggardon Hill, Nr Bridport, West Dorset

Award winning composer Andrew Dickson and choreographer Anna Golding with Ella Huhne, Director and visual artist, are working with individuals and youth and local community groups from West Dorset to produce spectacular large-scale contemporary dance performances in the remarkable surrounding of Eggardon Hill, an Iron Age hill fort.

Urban Dance Event

15 July

In and around The Octagon Theatre, Yeovil, Somerset

This is the highlight of the Take Art Dance's Urban Dance Project in Yeovil, Somerset, with performances from community and professional groups from across Somerset. With a focus on creating Urban Dance events within communities, the project aims to give young dancers a chance to build their professional experience. The project is steered by young people and includes Street Dance and Break Dancing Workshops, DJ, Beat Boxing and Graffiti workshops and demonstrations by local groups.

Strictly Swindon

15 July

Swindon Dance, Swindon Town Hall

A social day of dance with the opportunity to learning a variety of ballroom styles culminating in a fresh and funky performance party to celebrate the end of Big Dance Week! This event is an integrated dance day, and includes surprise visits by local celebrities who will show off their strictly steps in person.

The Immersion Tent

21 July

Gloucester Park, Gloucester

An inclusive participatory and performance programme, presented in a Big Dance 'immersion tent'. Including community dance youth performances, professional performance and film showings as well as dance taster sessions to get everyone involved. Artists include Marie-Louise Flexen, Rikki Boon, Nicki Wildin and Annet Richards-Binns.

West Midlands

Hub Partner: DanceXchange

Spill

18 May – 15 July

Touring, Various Locations across the West Midlands

Spill is a brand new outdoor production choreographed by celebrated Australian Artist Shaun Parker, of Shaun Parker Company. Using the existing children's playground equipment as the set, Spill has been created specifically for parks in the West Midlands, aiming to take dance to the heart of communities. Highly playful and physical, and at times teasingly comical – this is a cheeky dance celebration of the child within. Combining quirky, dynamic dance with high-energy street gymnastics, the dancers in this performance blaze a colourful trail across the structures and landscapes of the playground. Each performance will be unique, as the show scrambles around, over, under and through swings, slides and roundabouts. Kids will love it, grown-ups will love it too!

Breathe the Beat

24 May – 4 August

Touring, various locations across the West Midlands

Breathe the Beat is a new dance concept. Renowned international hip-hop artist Salah shows you how to take inspiration from your everyday surroundings and create routines using his unique PABE (Popping, Animation, Boogaloo, Effect) style. Upload your video to our competition and you could perform at one of our live events and even win the chance to meet Salah himself. Breathe the Beat is a unique opportunity to be inspired by one of hip-hop's leading talents, and showcase your skills online for the world to see.

WE Dance Festival

13 – 14 July

mac, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

This learning disability dance project, led by Mencap in partnership with Birmingham Royal Ballet/Freefall, mac Birmingham, and Fox Hollies School and Performing Arts College, involves local community dance groups and acclaimed national companies working together, culminating in a two-day festival featuring performances, workshops and exhibitions – plus two new films that will be screened on BBC Live Sites.

Yorkshire

Yorkshire Dance

Big Dance Celebration

18 May

Galpharm Stadium, Huddersfield

Big Dance meets Rugby League! The Huddersfield Giants v Wigan Warriors game kicks off with 1,000 young people taking part in performances that celebrate dance and sport. Dance, cheerleading, and the world famous Haka all feature in this exciting opening show. Dance and cheereading choreographies made by Emma Whelan and Kirsti Larder.

(In)Visible Dancing

24 May - 2 June

Doncaster Town Centre

Something unusual is happening in the centre of Doncaster, surprising shoppers - dancers slowly start to emerge from the crowds, performing in the walkways around benches, dancing in the open spaces, performing routines at the cashpoints... Directed by Luca Silvestrini (Artistic Director, Protein Dance Company)

Mass Dance for Torch Relay

24 June

Temple Newsam, Leeds

2012 residents and young people from Leeds lead an audience of thousands in a mass dance experience, organised by Space2 and choreographed by Sharon Watson, Artistic Director of Phoenix Dance Theatre, to celebrate the arrival of the Olympic torch in Leeds and reflect some of the time-honoured values of the Olympic Games.

Platform Nine**25 June****Tudor Square, Sheffield**

Ten schools from across Sheffield and South Yorkshire come together to perform beautiful dances they have devised, inspired by travel, movement and sport. Led by artists Wayne Sables, Lauren Aizlewood-Clow, Adele Wragg and Sarah Devlin.

DAZL Big Dance Marathon**7 July****South Leeds Youth HUB, Leeds**

A day packed with dance workshops, performances and advice on careers in dance. Come and take part in a 40 minute dance marathon and a showcase event!

e-dance Residency and Showcase**9 July - 12 July****Grimsby and Cleethorpes**

Contemporary dance company e-dance will be working with young dance groups and teachers on an Olympic themed performance. After three days of intensive workshops there will be a performance on the fourth day of the residency.

Mass Dance on the Beach**14 July****Bridlington Spa**

Hull and East Riding host dance events throughout the day in the Spa Gardens ending with a specially commissioned mass dance on the beach.

Barnsley Big Dance 2012**14 July****The Civic, Barnsley**

Local schools and dance groups led by Northern Tap Company and Wayne Sables Project showcase the outcome of an intensive and innovative week of choreography.

BIG Dance Bradford**14 July****City Park, Bradford**

Based around dance and urban sport, this event sees the premiere of Champions of Mass Dance, a series of specially commissioned pieces from Bradford Dance Network members. Featuring Warren Hudson, Artists from Kala Sangam and Dance United Yorkshire.

Big Dance Celebration: Yorkshire**15 July****Millennium Square, Leeds**

The finale of the Big Dance programme in Yorkshire: a takeover of Millennium Square in Leeds for performances from some of the region's most talented individuals, as well as nationally acclaimed companies, including Avant Garde Dance, Phoenix Dance Theatre and Ponydance. Dance workshops and warm-ups will take place around the square, all leading up to a specially commissioned mass dance event, the 'Yorkshire Flock'.

Northern Ireland

Hub Partner: Dylan Quinn Dance Theatre

Planets and Hopes

7 June

MAC, Belfast

Professional Dance performance from Maiden Voyage Dance Company, one of Northern Ireland's leading dance companies, at MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Belfast's newest and most exciting arts venue.

NI Big Street Dance

14 July

Central Belfast

Dylan Quinn Dance Theatre, Crescent Arts Centre, MAC, Royal Opera House Belfast and Maiden Voyage Dance Company Come to the Belfast City BBC Live Site and make a dance piece in a day!

Big Dance Zumba Dance Off

14 July TBC

Belfast City Live Site TBC

Dylan Quinn Dance Theatre host this 'Dance Off' style event that will feature Zumba Dance 'crews' form across Northern Ireland.

Scotland

Hub Partners: Citymoves, Dance Base, Dance House, Dundee Dance Partnership, Eden Court, Macrobert Arts Centre

Flashmob Relay

18 May – 9 June

All over the Highlands

Any group, anywhere in the Highlands, can learn this simple choreography, which is a celebration of the Olympics, participation and inspiration. Each group will film and upload their local performance creating an online relay. The Flashmob Relay will also incorporate key events such as the Beacon event celebrating the Diamond Jubilee and the Torch Procession on its journey through Inverness and the Highlands.

Big Dance Weekend Edinburgh

30 June – 1 July

Central Edinburgh

Take to the streets and dance! In venues and at outdoor stages throughout the city groups will perform, demo and teach dance to everyone. All events are free.

Big Dance Aberdeen Showcase

5 July

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen

Celebrating local dance talent through a large showcase event at His Majesty's Theatre. Includes performances from both professional and community groups from the North East of Scotland, as well as special guest performers.

Salsa Street Party

6 July, Inverness; 7 July, Portree, Isle of Skye; 8 July, Aviemore

A summer-sizzling event for everyone, including taster classes in a range of Latin American and street dance styles, performances and opportunities for anyone to get up and shimmy. The event will be led by 2010 Salsa Professional Champion Noel Hernandez-Roque, bringing some Cuban sunshine to the Highlands.

Big Dance Hunt

7 July – 8 July

Across Aberdeen

In a treasure hunt for dance across the city of Aberdeen, audiences are invited to discover, experience and participate in a variety of dance styles in a series of surprise locations, from nightclubs and studios, to tunnels and towers. Maps can be collected from the Citymoves studios, leading participants around the streets and hidden corners of the city.

Big Screen Big Dance

9 – 14 July

Eden Court, Inverness

A week of classes and workshops for all ages, taking inspiration from our most popular movies – including Billy Elliot, Chicago, West Side Story, Slumdog Millionaire and many more. There will be daily performances, re-creating movie dance classics in the Eastgate shopping centre. In addition Eden Court cinema will be showing some of these iconic dance movies plus some contemporary dance on film.

Wales

Cardiff Mela

15 July

Roald Dahl Plass, Cardiff Bay

Attracting up to 30,000 visitors, the annual Cardiff Multicultural Mela has been running since 2007 with its celebration of dance, music, arts, fashion and food. In collaboration with Big Dance, this year's Mela attempts the world record for largest ever Bollywood dance. The record-attempt will be coordinated from the main stage by a Bollywood Dance troupe, aiming to beat the current record held in Mumbai for 1,336 participants.

Biographies

Jacqueline Rose took up the role of Big Dance Director in April 2009. Prior to this, she was Senior Cultural Strategy Officer at the Greater London Authority, from 2005. In 2006, she was responsible for creating the vision, developing the strategy for implementation, and the delivery of the first and second **Big Dance**. With a significant professional career and academic background in dance, she was a senior dance policy-maker from 1996 - 2005 at London Arts Board and Arts Council England and other local authorities including Rushmoor Borough Council; the implementer of creative strategic initiatives for the dance sector including: www.londondance.com, London Youth Dance Network and the Independent Dance Managers Network (IDMN), a teacher of contemporary and creative dance for adults, students, young people & toddlers and a dance lecturer at Reading University.

Wayne McGregor CBE is a multi award-winning British choreographer, renowned for his physically testing choreography and groundbreaking collaborations across dance, film, music, visual art, technology and science. He is the Artistic Director of Wayne McGregor | Random Dance, Resident

Company at Sadler's Wells Theatre in London and Resident Choreographer of The Royal Ballet (appointed 2006). In January 2011, McGregor was awarded a CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire). From 2008-2010 McGregor was appointed the government's first Youth Dance Champion. In 2004 McGregor was a Research Fellow at the Experimental Psychology Department of Cambridge University. McGregor is a frequent creator of new work for La Scala, Milan, Paris Opera Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theatre, San Francisco Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, New York City Ballet, Australian Ballet and English National Ballet; as well as movement director for theatre, film (Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire) and music video (Radiohead's Lotus Flower). His upcoming productions include new work for The Royal Ballet (May 2011), Paris Opera Ballet (June 2011) and an opera/dance collaboration for Wayne McGregor | Random Dance at Sadler's Wells (November 2011).

Notes to Editors:

1. 'Big Dance is London's Legacy Trust UK programme delivered by the Mayor of London and Arts Council England. A national programme is co-ordinated by Foundation for Community Dance and is supported by major organisations including: Creative Scotland, Sport England, NHS London, London Councils, Youth Dance England, Council for Dance Education and Training, Dance Champions, Sport and Recreation Alliance and the British Council. Big Dance is one of the world's biggest and most influential dance initiative delivered through a network of the UK's leading dance organisations: Citymoves, Dance City, Dance Cymru/Wales Millennium Centre, Dance South West, Dance4, Dance Base, DanceEast, Dancehouse, DanceXchange, Dundee Dance Partnership, Dylan Quinn Dance Theatre, East London Dance, Eden Court Theatre, English National Ballet, Greenwich Dance, Macrobert Arts Centre, Merseyside Dance Initiative, Sadler's Wells, Siobhan Davies Dance, South East Dance and Yorkshire Dance
2. Legacy Trust UK is an independent charity set up to create a lasting cultural and sporting legacy from London 2012 in communities across the UK. The Trust is funded by a £40 million endowment from the Big Lottery Fund (£29m), Department for Culture Media and Sport (£6m) and Arts Council England (£5m), and is a Principal Funder of the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival. www.legacytrustuk.org
3. The Big Dance National Programme is funded by Arts Council England, the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, Arts Council of Wales, Creative Scotland. The British Council provide funding support for the Schools Pledge and international programmes.
4. As part of his commitment to a lasting legacy for London following the 2012 Games, the Mayor aims to support increased access to and participation in sport and cultural activities across the capital. 'Cultural Metropolis' set out the Mayor's strategy for supporting arts and culture in the capital and is out for public consultation. 'A Sporting Future for London', published last year, sets out the Mayor's vision to create a fitter, healthier, more active London, backed up by a £15.5 million investment in grass-roots sport. For more information, go to www.london.gov.uk.
5. Arts Council England works to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. It supports a range of artistic activities from theatre to music, literature to dance, photography to digital art, and carnival to crafts. Great art inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves, and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2011 and 2015, Arts Council England will invest £1.4 billion of public money from government and an estimated £1 billion from the National Lottery to create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk
6. The London 2012 Cultural Olympiad is the largest cultural celebration in the history of the modern Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Spread over four years, it is designed to give everyone in the UK a chance to be part of London 2012 and inspire creativity across all forms of culture, especially among young people. The culmination of the Cultural Olympiad will be the London 2012 Festival, a spectacular 12-week nationwide celebration bringing together leading artists from across the world with the very best from the UK, from Midsummer's Day on 21 June and running until the final day of the Paralympic Games on 9 September 2012. The London 2012 Festival will celebrate the huge range, quality and accessibility of the UK's world-class culture including dance, music, theatre, the visual arts, fashion, film and digital innovation, giving the opportunity for people across the UK to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Principal funders of the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival are Arts Council

England, Legacy Trust UK and the Olympic Lottery Distributor. BP and BT are Premier Partners of the Cultural Olympiad and the London 2012 Festival. For more details on the programme and to sign up for information visit www.london2012.com/festival

7. The British Council is the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and build trust between them worldwide. We work in over 100 countries in the arts, education and English and in 2010/11 we engaged face to face with 30 million people and reached 578 million. We have 6,800 staff worldwide. Our total turnover in 2010/11 was £693 million, of which our grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office was £190 million. The remainder was generated through trading activities such as English language teaching. For every £1 of taxpayer money invested we earn £2.65 in additional income. For more information, please visit: www.britishcouncil.org
8. Foundation for Community Dance (FCD) is the strategic development organisation for community dance in the UK and internationally, and leads the delivery of the Big Dance national programme – wrapping around activities in London. FCD believes that dance can transform the lives of individuals and communities. Their vision is for a world where dance is part of everyone's life, and mission to make engagement with dance important to individuals, communities and society. FCD works with, and on behalf of artists, organisations and teachers involved in leading, delivering or supporting community and participatory dance. For more visit www.communitydance.org.uk



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales



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MAYOR OF LONDON