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Contemporary Dance from America Returns to the Edinburgh Fringe at
BookingDANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2012

4th Annual

PRESS PHOTO CALL
Wednesday, August 16
Time: 4:30pm - 5:00pm

ONE WEEK ONLY!
Wednesday, August 15 – Sunday, August 19
2:15pm daily Festival Showcase

Saturday, August 18 – Sunday, August 19
4:15pm daily Split Bill

Educational Outreach Day
Thursday, August 16
1pm-4:30pm
1:15pm-1:45pm Panel Discussion
2:15pm- Festival Showcase Performance
4pm-4:30pm Artist Meet and Greet

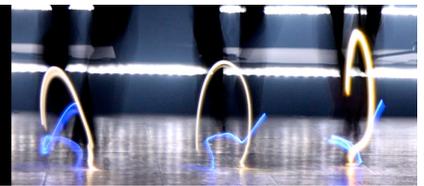
Venue 150 @ EICC (Edinburgh International Conference Centre)
150 Morrison Street at The Exchange
Price: £12 (£9 concession)

Kids under 14 - £3!

Young Audience Members ages 14-18, students and dancers only £5
***** Five Stars from Three Weeks

“Whether you’re a contemporary dance fiend or one of the uninitiated wanting to take a chance, this production is perfect for the Edinburgh Fringe lover.”

-Three Weeks



Jodi Kaplan / Booking Dance prepares to move dance onto the center stage at the Edinburgh Fringe again this August. Presenting six dynamic dance companies from America in one show - this dance "festival within a festival" is sure to captivate audiences as a festival favourite. For the fourth year in a row this one week festival features a diverse range of top dance artists from America – this year includes all new works!

www.bookingdance.com

The Festival Showcase is the perfect choice for both dance lovers and first-time dance attendees. Seeing six different dance companies perform in a showcase format, where each company performs for 5-15 minutes, is ideal to introduce audiences to this vibrant art form while giving dance aficionados their fill of great dance. In addition to the Festival Showcase, there will be a Split Bill featuring 2 top dance companies from the USA in extended performances of 30 minutes each.

The BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2012, produced by Jodi Kaplan gives the opportunity for the majority of these companies to perform for their first time in Scotland, while gaining amazing exposure from the Fringe, the largest open arts festival in the world! And over half the works are world premieres!

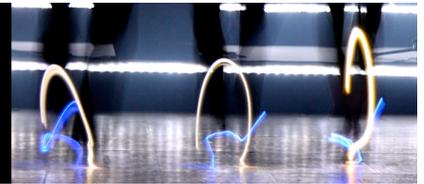
The six U.S. companies have an incredible range of styles and are representative of the American contemporary dance scene. This year's festival focuses on the dance capital of the world – New York City – with 5 of the participating USA companies emerging from this locale. There is also one very special guest - Dallas Black Dance Theatre – that will feature 12 dancers performing the work of one of America's greatest choreographers of all time - Alvin Ailey!

The "festival within a festival" will take place at Venue 150 @ EICC, 150 Morrison Street in the West End. This leading venue is renowned for its popular sold-out shows, and the beautiful space positions dance in the best possible setting.

Modern and contemporary dance is relatively limited in Scotland. Booking DANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2012 will introduce the newest companies of the American-born art form to the Scottish art community within the Fringe setting. The viewership at the Fringe is vast: last year, there were 31,320 performances in 247 venues. However only 5% of the Fringe performances are categorized as Dance and Physical Theatre. The BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2012 will show Scottish art lovers and international audiences the best the USA has to offer in dance today!

A unique feature of BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2012 is outreach. This year Booking Dance is offering an Educational Outreach Day including a pre-performance Panel Discussion with the producer and company artistic directors as well as a post-performance artist question and answer session. Group rates and free entry available for those schools in need.

Master classes will be held by the U.S. companies for the Scottish Dance community. Tickets will be offered at £3 to children under 14 in an effort to encourage new and young lovers of dance, dance students will come and see the shows for £5 – this dance festival is open and affordable to all!



Programme Details:



Festival Showcase

Wednesday, August 15 – Sunday, August 19, 2012
2:15pm daily

A dance “festival-within-a-festival!” Enticing, groundbreaking, exhilarating dance performed by the most awe-inspiring dance companies from the USA. From rapid-fire tap to innovative cutting-edge movement! Bite-sized festival format.

“Perfect for the Edinburgh Fringe Lover!” - *Three Weeks*.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre (Dallas, Texas)
Hammerstep & Deoro (New York City)
Claire Porter/PORTABLES (New York City)
Daniel Gwirtzman Dance Company (New York City)
Kim Gibilisco Dances (New York City)
Rebecca Stenn Company (New York City)

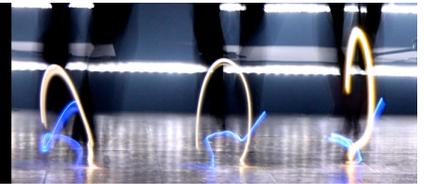
Split Bill

Saturday, August 18 – Sunday, August 19, 2012
4:15pm daily



Exquisite, extraordinary, captivating dance from two top USA companies. Hammerstep taps out an extravaganza of monumental proportions, accompanied by live music while Dallas Black Dance Theatre celebrates the life of American music pioneer Nina Simone in an engaging narrative.

Hammerstep & Deoro (New York City)
Dallas Black Dance Theatre (Dallas, Texas)



The featured dance companies include:



Dallas Black Dance Theatre (Dallas, Texas) | www.dbd.t.com

DBDT celebrates being the oldest, continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas. Under the direction of Ann Williams, Founder/Artistic Director, the ensemble, a contemporary modern dance company, consists of 12 professional dancers performing a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, ethnic and spiritual works by nationally and internationally known choreographers. Over the course of its history, DBDT has performed for 2.5 million arts patrons and 1.5 million children worldwide (40,000 annually youth grades K-12).



Hammerstep & Deoro (New York City)

www.hammerstep.com | www.daveeggarmusic.com

This groundbreaking new collaborative show is presented by two of the most innovative and talented groups in their respective fields. World-renowned cellist Dave Eggar and his Grammy-nominated band, Deoro, are reinventing the classical genre by infusing it with hip hop, reggae, bluegrass, jazz, and world music. This powerhouse group of musicians joins forces with the world champion dancers of Hammerstep, a revolutionary dance show striving to overcome cultural and socioeconomic differences through an integration of previously rebellious urban dance forms like traditional Irish step, tap, and hip hop.



Claire Porter/PORTABLES (New York City) | www.cportables.com

Claire Porter is on the move with her PORTABLES, a collection of funny and poignant character sketches that leave a lasting, laugh-out-loud impression on audiences across the U.S. and around the globe. This amazing solo artist investigates contemporary life through language and movement.



Daniel Gwirtzman Dance Company (New York City) | www.gwartzmandance.org

Founded ten years ago “upon a philosophy that dance should celebrate human achievement through a combination of discipline and unbound optimism” (The New York Sun, 2008). Receiving strong critical attention consistently since its inception, the Company has been reviewed as “a troupe I’d follow anywhere” (The Village Voice), a “troupe of fabulous dancers” (Back Stage) that “can’t help but smile” (The New Yorker).



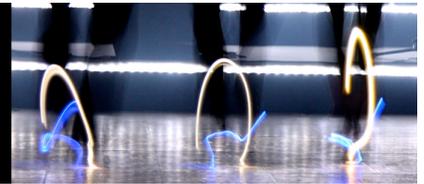
Kim Gibilisco Dances (New York City) | www.kgdances.org

Deeply inspired by her work as a dancer in Alwin Nikolais’ and Murray Louis’ repertoire, Kim Gibilisco is interested in developing their theatrical concepts by integrating new technology to reveal fresh perspectives on movement. In collaboration with fellow Nikolais/Louis Alumni, Eric Dunlap, she creates multimedia solo works using live image capture and motion triggered technology.



Rebecca Stenn Company (New York City) | www.rebeccastenncompany.com

Returning to Booking Dance Festival Edinburgh by popular demand with a brand new solo (she was a featured artist with BDF in 2010), Rebecca Stenn has performed to critical acclaim and sold out houses in over 50 cities, including The Copenhagen Festival, The Joyce Theater, and Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival among many others. As a principal dancer with Momix Dance Theater for seven years and a founding member of Pilobolus Too, Rebecca has also choreographed with the Radio City Rockettes.



INSIGHTS

If one can step back and take a broad view of the festival, it's like a crystal ball of what is happening and what is about to happen in the performing arts world. That prophetic view into the fringe world can give one the ability to effect change.

The Booking DANCE FESTIVAL is the brain-child of Producer Jodi Kaplan, born with the intention of creating a cultural exchange between performing artists and international communities. The Festival occurs annually at a different location around the globe, continually bridging dance artists and audiences worldwide. Through both performances and educational outreach, the festival offers underserved dance companies the opportunity to expand their visibility to a global scale.

There is no better example of this than Jodi Kaplan's work at the Fringe. A few years ago, Kaplan, a spitfire dance agent based in New York, noticed how small the dance community at Edinburgh Fringe was. Less than 5% of the shows (106) are categorized as dance/physical theatre at the Fringe this year. More specifically, Kaplan recognized a dearth of American dance at the festival. She began the BookingDance Festival, a festival-within-a-festival to spotlight American dance talent. Going on its fifth year, BookingDance has given American dance a broader platform in the European arts market and has developed into a premiere Fringe event.

Kaplan bucks many Fringe trends; she stages a showcase format featuring 8 dance companies on a single bill; she presents the show for just 4 days of the Fringe, and the show is generally family-friendly. Kaplan presents her American companies in a very American format, and that is unusual and risky in Scotland. BookingDance is continually successful at the Fringe because Kaplan builds local connections. With an internship program with two Scottish universities, educational outreach to local Scottish schools and dance studios, panel discussions and professional development opportunities for her dance companies and any others, and a discount program for children and students, Kaplan has created long-lasting connections in the community that has led to a repeat, local audience.

Kaplan has seized an opportunity, deeply inhaling that air of possibility that is so inherent in the Fringe atmosphere. She is blowing goodness into that air as well. Kaplan's success helps position dance as a more prominent art form at the Fringe, and that benefits all of us artists who create and communicate through movement. As I continue to talk with artists about Fringe, that is what strikes me most. Despite the massive workload, the stress of fundraising, the tangle of logistics and even the competition for audience and press; the overwhelming sentiment is one of creative community, collaboration and solidarity. - *Shelly Gilbride for InDance*

For more than a decade, Jodi Kaplan & Associates has booked tours for dozens of dance companies throughout the USA, South America, Asia, and Europe.

Jodi Kaplan & Associates also consults for performing arts companies of all disciplines and leads a series of booking and touring workshops specially designed for artists ready to move to the next level.