

Producer Jodi Kaplan presents

jk EDINBURGH BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contemporary Dance from America Returns to the Edinburgh Fringe at
Booking DANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2014
6th Annual

www.bookingdance.com

ONE WEEK ONLY!
Wednesday, August 13 through Sunday, August 17, 2014
2pm daily Festival Showcase

Saturday, August 16 – Sunday, August 17
4pm daily Split Bill

Educational Outreach Day
Thursday, August 14
1pm-4:30pm
1pm-1:30pm Panel Discussion
2pm- Festival Showcase Performance
3:30pm-4:30pm Artist Meet and Greet

Venue 150 @ EICC (Edinburgh International Conference Centre)
150 Morrison Street at The Exchange
Price: £12 (£8 concession)

Kids under 14 - £5!

students and dancers only £5

To purchase tickets please call 0844-847-1639 or book online via www.EICC.co.uk



"Since 2008, Booking Dance has been staging their festival within a festival" in Edinburgh. It's an ambitious project that gives Fringe audiences a chance to sample a feast of American talent in one serving...Producer Jodi Kaplan knows how to please, and her curatorial decision making is resolutely sound throughout. "

– Kelly Apter, The Scotsman (2013) ****

"...the whole experience of seeing some of America's best dancers one after another leaves a happy after-glow."

– MumbleDance (2013) *****

"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 *****

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Booking Dance Festival prepares to celebrate its 6th anniversary as the premiere dance festival-within-a-festival at the Edinburgh Fringe this August. **Presenting seven dynamic dance companies from across the USA in one show**, this year's program is sure to captivate audiences as an ongoing festival favourite. Producer Jodi Kaplan brings a diverse range of top dance artists from America to Booking Dance Festival 2014 **and the theme this year is the celebration of rhythm!** (www.bookingdance.com)

Fantastic for audiences of all ages, the **Festival Showcase** is the perfect choice for both dance lovers and first time dance-attendees. The showcase format, where each of the seven companies performs for 5-15 minutes, is an ideal way to simultaneously 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 two top dance companies from the USA in extended performances.

Produced by Jodi Kaplan, the BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2014, gives the majority of these companies the opportunity to perform in Scotland for their first time, while gaining incredible exposure from the Fringe, the largest open arts festival in the world! This summer Synthesis Dance is returning as an audience favourite to BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL with two world premieres.

The U.S. companies have a diverse range of styles and are representative of the finest of the American contemporary dance scene. **This year's BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL includes modern, contemporary, multi-cultural, African-American, Indian, ballet and tap dance in its rhythm-based programmes.** The majority of selected U.S. dance companies for this summer's BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL are from the fast-paced New York City, alongside renowned artists from Pittsburgh and San Francisco.

The "festival within a festival" takes 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 architecturally designed theatre space positions dance in the best possible setting.

Modern and contemporary dance is relatively limited in Scotland. BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2014 introduces the newest companies of the American-born art form to the Scottish art community within the Fringe setting. BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2014 shows Scottish art lovers and international audiences the best the USA has to offer in dance today!

A unique feature of BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2014 is its outreach. The festival will again extend beyond the stage to offer a diverse range of activities including an Educational Outreach Day featuring 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.

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EDINBURGH **BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL 2014**

PROGRAMME DETAILS



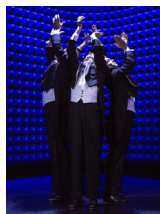
Festival Showcase

Wednesday, August 13 through Sunday, August 17, 2014
2pm daily

Wednesday, August 13 through Sunday, August 17, 2014
2pm daily

Sixth annual five-star dance festival-within-a-festival! Exhilarating, extraordinary, dynamic dance performed by seven of the best companies from across the USA. Bite sized festival format. "Prepare to leave pleasantly full" – The Scotsman.

Antara Bhardwaj (San Francisco, CA)
The Bang Group (New York City)
BARKIN/SELISSEN PROJECT (New York City)
Buggé Ballet (New York City)
danceTactics (New York City)
REED Dance (Pittsburgh, PA)
Synthesis Dance Project (New York City)



Split Bill

Saturday, August 16 – Sunday, August 17
4pm daily Split Bill

See two amazing dance companies captivate through rhythm! The Bang Group bangs it full force and (very) out loud with smiles in tow while Antara Bhardwaj elegantly counterbalances the hypnotic beauty of India's Kathak beats.

Antara Bhardwaj (San Francisco)
The Bang Group (New York City)

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EDINBURGH BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL 2014

2014 Dance Artists



Antara Bhardwaj (San Francisco, CA)

antarabhardwaj.com

A powerful Kathak artist, Antara has dazzled audiences worldwide with her artistic expression, or abhinaya, in story telling. She is a leading exponent of her India Guru, Pandit Chitresh Das', who is the innovator of Kathak Yoga – a mind and body practice in which the dancer becomes her own instrument. **Antara delves deeply into Kathak's traditional rhythm-based art form**, while discovering, evolving and expressing her own unique voice.



The Bang Group (New York City)

thebanggroup.com

The Bang Group is a rhythm-based, theatrical dance troupe founded in New York City in 1995 by David Parker and Jeffrey Kazin who continue to direct the company together. It is devoted to choreographer David Parker's love of rhythmic form and the humor and the connection it brings to artists and audiences alike. Many of The Bang Group's works have achieved international acclaim, including sold-out standing ovations at The Fringe in the past. Some programme favourites featured at Booking Dance Festival are his notorious velcro duet, Slapstuck (which received a New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Award) and selections from ShowDown a choreographic reinvention of "Annie Get Your Gun."



BARKIN/SELISSEN PROJECT (New York City)

barkinselissenproject.com

BARKIN/SELISSEN PROJECT sprang from the collaborative partnership of artists Kyla Barkin and Aaron Selissen. Their pieces are inspired by the space and time between beings, between actions, and between breaths, and the resulting work is extraordinarily captivating and hypnotic. As articulate, passionate, and precise movers, BARKIN/SELISSEN PROJECT uses both athletic and subtle, qualitative movement to transform the seed of an idea into an evocative and absorptive performance. **The pauses between intense outbursts of energy create unique rhythmic off-beats.**



Buggé Ballet (New York City)

nicolebugge.com

Buggé Ballet is an emerging company under the Artistic Direction of Nicole Buggé, whose vision is to be a modern-day storyteller exploring human behavior through contemporary ballet. The company seeks to create works that inspire, delight, and engage audiences through captivating movement. **The company's ballet "rhythm" is lyrical and musical.** With work that is "Fresh...Charming...A wonderful articulation of Americana." Edward Villella, the pieces "...actively engag[ing] its audiences through innovative musical demonstrations, a brilliant touch" Examiner.com.

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danceTactics (New York City)

dancetactics.org

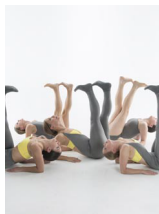
Under the direction of Artistic Director Keith A. Thompson, former Rehearsal Assistant to Trisha Brown, danceTactics performance group directs its interest towards dance's capacity to communicate on its own, undressed. The company thrives on seeking out challenges of discovery that takes place within the moment, compositionally and conceptually. Complexity and the articulation of multiple pathways through and between spaces are a main focus. A **"rhythm" of breath and fluidity**. Their "ability to show dance as a reason unto itself, relaying sheer kinetic energy enlivened in unexpected pathways. Thompson's unique ability to orchestrate fresh, vivid interactions on stage sets the scene for an abstract telling of humanity's story". Jennifer Dunning, New York Times



REED Dance (Pittsburgh, PA)

reeddance.org

REED Dance is committed to staying on the pulse of contemporary dance through its world-class repertory and diverse group of dancers bringing the multicultural community together in a professional, educational environment while preserving the African American experience. Previously of 2014, REED Dance was formally known as August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble. In transitioning with the same intent, vision, and mission, REED Dance is continuing its excellence and standard that it has already set and pushing to new heights and goals with determination to spread the love of dance to all. **REED Dance has the "rhythm of the heart" in its movement beats.**



Synthesis Dance (New York City)

synthesisdance.org

Returning to BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL for a second year in a row as an audience favourite, Synthesis Dance celebrates athletic ability, technical precision and passionate performances. Firmly grounded in classical technique and pulling from all styles of movement, the company strives to challenge the boundaries of any singular dance genre. **Its choreographic essence is a jazz rhythm and undertone.** Artistic Director Tracie Stanfield has selected strong, vigorously trained, articulate dance artists to create a company that strikes a perfect balance. Synthesis Dance "thrilled and mesmerized with their versatility, their musicality, their masterful fusion of classical and contemporary forms and their combination of integrity and intellectual rigor on the one hand - or foot - and sharp instinct for entertaining on the other." Huffington Post UK (for BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2013).

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BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL – 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 Booking-Dance 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 7 dance companies on a single bill; she presents the show for just 5 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.