

## EVALUATION REPORT FOR TWAF SCHOOLS TOUR 2012

### Brief Overview

The World at Your Feet (TWAF) was a city-wide theatre and dance project that celebrated the many people who have made Plymouth their home.

In addition to The World At Your Feet Performance that was held at a unique maritime location, youth dance companies across the city toured work based on the theme of migration to venues across Plymouth and performed on the Piazza, in Plymouth City Centre on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July.

Through The World At Your Feet Youth Dance Schools Tour, a variety of dance styles were performed to audiences from **17 schools at 10 venues across the city, reaching over 700 young people and their families and involving 50 young performers and 18 professional practitioners.**

**The World At Your Feet Big Dance Weekend saw 6,000 people experience the variety of dance that Plymouth and the region has to offer** with performances on the Piazza, in Plymouth City Centre from a range of dancers and dance companies based within Plymouth and the region.

### **The youth Dance Companies that were involved were;**

Wheelfever, Street Factory, Young Company, Rhythm India School of Dance, Centre for Advanced Training (CAT), Attik Youth Dance and Barbican Theatre's Dance Training Company).

### **The tour went to the following venues;**

Plymouth City College, Plymouth High School for Girls, Tor Bridge, Mount Wise, Egguckland, Plymstock, The Life Centre (performed to pupils from the 7 Special Schools and Units, as part of the Ignite, Engage and Inspire Schools 2 Schools event), Riverside Primary, Marine Academy Plymouth, Sir John Hunt.

### Key Figures

- 10 venues
- 8 youth Company's made up of 46 young dancers
- Of the 43;
- 6 were BME
- 26 were 5-16
- 12 were 16-19
- 5 were over 20

In addition to the dancers there were **4** young composers involved and **7** practitioners in the production team.

There was a total of **1803** participants over the 6 month project **730** of those participants were audience members from the TWAYF schools tour.

### **Legacy**

In addition to the tour, each of the schools involved were given a dance workshop and budget of £500 to spend on something dance related of their choosing in agreement with Plymouth Dance.

**There were a total of 24 workshops at the schools with a total of 687 participants.**

*Please find below a breakdown of how each school spent their legacy money;*

**Plymouth City College-** had an Indian dance workshop, a workshop with Tim Noble focused on audition techniques and tickets to watch Batsheva at the Theatre Royal.

**Plymouth High School for Girls-** had a workshop with Street Factory.

**Tor Bridge-** had a workshop with Ben Dunks and a term of sessions with Lucy Abbott.

**Mount Wise-** had a half term of afterschool clubs with Claire Summers and a half term of afterschool workshops with Abbi Jackson.

**Eggbuckland-** had a 1 day workshop with Claire Summers and a half term of afterschool sessions with Exim Dance Company.

**Plymstock-** had a 1 day workshop with Maryam Pourian and tickets to watch Hofesh Shechter company at the Theatre Royal.

**Riverside Primary-** has a 1 day workshop with Andi Higginson and an afterschool club.

**Marine Academy Plymouth-** had tickets to see Frantic Assembly perform at the Theatre Royal and spent the rest of the money on pompoms for the dance group.

**Sir John Hunt-** had a workshop with Paula Hocking.

## **Key Outcomes**

- This project has opened up a school touring circuit in Plymouth. We now have practical details of each venue, which could assist anyone wanting to utilise this circuit later.
- Some of the schools were hesitant to book the tour and some jumped on it. After the event, all of them said that they enjoyed and were surprised by the event.
- Many of the schools were unaware that they could host a touring show so this has also widened the schools perceptions of what they can do.
- The youth companies had a fantastic experience and they approached it as professionals. The leaders/choreographers from each company also really rose to the challenge.
- The youth companies had the chance to perform to different audiences at different venues and experience first hand what life as a touring dancer could be like.
- Using youth companies was aspirational for the school audiences.
- The project worked well because there was a very strong production team with Chloe Hughes and Tom Cousins who were able to problem solve and adapt to the many different venues that the tour went to ensuring everything ran smoothly.
- Andi Higginson has built relationships with all of the school teachers and is continuing to nurture these relationships through email communication and one to one meetings to keep the channels of communication open for future projects.
- Eggbuckland has continued their relationship with Exim and has paid for them to come in and work with their Btec students for a full term.
- Timing in schools can be difficult as their terms are so busy, it was suggested that before Christmas could have been a better time for future projects.
- We challenged a lot of pre conceptions about youth dance and dance itself. Including Hip Hop, Indian dance and Inclusive dance at such a high standard introducing different cultures and challenging the young audiences understanding of what dance is and who can dance.
- Every school said that they would book a tour like this again.

**The most important part of this project was the legacy. It was all about opening doors and making connections between Plymouth Dance, the dance partners and independent dance artists with the local schools, something it has undoubtedly achieved and Plymouth Dance will strive to build on in the future.**