



Press release: Young people share their talent in INSPIRE dance performance at the Festival Theatre.

WHALE Arts and Dance Ihayami are delighted to celebrate their joint INSPIRE dance project with a performance at The Studio at the Festival Theatre on Friday 19th October at 7pm.

The project, funded through CashBack for Creativity has enabled enable young people in Wester Hailes to participate in Indian dance, choreography, music and costume and set design. The performance is the culmination of an Indian Dance Summer School and regular afterschool sessions at WHALE Arts Centre.

The programme will include pieces choreographed and performed by young people created in the INSPIRE partnership project plus work by professional dancers and friends from Dance Ihayami. The dances were created to be meaningful to the young people, working to their strengths and reflecting their imagination and creativity.

The performance, which is free to attend, has been supported by Capital Theatres and will take place at the prestigious Studio at the Festival Theatre. Creative Learning and technical staff at the theatre are helping transform the participants ideas into reality to create a dazzling show for families and dance fans alike.

Kate Griffin, WHALE Arts Creative Programme Manager said:

“ WHALE Arts is looking forward to sharing the fantastic work young people have done in creating, designing and performing such a beautiful, exciting and inspiring dance performance with WHALE Arts and Dance Ihayami’s INSPIRE dance project .”

Karen Watts, Dance Development Officer, Dance Ihayami

“It has been great to see the young dancers participating and enjoying the new experiences, learning footwork, rhythms, hand gestures and facial expressions of Indian classical dance and Bollywood.”

Cat Sheridan, Capital theatres Learning & Participation Coordinator

“We are really excited to host this fantastic piece of work in our studio, showcasing the incredible work from these young dancers. We can’t wait to see the culmination of such a brilliantly creative project and we are delighted that we are able to develop our partnership further with WHALE Arts.”

##Ends##

Notes to editors:

Please contact WHALE Arts on 0131 458 3267 or info@whalearts.co.uk for more information.

See:

<http://www.whalearts.co.uk/>

<http://www.danceihayami.org/>

<https://www.capitaltheatres.com/whats-on/dance-ihayami> for tickets

About WHALE Arts

Since being set up by local people in 1992 WHALE Arts has firmly established itself as the cultural anchor organisation for Wester Hailes. As a community-led arts charity and social enterprise, WHALE Arts' mission is to be the creative heart of a vibrant, thriving community. WHALE acts as a conduit between our community and creative opportunities through the direct delivery of projects, programmes and events and by connecting our community with city and national cultural partners.

About Dance Ihayami

Dance Ihayami is Scotland's Indian dance company, dedicated to Indian dance in its purest form. Founded in 2003 by Priya Shrikumar, the company is based in Edinburgh and works throughout Scotland and beyond. The company challenges ideas about Indian classical dance and creates innovative contemporary work, regularly collaborating with different art forms and media.

About Capital Theatres

Capital Theatres engages over 25,000 people of all ages each year in our learning and outreach projects, making our theatres places for everyone to enjoy; enriching lives and supporting our local community. Our Learning and Participation programme creates a range of ways for people to discover and explore the performing arts, as audience members, and as participants and artists in creative projects

About CashBack for Creativity

Creative Scotland has been a delivery partner of the project since its inception in 2008 and over 40,000 young people across the country have participated in the programme so far. The programme runs until March 2020, and distributes £2.6m.

The CashBack for Creativity 2018 Awards were launched at WHALE Arts with the INSPIRE Dance project .

See <https://www.creativescotland.com/what-we-do/latest-news/archive/2018/04/250k-awarded-to-creative-and-cultural-activities-for-young-people-through-cashback-for-creativity> for more about CashBack and a short film about the launch event and CashBack at WHALE Arts.