

ACE dance and music are touring a brand-new International production this autumn with Japanese style, precise timing, strength, control and fierce execution.



ACE Dance and Music combine energetic contemporary choreography with African/Caribbean movement style, rousing musical scores and mixed media techniques, to create a truly entertaining experience. 'ICE' is co-produced with Japanese choreographer & founder of the Leni-Basso company Akiko Kitamura & digital artist Akihiko Kaneko. Kitamura is an avantgarde choreographer, academic & performer with an excellent International reputation.

ACE Dance and music's Artistic Director Gail Parmel, who after being nominated as one of the Cultural Leadership programme's 50 Women to Watch in 2010/11, has now been voted one of 20 Inspirational Women from the African Diaspora in Europe (ADIPWE): in celebration of the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day:

About the production:

'ICE' is about how technology infiltrates our lives, set in a clinical white space with powerful visual projections, fast paced streams of movement and frozen bodies. Six quicksilver dancers take the audience member on a journey into the future asking questions about technology, crystallisation, cryogenics and what happens to the body when we lower the temperature, do we cross over and become something else? ACE dance and music hopes audience members will be touched and amazed. ICE is music and dance to elevate the soul. **Tour dates:**

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| Sat 1 Oct (Evening) | The Northern School of Contemporary Dance, The Riley Theatre, Leeds | 0113 219 3018 www.nscd.ac.uk |
| Thur 6 Oct (Evening) | Wolverhampton Arena Theatre | 01902 321321 // www.arena.wlv.ac.uk |
| Fri 7 Oct (Evening) | Wolverhampton Arena Theatre | 01902 321321 // www.arena.wlv.ac.uk |
| Fri 14 Oct (Evening) | Deda, Derby | 01332 370 911 // www.deda.uk.com |
| Fri 4 Nov (Evening) | Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal | 01539 725133 // www.breweryarts.co.uk |
| Thur 10 Nov (Evening) | Circomedia, Bristol | Colston Hall Box Office // 0117 922 3686 www.circomedia.com |
| Fri 11 Nov (Evening) | Circomedia, Bristol | Colston Hall Box Office // 0117 922 3686 www.circomedia.com |
| Thur 17 Nov (Matinee and Evening) | Salisbury Arts Centre | 01722 321744 // www.salisburyartscentre.co.uk |
| Thur 24 Nov (Matinee and Evening) | mac, Birmingham | 0121 446 3232 // www.macarts.co.uk |
| Fri 25 Nov (Evening) | mac, Birmingham | 0121 446 3232 // www.macarts.co.uk |
| Tues 29 (Nov Evening) | Stamford Arts Centre, Lincolnshire | 01780 763 203 www.stamfordartscentre.com |



Co-produced by: Artistic Director Gail Parmel & Akiko Kitamura
Music Director: Ian Parmel // **Composer:** Hiroaki Yokoyama
Digital Video design: Akihiko Kaneko // **Lighting designer:** Heidi Riley
Set designer: Claire Whitcomb // **Costume designer:** Kyoko Domoto
Dancers: Sade Alleyne, Kajza Ekberg, Letty Mitchell, John Ross, Jerome Wilks, Laura Vanhulle

“STYLE AND DISCIPLINE... TECHNICAL ABILITY & SHEER PHYSICALITY... EXHILARATING TO WATCH” BIRMINGHAM POST



Artistic Director GAIL PARMEL is a graduate of Northern School of Contemporary Dance and brings the influences of her Antiguan heritage and contemporary training to her work. Gail joined Kokuma Dance Theatre in 1992, worked with Badejo Arts and founded **ACE dance and music** with her husband, **Ian**, in 1996. **Gail** has choreographed eight successful touring productions for **ACE: The Path, Colours Within, Solitude or Sanctuary, 3 Shades, En-Trance, REAL, Skin and Switch**. She has researched and travelled extensively throughout Europe, the Caribbean and Africa; she participated in the Black Choreographic Initiative and has worked with Batanai, the national dance company of Zimbabwe. **Gail** continues to build on her skills and expertise as a performer and choreographer through strategic research and choreographic collaborations with artists such as; Douglas Thorpe, Vincent Mantsoe and Koffi Koko.

*“The creation of our new production **ICE** is a challenging but exciting time for ACE dance and music. I am delighted to be collaborating with Akiko Kitamura for the second time, building on a relationship that began in 2006 and that has grown, developed & strengthened over the past 5 years. Connecting two different cultures from opposite sides of the world is not an everyday experience. Two female choreographers, sharing the same age, their practise & finding commonalities. This is a unique formula that makes the experience special.”* **Gail Parmel, Artistic Director, ACE dance and music**



Director IAN PARMEL was born into a family of musicians and began drumming and playing steelpan at the age of seven in his homeland, Trinidad and Tobago. He came to England in 1988 to teach steelpan music and joined Kokuma Dance Company in 1991. He performed with and composed music for companies such as Badejo Arts, Brummalata, Black Voices, Sampad and Pan Project before co-founding **ACE dance and music** with Gail. As a composer Ian has created and directed music for all of **ACE’s** eight productions; he has performed as an individual practitioner around the world and played with numerous international practitioners. He has also introduced the company to new ways of creating music which encompass both traditional and modern styles. He continues to explore digital science within the music arena.

Audience feedback from previous production ‘Switch’

Moving and powerful...the dancers were physically and emotionally expressive...the piece was exciting choreographically and creatively and the physicality of the work was outstanding...an explosive and intense physical and visual experience...the rawest company I have ever seen!.strong, power, passionate, beautiful...very polished, professional...dynamic, well choreographed, I loved it...

ACE dance and music are based at The Link Dance Space in Birmingham; previous productions of this fast growing company have been described as ‘bold’, ‘exhilarating’, and ‘on the edge of breaking into the big league’.

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