

ICE

Touring & Education 2011

ACE dance and music have begun working on their new **full-length** production **ICE** which will tour from October 2011,

The company will be working with acclaimed international artists from Japan, choreographer Akiko Kitamura, & digital artist Akihiko Kaneko.

ICE is six quicksilver dancers in a finely polished audio-visual installation of movement, music & light. The show will explore the integration of artificial & natural systems, the use of mechanics to extend the body & how our fragility and limitation drives us to enhance and transform.

Supporting the autumn and spring tour we are developing an exciting new education strategy. Working with our partners, the aim of the programme is to help build & educate audiences, to inspire participants & develop their skills, to encourage an understanding of dance & develop contemporary dance audiences. The education package will include curtain raiser residencies, lecture demonstrations & workshops, which can be specifically tailored to the needs of participants.



More about ICE

ICE looks at spirit and animism (objects with life of their own) and the spark from within. It will explore the moment where we cross over and become something else. Do we lose ourselves? Or do we still believe we are alive? "Dead with being alive, alive with being dead."

Performers move as if initiated by an external force, using polyrhythms and with body isolation, martial arts, taut control, angularity, fast paced surges of energy, images and light. As the tension builds and radiates from the stage, you will feel like you are watching a performance that has no second chance.

More about ACE dance and music

Founded in October 1996, Birmingham based ACE dance and music (African Cultural Exchange Ltd.) is a professional dance Company based in the West Midlands. Under the artistic direction of Gail Parmel and musical direction of Ian Parmel, ACE dance and music fuse traditional African and Caribbean dance aesthetic with contemporary techniques to create high quality innovative performance work, outreach and education programmes for adults and young people in a variety of formal and informal settings within Birmingham, the West Midland region, across the UK and increasingly in mainland Europe. The Company's work involves music collaborations, the use of new and digital media and techniques from other performing arts including theatre.

ACE dance and music's vision

To promote the understanding and appreciation of cultural exchange using traditional and contemporary choreographic methods and new technologies.



"We attract young audiences as well as dance enthusiasts. Audiences nationally and internationally have been blown away by our work. The physicality, technicality, engagement and artistic quality leave our audiences wanting more. Our education outreach is not an add-on: it's integral to who we are." **Gail Parmel, Artistic Director**

"Our children have been transformed into dancers over the five days. It has been a pleasure to witness their growing professionalism and hard work." **Headteacher, St James' Catholic Primary School, Birmingham**

There are various options in the programme, which could stand alone or be combined to make up a bespoke education package:

Option 1 // Lecture Demonstrations, Matinee Performances and Post - Show Discussions

The lecture demonstrations will give the young people an opportunity to learn about the company, the ideas and development behind the touring production and see an extract/s from the new piece. The demonstrations will be delivered by a team from ACE, including the artistic and/or the musical director and company dancers. Linking to the lecture demonstrations, these performances and discussions give the audiences the opportunity to see the show, meet and talk to the company and learn about the technical side of the production.



“It was the most exciting special week, during which 1,200 young people from all over Norfolk took part in diverse arts activities, which, from the exhilarated feedback we had, proved how delighted they were and how much they benefited from the experience.” **Caroline Richardson, General Manager, Norwich Playhouse**

Option 2 // Curtain Raisers

A curtain raiser residency is an opportunity for participants to work with company dancers to create a new piece for performance, developing their creative and performance skills. The workshops can be delivered during school time or as after school sessions. The participants could be from one school/group or drawn from a number of schools/groups. The piece created will then be performed prior to the ACE professional performance.

“Amazing, inspiring, innovative, creative and unique. The workshops enabled our children to realise their potential and build confidence” **Saiqa Bi, Extended Schools Coordinator, Birmingham**

Option 3 // Taster Workshops and Creative Workshops

These workshops offer an opportunity for participants to engage with the company dancers and learn about the ideas and themes behind the production. Inspired by ICE, the sessions combine and develop Contemporary dance with the aesthetics of African and Caribbean movement and is a great introduction to ACE and our unique style. The creative workshops are an ideal starting point for GCSE or A Level students.

“This show was a delight – passion and enthusiasm for dance and for communicating wholeheartedly with an audience. The response of a capacity house was terrific – respect for such achievements, enjoyment of the creativity of the young artists on stage, and a feeling of witnessing something quite special; all ingredients for a memorable evening. I’m so pleased **mac** was able to play a part in helping this to happen.” **Dorothy Wilson, Artistic Director, mac on an ACE Youth performance in 2011**

ACE is looking for education partners to help reach local schools, colleges and local dance organisations. If you are interested and would like more information about the programme please contact us:



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