

2 FACED DANCE CO

Autumn 2010 PROFESSIONAL Newsletter

Welcome to the new and improved PROFESSIONAL newsletter, brought to you by 2Faced Dance Company on a quarterly basis. In this newsletter you will find updates on our recent trip to Slovenia, Arts Fest in Birmingham and much more... This newsletter is interactive so please feel free to make use of the links... If you require any further information, get in touch with us and we will do what we can to help...

Dan Lowenstein, Marketing Officer

SLOVENIA, FRONT@ DANCE FESTIVAL

We have just returned from Slovenia where we performed in the small town of Murska Sobota just north of Ljubljana (the capital). Murska Sobota played host to Front@ Contemporary Dance Festival for 1 week, where many world famous dance companies made an appearance. Including Netherlands Dance Theatre, Gregor Luštek and Rosana Hribar, as well as the the Birmingham based [Company Decalage](#) who performed both their major pieces **Appel** and **Eteins pas**.

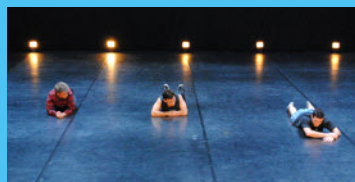
The festival was held in such a small town which meant that every available space was used for performance and promotion, including the main square, art galleries and even the local castle. The main space however was the school gym, which was converted into a full professional stage with a rig that most UK theatres would be proud to have. We premiered our 2 newest pieces; **'Third'** looks at how we all take the same steps but can end up following different pathways. The dynamics of more complicated relationships are explored by three unique dancers, combining their own styles of movement to form a new and explosive language. And **Infra**; a duet which strips breaking right back to its roots, and shows the technicality behind each movement, as well as watching the relationship of the 2 dancers change throughout the piece.



"It was fantastic although I was a bit under the weather, the opportunity to work alongside the other companies was amazing and very inspiring" says Nathan.



Alongside the performances, we also taught some workshops at the local dance studios, to a group of talented dancers. most of whom travelled from the capital to take part. "Dynamic and inspiring class! We were impressed by the unique fusion of urban & contemporary style." say Polorna Pinart, Ankica and Maja from Ljubljana.



Top to bottom: Front@ advertised on the local buses. Tamsin teaching a workshop at Spartacus Gym in Murska Sobota. Alex, Dan and Nathan warming up before the show, on the main stage.

"Representing the UK alongside Company Decalage was a privilege. This will definitely open up many more doors for 2Faced on the international circuit" said Dan Lowenstein. Tamsin Fitzgerald choreographed the pieces and chose to premier them at Front@; Tamsin explains why; "In Slovenia fusion is still quite a new idea, and I chose to create these 2 pieces specifically for Front@. I was very intrigued to see how they would receive the pieces". Both pieces were reviewed by www.paradaplesa.si. "In 1 hour I saw more dance and movement than I did in 5 days at the [Vienna Dance Festival](#)" said Barbra Drnac. The Combination of all 3 dancers was "breathtaking". All of us are very different in our styles and how we approach movement. This makes the piece a lot more frenetic and uncontrollable, which is the effect that Tamsin Fitzgerald wanted.

Dancing for the Games launched at ArtsFest Birmingham



Below: Alex, Dan and Nathan performing an impromptu extract of 'Third' at ArtsFest, Birmingham

Dancing for the Games, one of several projects in the West Midlands that is part of the official London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, was launched to the public at **ArtsFest**, the **UK's biggest free arts festival**, on Saturday 11 September 2010.

At Artsfest, members of the public were invited to take part in Bhangra and Bollywood dance workshops ran by internationally renowned South Asian Dance Company, *sampad*, and we were there to entertain the masses with impromptu dance performances across the festival to promote Dancing for the Games.



It is hoped that this activity will get people talking about, and engaging with, dance which can be followed up through our Ask It stall where people can find out more about dancing in the West Midlands with the aim of them continuing their dance journey. "It was a really nice change, performing in locations where the audience wasn't aware that we were about to step up. We had to be aware of our surroundings and people getting in the way. It makes it more exciting and keeps you on your toes". Said Nathan French
Impromptu performances may be something 2Faced will work more on in the future...

Dancing for the Games funding received

Dancing for the Games is a three year programme of activity aimed at encouraging mass participation in dance and dance related activity across the West Midlands. This programme provides the opportunity to bring West Midlands communities together, from all backgrounds and neighbourhoods, to celebrate the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The challenge for this programme is to encourage more people to take up dance and dance related activity so that it becomes part of their lives, resulting in them feeling fit and well in both mind and body and having fun. **2Faced Dance Company** have been commissioned by **Dancing for the Games** to undertake a dance project that will take place throughout Herefordshire culminating in a large scale site specific performance in July 2012. The project, called **hr1** will be led by 2Faced in partnership with DanceFest and Herefordshire Council. **hr1** will bring together professional choreographers, dancers, musicians, designers and community participants in a dynamic working process over 18 months. **Please click on the 'Dancing for the Games logo above for more information.**

Robby Graham (RawB) and The Place Prize

Robby toured *Still breathing* with us across the UK earlier this year and we have worked with him since on various projects, but recently all of his attention has been on the infamous Place Prize. **What is the Place Prize?** The UK's foremost choreographic competition. In three editions to date, it has invested nearly £750,000 in new dance. The Place Prize puts contemporary British dance in the limelight, celebrating and illuminating it for audiences both familiar and new.

This was a very big step in Robby's career and will push him into new and exciting opportunities. Robbie made it all the way to the semi-finals with his piece **Aftermath** which follows four characters from Omagh in Northern Ireland struggling to exist in an area of conflict, and the effects terrorist acts can have upon these individuals. Londondance.com (click to read the full review) went in to review **Aftermath** "Four super-fit dancers rock, scissor and swipe their way across the floor, alternating playful unison with moments of youthful conflict. The choreography unites slick B-boy technique with contact work, and the combination is effective and readable". **Please click on Robby's face for more info.**



2Faced residency at [The Place](#)

2Faced recently taught a weeks residency at the infamous London Contemporary Dance school. Tamsin Fitzgerald, Jake Nwogu and Dan Lowenstein all taught during the week, teaching the participants repertoire from *Still Breathing*, various choreographic techniques and our fusion of contemporary, breaking and street. 'It was fantastic to be teaching at one of the worlds finest dance centres' said Tamsin.

Contact us:

If you need anymore information please give us a call on: **01432 276807** Or email us on: dan@2faceddance.co.uk

