

# IMPACT & DANCE



Performing at NCSL's Learning from practice: Networks, Partnerships, Collaboratives Annual Conference on 22 June 2006 is "Juvenescence", Impact Dance Youth group.

**Impact Dance Youth** is a performing arts company that is dedicated to working with pre-dominantly marginalised young people from London, between the ages of 10-21 years. Impact Dance Youth stemmed from the organisation Impact Dance. Our work is primarily focused around urban-street dance and music. We endeavour to fuse this with other genres to develop new and innovative ways of creating inclusive and cross-cultural opportunities and productions.

We go into secondary schools and work with Key Stages 3 & 4, including GCSE Dance. Through our workshops, events and activities, we are able to provide opportunities for young people to take part in professional performances. At the same time, we can raise the status and awareness of urban street dance and music as professional genres by taking our work to new audiences.

**Impact Dance** is a hip-hop theatre company and street dance organisation. Artistic director, Hakeem Onibudo, set-up Impact Dance in 1995. It originated with Xpress Yo'Self, the popular street dance class which is resident at Danceworks and has gone on to grow into a successful dance company. Impact Dance has worked with many large organisations and performed at many events and stages around the world including:

- Breakin' Convention '06 '05 '04 @ Sadler's Wells
- WOMAD World Organisation of Music and Dance, Reading 2005, Caceres Spain 2006
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards / Pet Shop Boys World Tour / BBC TV, Nickelodeon / CH4 / Youth Dance England

The company has three performance groups:

- Impact Dance Youth "**Juvenescence**" 10-19yrs
- Intermediate Adults "**Medial Transition**" 20 yrs +
- Impact Dance Professional Company 18yrs +

[www.impactdance.co.uk](http://www.impactdance.co.uk)



### How today's dance '*Together*' developed

Impact Dance had a large audition in March 2006 looking to recruit new dancers for Juvenescence. We successfully took on 50 dancers between the ages of 12 and 19, of which 25 are performing the piece today.

This dance piece has been especially choreographed for NCSL's Learning from practice: Networks, Partnerships, Collaboratives Annual Conference and is entitled '**Together**'.

The dance piece looks at four different communities and how they have all been entrusted to each keep safe an ancient relic within their territory.

The four communities are:

**Gothics:** Characterised by strong-arm movements, blank expressions and dressed up in black clothes. They have a long running rivalry with the Pirates.

**Pirates:** Mischievous bright individuals identified by loud bright colours and stripes. The Pirates are full of tricks and they are always trying to get one up on the Gothics.

**Animals:** Aggressive pack-like characters. They are very reluctant to conform or change and they despise everyone outside their own clan.

**Bush baby:** To date only one has been spotted on their own. She tends to drift around in a glow of innocence and is prepared to learn and follow what she feels is right.

The piece shows the interaction between the four groups and how they react to being shown how to move forward by the gurus:

**The gurus:** Not much is known about these special characters but it was whispered by folk that we sometimes need to stop and listen to young people. They can teach us older people a lot about life, despite the fact we feel we are older and wiser. Can older and wiser actually be confused with 'set in our own ways'?

### Performers:

Elifer Di Benigno, Pilar Nalwimba, Paris Wilson-Haunam, Chianti Hepburn-McNairn, Tosh Wanagho-Maud, Cheryl Grant, Annaliese Dayes, Christopher McFarlean, Simon Smith, Jermaine Johnson, Ryan Munroe, Luke Brown, Josie Norman, Chanel Reece, Duwane Taylor, Reice Weathers, Claire Callender, Chanelle Shockness, Claudia Soto, David Olaniyi, Ben Davies, Troy Hudson, Ria King, Maddy Morgan, Sinead Stanilas.

