



## BIG DANCE STRIDES INTO THE SOUTH EAST

**South East Dance is delighted to announce the launch of Big Dance South East England (BDSEE) from 3-11 July 2010.**

Thanks to successfully securing funding from Arts Council England, South East Dance will be leading this region wide response to the national initiative Big Dance, the world's biggest and most influential dance initiative. More than a major dance festival, Big Dance is a vibrant campaign to get everyone taking part – wherever they are, whatever their age, experience or ability.

Whilst Big Dance was established as a biennial festival in 2006 by the Mayor of London's Office in partnership with Arts Council England it has grown to become one of the UK's most important dance programmes, with opportunities to experience, participate and engage in dance for millions of people.

**Jamie Watton, CEO/Artistic Director, South East Dance said:**

*'We are thrilled to be the regional facilitator and lead organisation for Big Dance 2010 in South East England and we are delighted to be collaborating with partners across the region to provide an exceptional range of opportunities that will get more people dancing. Come and join us and enjoy!'*

BDSEE will bring together regional partners across the South East including councils, dance organisations, companies and practitioners to deliver a range of performances, workshops, free activities, schools events, large scale participation events and community programmes. All aimed at encouraging greater public participation and engagement with dance. BDSEE will offer thousands of people the chance to literally dance across the South East.

Here are just some of the Big Dance South East England activities taking place:

**Site Specific Performances** - created by local choreographers, working with local community groups and performed in unusual spaces.

**The Little South East Dance** - a short dance piece choreographed by Sarah Linstra from Henri Oguike Dance Company that anyone can learn online and perform during Big Dance week in a number of locations.

**Taster Sessions** - opportunities to try out a diverse range of dance styles from street dance to South Asian Bharatanatyam, whatever your age or ability.

**Schools Pledge** - More than 70 south east schools will lead extra dance activity during school time throughout Big Dance week, culminating in a Guinness World Record Attempt at 1pm on the 9<sup>th</sup> July.

For more information about all of these activities and more please visit: [www.southeastdance.org.uk](http://www.southeastdance.org.uk)

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## NOTES TO EDITOR

- South East Dance: Generating exceptional experiences in dance.

We are the national development agency for dance in South East England. Our mission is to ensure a thriving ecology for dance in the South East, enhancing conditions for more, bolder and better dance. We aim to raise the profile of dance and will work with partners within and beyond the region to achieve this. Artists and audiences are at the heart of all we do. We listen to, challenge and champion their needs and aspirations.

- Big Dance South East England is led by South East Dance and delivered in partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council, Creative Partnerships at the Centre for Community Engagement - University of Sussex, Kent County Council, Hampshire Dance, Oxford City Council, Woking Dance Festival and Wycombe Swan Theatre.
- Big Dance is London's Legacy Trust UK programme led by the Greater London Authority in partnership with Arts Council England and supported by major organisations including: Sport England, NHS London, London Councils, Museums, Libraries & Archives, London and the British Council. Big Dance 2010 will comprise of 9 days of dance events in unusual places throughout London showcasing the diversity of dance styles from 3 - 11 July. Visit <http://www.bigdance2010.com>
- Big Dance will be delivered nationally through lead regional facilitators including South East Dance. Big Dance South East England is supported by Arts Council England, and Big Dance.

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Supported by  
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