

# Call out for older dancers...



**Monday June 11th 2018**

Dartington Space Studio 3

9am - 1pm and/or 1pm - 5pm

*Are you a female dancer based in Devon and age 40 - 100?*

*Would you like to get into the studio and spend some time in creative process?*

*If so we would love to hear from you!*

**Still Point Dance Theatre** are a newly formed collaborative group currently doing research and development on a new piece for touring in 2019 exploring memory and ageing. We are an intergenerational group with ages ranging from 21 to 84. The piece '**for your age**' is based on personal stories told by Elizabeth Janis aged 89. We have created 10 minutes exploring memories of journeys, loss, and dancing, which we performed at Exeter Northcott in Feb 2018.

Dance in Devon are supporting us through a micro-residency in June 2018, and on Monday 11th June we would like to open up our process to a wider network of older dancers. The day will include a dance warm up, followed by movement tasks including partner work, creatively exploring the themes and building to small moments of sharing.

We would like to connect with older dancers who have an interest in this theme, in creative movement and in devising choreographic material. If possible we would like people to join us for the whole day (9am to 5pm) but we understand this may not be possible practically and energetically. We will be open to whatever you can offer on the day in terms of time, energy and creativity. The day will be led by Clare Parker - an experienced dance practitioner and older dancer herself, not unused to the aches, pains and asymmetries of an older body - who will work inclusively so that dancers feel supported to engage in a way that suits their bodies.

This is an unpaid position but lunch and a nice time will be provided! Please contact Clare Parker **by Mon 4th June** on 07730 065150 or email [clareparkermail@gmail.com](mailto:clareparkermail@gmail.com) to find out more.

# *for your age...*

A new piece of dance theatre in development for 2018/19

Elizabeth is a dancer. She has white hair and sometimes wobbles. She hates the words *for your age...* *for your age* is a piece in development about memory, the stories and things we collect over a lifetime, what we choose to keep, and the stuff we sometimes have to let go of.

*"Beautiful and thought provoking"*

*"Imaginatively and beautifully interweaved into a truly inspirational dance piece"*

*"Very moving"*

Extracts from *for your age* were first performed at Watch This Space, Exeter Northcott in February 2018. The piece is for 4 professional dancers aged between 21 and 84 and is suitable for presentation both on stage with theatrical lighting and in community settings. We were delighted to be able to test out aspects of the work with audiences and received excellent feedback. In March 2018, we were invited by the International Agatha Christie Festival to test out some participatory elements at their *Stories Live!* event which we plan to incorporate into performances to invite audiences to directly engage with the work.

Over the next 6 - 12 months, we will be developing the work to create an interactive performance piece aimed at an intergenerational audience and suitable for touring to a range of settings including arts centres, community venues such as village halls, and care settings including residential care homes, hospices, dementia care settings, health centres and hospitals. During June 2018 we are being supported by Dance in Devon's *Space to Play* scheme to further develop the work, followed by a period of R&D in September 2018.

We are excited about developing the work over the coming months with partners in the arts and health sectors. If you would like to talk to us about getting involved with this project please contact us.





## Still Point Dance Theatre

Set up in 2017 Still Point Dance Theatre is led by choreographer and dance practitioner Clare Parker working on a project basis with collaborative artists. Clare has worked as a dance artist, teacher and producer for over 25 years including with Richard Alston Dance Company, Northern Ballet Theatre and Balbir Singh Dance Company. She was a founding member of Out on a Limb and SoapBox dance companies and has worked as a Choreographer and Movement Director on a wide range of productions in both the UK and internationally including '2050 the Future We Want' at United Nations Geneva, commissioned by Green Cross International / Mikhail Gorbachev.

The core of our work is an interest in stories that tell us something about our shared experiences and the experiences of 'the other'. We are interested in how specific stories can teach us something universal about our shared human experience.

Dance and movement are at the centre of our work and we work with artists from other disciplines including musicians, filmmakers, writers and storytellers, sound and visual artists. The starting point for our work is usually working with an individual's or group's real-life stories through our engagement programme. We are deeply respectful of the stories people have entrusted us with and honoured to be able to work with them. It takes us a long time to make our work and to take care of the people at the heart of the work. R&D on new work often involves a staged process of research, devising and co-creation, testing out participation elements and extracts of the work, and working closely with partners from a range of sectors across arts, education, health and social care to get the work to the point of touring.

We want to create platforms for people to exchange their stories – across difference, age, gender, background. We are experienced participatory arts practitioners and aim to build participation into our work from the very earliest stages and to create work that engages audiences both physically and artistically. We are interested in sharing our work in places where people live and meet – in care homes, schools, community centres – as well as theatres and arts centres.

### 'for your age' R&D artistic team:

#### **Dancers:**

Rosie Allen-Perdikeas  
Pat Barker  
Sophie Northmore  
Hannah Saunders

#### **Voice recordings:**

Kate Rudman / Sound Communities  
with the voice of Elizabeth Janis

#### **Choreography and sound editing:**

Clare Parker



With thanks to Dance in Devon for their generous support.



**For further information please contact Clare Parker**

**Tel: 07730 065150 / Email: [clareparkermail@gmail.com](mailto:clareparkermail@gmail.com)**