

VERVE | 2008

The graduate
performance
company of
the Northern
School of
Contemporary
Dance



marketing pack

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QUICK GUIDE TO VERVE 08



Thought Like Raindrop, choreographer Henri Oguike

What is Verve?

Verve is the graduate performance company of the Northern School of Contemporary Dance. In 2008 the company comprises eleven dancers who will perform 20+ shows in the UK and Europe. The School is one of the UK's leading conservatoire dance schools and offers full time courses in contemporary dance at foundation, degree and graduate diploma levels.

What will be performed?

Verve performs contemporary dance by leading choreographers. The 2008 programme is a mixed bill of dance works specially commissioned from choreographers Darshan Singh Bhuller, Wendy Houstoun, Carol Brown, Simon Birch and Henri Oguike.

Who will enjoy it?

The wide variety of work offers something for everyone. The length of the pieces and the wide range of choreographic styles make it particularly suitable for those new to contemporary dance. The high standard of performance and choreography will delight dance fans.

Who is it suitability for?

Verve is ideal for adults and young people aged 13+, particularly those studying dance.

What is the running time?

Approximately 130 minutes including a 20-minute interval at mid-point.

What are the technical requirements?

A technician will tour with the company.

A mid-scale venue.

A minimum dance space of 9m² – Verve can supply a dance floor.

When is the tour?

Verve tours annually from February to July.

How do I contact Verve?

Please contact Lydia Wharf by:
email lydia.wharf@nscd.ac.uk
telephone 0113 219 3009.

ABOUT VERVE

Verve is the graduate performance company of the Northern School of Contemporary Dance. It was launched in 2006 as an expansion of the School's successful Graduate Diploma which is designed to facilitate the transition from training to professional practice.

The Graduate Diploma in Contemporary Dance has three pathways: an advanced training scheme, a graduate apprenticeship scheme and the graduate dance company Verve.

In this, Verve's second year as a mid-scale touring contemporary dance company, there are 11 company members. Through open auditions held in the UK and abroad dancers were chosen to join the company for the one-year duration of the Graduate Diploma course. The final company comprises graduates from leading conservatoire dance schools and talented young dancers with some professional experience.

They have been working with leading international choreographers Darshan Singh Bhuller, Carol Brown, Simon Birch, Henri Oguike and Wendy Houstoun to create a mixed-bill of works for the 18-venue 2008 tour.

Historically, performances from NSCD have had great acclaim from audiences and critics. The School has played host to many exceptional choreographers whilst simultaneously giving audiences the opportunity to witness the next generation of innovative dance artists.

For over ten-years final-year degree and diploma students have not only performed at the School's Riley Theatre but also had short UK tours under the name of Verve.

The exciting and fresh contemporary graduate and professional dance artists now making up Verve, will be building on the company's previous reputation and taking the inspiring mix of unmissable dance works to many audiences throughout the UK and Europe.

ABOUT NSCD

The Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD) is a unique dance training institution offering a select group of students the opportunity to develop and excel as dance artists in a conservatoire environment.

It offers professional dance training for the most talented students, providing access regardless of background or financial circumstances.

NSCD is an affiliate member of the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama (CDD). The creation of CDD has opened the way to exciting new developments at the forefront of international professional practice in vocational arts training.

There are approximately 200 students from all over the UK and abroad as well as from Leeds studying at NSCD. Courses include a BPA (Hons) in Contemporary Dance and a Graduate Diploma in Contemporary Dance, which are accredited by the University of Kent, as well as a Foundation course in Contemporary Dance.

History

The Northern School of Contemporary Dance was founded in 1985 as the first conservatoire dance school within the public sector. Nadine Senior was founding Principal, and she established the school to give the young people of Leeds vocational dance training following the success of her earlier teaching work at Harehills Middle School.

NSCD moved into its permanent home of a former synagogue in Chapeltown in 1987 and since then it has grown into one of the UK's leading dance training institutions.

Nadine Senior MBE retired in December 2001 and was succeeded by Gurmit Hukam as Principal in January 2002. In 2006, Akram Khan MBE and Darshan Singh Bhuller showed their support of NSCD by becoming Patrons.

Over the School's twenty-two year history it has produced some of the UK's leading contemporary dance artists including Akram Khan, Tom Roden, Robert Hylton, Benji Reid and Fleur Darkin.

VERVE 2008 REPERTOIRE

Verve 08 presents an exhilarating programme of contemporary dance selected from a repertoire of newly commissioned work.

Choreographers:

Carol Brown, Darshan Singh, Bhuller, Henri Oguike, Simon Birch and Wendy Houston

Dancers:

Alice Moran, Ann Sophie Clemmensen, Ciara Collins-Atkins, Cruz-Antonio Reyes, David Willdridge, Hoor Malas, Liv O'Donoghue, Natasha Kowalski, Peter Grist, Sarah Lewis and Vicci Viles

Works:

The New Breeds

—Carol Brown

Just as our ancestors were supported by wildlife, so we are supported by technology. Welcome to our digital evolution; experience these strange hybrids dancing like they've just been made.

Exile & Death

—Darshan Singh Bhuller

This work was inspired by the dramatic life and works of a Baroque painter, Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio. Caravaggio abandoned the rules that had guided a century of artists before him, introducing a new naturalism and theatrical approach to chiaroscuro (light and dark). He had a fascination with youth and sexuality, with violence, solitude and love. His life was scarred by imprisonment for several assaults and for killing an opponent after a dispute in a court tennis match. Caravaggio fled Rome and remained in exile for the rest of his life.

Thought Like Raindrop

—Henri Oguike

This work has been made in collaboration with the dancers. Special thanks to all NSCD staff and most of all to the dancers for their hard work and commitment throughout the rehearsal process.

March

—Simon Birch

March is a contemplation on the power of time. Concerned with the inescapably linear nature of time, March looks at its cyclical aspects and examines the self-contained nature of an isolated moment - like a bright sunny day in the middle of winter - emotionally uplifting yet fragile and fleeting.

A Rough Guide to Theatre

—Wendy Houston

A rough guide to theatre contains:

1. Costume (clothes work to make somebody look like somebody else).
2. Music (sounds arranged in order to create a stimulating effect).
3. Words (a human use of spoken units of sound as a communication system).
4. Emotion (a strong feeling about somebody or something).
5. Signs (something that indicates the presence of something or somebody).
6. Dance (to leap or skip, especially in an emotional manner).

SELLING POINTS

- Verve repertoire consists of completely new commissions and this tour will be the first and only opportunity for audiences to see the work.
- The School has a long history of producing strong and distinctive professional dance artists and Verve gives audiences the opportunity to see them at the cusp of their professional careers.
- Verve is an extension of one of the UK's leading conservatoire dance schools, Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD).
- 2008 is the company's second year so will build on the audience developed during the 2007 inaugural tour.
- The dance works performed by Verve were created by some of the leading choreographers working in the UK. Their work will generate much interest amongst audiences and critics.
- Verve will present a mixed bill consisting of very different styles and exploring different subject matter. As such, a rich and varied experience is offered to the audience.
- The company comprises of recently graduated dance artists who have had very successful academic dance careers, many receiving first degrees and being recognised with university prizes.

TARGET MARKETS

- Previous attendees of NSCD and Verve performances
- Contemporary dance fans, particularly those who have attended EDge, Transitions or other graduate dance company performances and those who have previously seen works by Verve choreographers
- Contemporary arts fans, for example music, experimental drama, new writing, physical theatre, multimedia, visual arts, arthouse and short films
- Dance and arts practitioners and professionals
- Dance schools and classes targeted at young people or adults
- Secondary school groups
- Students, from GCSE level upwards, of dance, drama, performing arts, contemporary music, wardrobe/textiles, stage and technical management
- NSCD applicants
- Youth groups, especially those interested in dance and performance arts

MARKETING RESOURCES

- 2 identical banner stands - 800mm wide X 2000mm tall (Verve will bring these with them)
- A5 leaflets
- A3 posters
- High quality photographic images of dance works
- Press release template
- National UK press support
- School website - www.nscd.ac.uk
- E-bulletins sent from School website—sign up facility on www.nscd.ac.uk
- Research for audience feedback
- Free programmes for distribution by theatre staff (Verve will bring these with them)

BROCHURE COPY

“I am thrilled to be working with Verve; with dancers who will be the future talent of contemporary dance.”

Darshan Singh Bhuller

Verve 08

With a stunning programme of original dance created by leading choreographers, the Northern School of Contemporary Dance's graduate performance company – Verve - is back again to delight audiences across the UK and Europe.

Verve 08 offers some of the UK's most talented young dance graduates performing specially commissioned work from leading choreographers Darshan Singh Bhuller, Simon Birch, Carol Brown, Wendy Houstoun, and Henri Oguike.

These internationally acclaimed choreographers have created a powerful programme of new dance works, communicating emotional, physical and theatrical intensity.

This vibrant and entertaining evening offers the best place to spot up-and-coming dance artists on the UK scene and promises something for everyone - creating new dance fans and delighting enthusiasts.

www.nscd.ac.uk

WORD COUNT: 114

REPERTOIRE PHOTOS

Northern School of Contemporary Dance ©
Chris Nash © (repertoire images)
Johnny Carr © (tiled hall images)

A Rough Guide to Theatre, Wendy Houston



WH003



WH011



WH012

March, Simon Birch



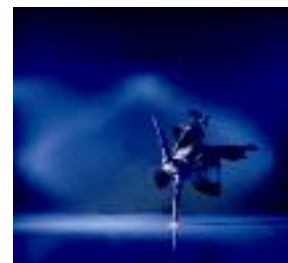
SB027



SB028



SB032



SB030

Thought Like Raindrop, Henri Oguike



HO015



HO021

Exile & Death, Darshan Singh Bhuller



DSB014



DSB033

Verve 08—tiled hall images



001



002

REHEARSAL PHOTOS

Rehearsal for *Thought Like Raindrop* with Henri Oguike



HO_0043_1



HO_0464



HO_0066_1



HO_0131



HO_0400

Rehearsal for *Exile & Death* with Darshan Singh Bhuller



DSB_0049



DSB_0099



DSB_0119_1



DSB_0054_1



DSB_0198

Rehearsal for *A Rough Guide To Theatre* with Wendy Houstoun



WH_0164



WH_0032



WH_0178



WH_0144_1



WH_0190

Rehearsal for *March* with Simon Birch



SB_0221



SB_0105



SB_0137



SB_0088



SB_0073

Rehearsal for *The New Breeds* with Carol Brown



CB_0049



CB_0064



CB_2768



CB_2927



CB_2940



CB_0115

NEWS RELEASE

For information only—please use the word version of this news release for issuing to the media.

[VENUE] HAS SOME VERVE

With an established reputation for producing dance artists with distinctive performance abilities, Northern School of Contemporary Dance's graduate performance company, Verve, will be captivating audiences at [venue] on [date].

Verve 08 presents an exciting opportunity to catch some of the brightest young talent emerging onto the UK contemporary dance scene, performing brand new work from a stellar line-up of world-class choreographers.

The company comprises 11 young dance artists performing a specially commissioned repertoire of contemporary dance works by Darshan Singh Bhuller, Wendy Houstoun, Carol Brown, Simon Birch and Henri Oguike; whose company was recently awarded the Critic's Circle National Dance Award for Outstanding Repertoire, taking the mantle from Phoenix Dance Theatre who received the prize in 2006 under the Artistic Direction of Darshan.

On working with Verve for the 2008 tour Darshan commented.

"I am thrilled to be working with Verve; with dancers who will be the future talent of contemporary dance."

Each choreographer was given the creative freedom to use their unique 'voice' to develop their work with Verve; the result is a truly mixed bill of work that will make for an unforgettable evening of fresh ideas and technical excellence.

Northern School of Contemporary Dance's Principal and Artistic Director Gurmit Hukam explains what audiences can expect from the performance:

"This year's tour allows us to build on the success and excitement created by the inaugural tour in 2007. The Verve 08 tour offers a unique opportunity to experience varying dimensions of contemporary dance; from physical theatre to conceptual work as well as movement-based choreography. Stark lighting, cool jazz, 17th century rogues, futuristic science, and an intricate play of movement forms will all feature; resulting in a truly enjoyable evening of innovative contemporary dance."

One recent audience member described the performance as "Absolutely stunning, every piece blew me away".

Verve 08 will be performing at [venue, date and time]. Tickets are available from the box office [contact and ticket details].

For more information about Verve and Northern School of Contemporary Dance, log on to www.nscd.ac.uk, where you may wish to sign up to receive e-bulletins about the company, or phone 0113 219 3000.

ENDS

DETAILED REPERTOIRE NOTES

Choreographer	Carol Brown
Title of piece	The New Breeds
Commission	New commission
Created	January 2008 for NSCD
Music	Soundscore by Russell Scoones
Lighting	Mark Baker
Set/costumes	Cassie Fadden
Dancers	8/9 dancers
Duration	21 minutes
The piece	Just as our ancestors were supported by wildlife, so we are supported by technology. Welcome to our digital evolution; experience these strange hybrids dancing like they've just been made.

Choreographer	Darshan Singh Bhuller
Title of piece	Exile & Death
Commission	New commission
Created	November 2007 for NSCD
Music	Dakryon, <i>Passacaglia</i> by Barry Guy
Lighting	Mark Baker and D S Bhuller
Set/costumes	Cassie Fadden
Dancers	6 dancers
Duration	19 minutes
The piece	This work was inspired by the dramatic life and works of a Baroque painter, Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio. Caravaggio abandoned the rules that had guided a century of artists before him, introducing a new naturalism and theatrical approach to chiaroscuro (Light & Dark). He had a fascination with youth and sexuality, with violence, solitude and love. His life was scarred by imprisonment for several assaults and for killing an opponent after a dispute in a court tennis match. Caravaggio fled Rome and remained in exile for the rest of his life.

Choreographer	Henri Oguike
Title of piece	Thought Like Raindrop
Commission	New commission
Created	September 2007 for NSCD
Music	<i>Something I Dreamed Last Night</i> by Miles Davies Quintet & John Coltrane, Red Garland, Paul Chambers and Philly Joe Jones and <i>Oleo</i> by MD Quintet Miles Davies Quintet and John Coltrane
Lighting	Mark Baker
Set/costumes	Cassie Fadden
Dancers	11 dancers
Duration	17 minutes
The piece	This work has been made in collaboration with the dancers. Special thanks to all NSCD staff and most of all to the dancers for their hard work and commitment throughout the rehearsal process.

DETAILED REPERTOIRE NOTES

Choreographer	Simon Birch
Title of piece	March
Commission	New commission
Created	November 2007 for NSCD
Music	<i>Rothko Chapel 3</i> by Feldman, <i>Blue Noon</i> by Ikue Mori & Zeena Parkin, <i>Bonus Track 1</i> by Yann Tiersen, <i>Metamorphosis</i> by George Fenton and <i>Walk in Beauty</i> by Peter Garland.
Lighting	Mark Baker
Set/costumes	Cassie Fadden
Dancers	11 dancers
Duration	19 min. 30 sec
The piece	<p>March is a contemplation on the power of time. Concerned with the inescapably linear nature of time, March also looks at its cyclical aspects and examines the self-contained nature of an isolated moment in time - like a bright sunny day in the middle of winter - emotionally uplifting yet fragile and fleeting.</p> <p>This piece uses a smoke machine.</p>

Choreographer	Wendy Houstoun
Title of piece	A Rough Guide to Theatre
Commission	New commission
Created	October 2007 for NSCD
Music	Compositions by Sion Littleadyke and <i>Op 53 Polonaise in A flat</i> , <i>Heroic</i> by Frederic Chopin
Lighting	Mark Baker
Set/costumes	Cassie Fadden
Dancers	6 dancers
Duration	23 minutes
The piece	<p>A ROUGH GUIDE TO THEATRE:</p> <p>A rough guide to theatre contains:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Costume (clothes work to make somebody look like somebody else). 2. Music (sounds arranged in order to create a stimulating effect). 3. Words (a human use of spoken units of sound as a communication system). 4. Emotion (a strong feeling about somebody or something). 5. Signs (something that indicates the presence of something or somebody). 6. Dance (to leap or skip, especially in an emotional manner).

The performance features 4-5 pieces.

Expected running order—The New Breeds, Exile & Death, A Rough Guide to Theatre, Thought Like Raindrop and March

Running time: approximately 110 to 130 minutes including a 20 minute interval

VERVE 08

BOX OFFICE NOTES

What is Verve?

Verve is the graduate performance company of the Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD) and is now in its second year. Members and repertoire change annually and in 2008 the company comprises eleven dancers who will perform 20+ shows in the UK and Europe. The School is one of the UK's leading conservatoire dance schools and offers full time courses in contemporary dance at foundation, degree and graduate diploma levels.

What will be performed?

Verve performs contemporary dance work created by leading choreographers. The programme is a mixed bill of five newly created dance works.

Who will enjoy it?

The wide variety of works offers something for everyone. The length of the pieces and the wide range of styles make it particularly suitable for those new to contemporary dance. The high standard of dance and choreography will delight dance fans.

Suitability?

Verve's 2008 repertoire is suitable for all ages. There is a warning for audience members with chest/lung complaints as Simon Birch's March makes use of a smoke machine.

Running time:

The performance will feature 4 to 5 pieces with a running time of 100 to 130 minutes including a 20-minute interval at mid-point.

Running order: (subject to change)

Piece	Music	Dancers	Lighting design	Duration
The New Breeds Carol Brown	Russell Scoones	8/9	Just as our ancestors were supported by wildlife, so we are supported by technology. Welcome to our digital evolution; experience these strange hybrids dancing like they've just been made.	21 mins
Exile & Death Darshan Singh Bhuller	Dakryon and Barry Guy	6	This work was inspired by the dramatic life and works of a Baroque painter, Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio. Caravaggio abandoned the rules that had guided a century of artists before him, introducing a new naturalism and theatrical approach to chiaroscuro (Light & Dark). He had a fascination with youth and sexuality, with violence, solitude and love. His life was scarred by imprisonment for several assaults and for killing an opponent after a dispute in a court tennis match. Caravaggio fled Rome and remained in exile for the rest of his life.	18 mins
Interval				20 mins
A Rough Guide to Theatre Wendy Houstoun	Sion Littlesdyke and Frederic Chopin	6	A ROUGH GUIDE TO THEATRE: A rough guide to theatre contains: 1. Costume (clothes work to make somebody look like somebody else). 2. Music (sounds arranged in order to create a stimulating effect). 3. Words (a human use of spoken units of sound as a communication system). 4. Emotion (a strong feeling about somebody or something). 5. Signs (something that indicates the presence of something or somebody). 6. Dance (to leap or skip, especially in an emotional manner).	23 mins
Thought Like Raindrop Henri Oguike	Miles Davies Quintet	11	This work has been made in collaboration with the dancers. Special thanks to all NSCD staff and most of all to the dancers for their hard work and commitment throughout the rehearsal process.	17 mins
March Simon Birch This piece uses a smoke machine.	Feldman, Ikuo Mori & Zeena Parkin, Yann Tiersen, George Fenton and Peter Garland.	11	March is a contemplation on the power of time. Concerned with the inescapably linear nature of time, March also looks at its cyclical aspects and examines the self-contained nature of an isolated moment in time - like a bright sunny day in the middle of winter - emotionally uplifting yet fragile and fleeting.	19 mins 30 secs

BIOGRAPHIES: DANCERS



—Alice Moran

Alice was a Royal Ballet Junior Associate, studied dance at A-Level and started her professional training at Middlesex University. She completed her training at NSCD receiving a BPA (Hons) Contemporary Dance degree in 2007. She performed at the School's 21st Birthday Gala, has

been featured taking technique class in a recent Yorkshire Television documentary and taught and choreographed at NSCD's most recent Summer School.



—David Willdridge

Initially a spectator at his elder sister's dance classes in his native Liverpool, one day David was invited to join in and he has been dancing since. He joins NSCD from Middlesex University where he achieved a BA (Hons) in Dance with Performing Arts and had the opportunity to work

with Shobana Jeyasingh on the graduation performance.



—Ann Sophie Clemmensen

Sophie has been a gymnast and performer with the Danish Gymnastic & Athletic Association, the Elite Team at The Gymnastic Academy in Ollerup (Denmark) and the National Danish Performance Team. She has a degree in Professional Dance Performance from The Norwegian

College of Dance, holds a teaching diploma in classic ballet and also teaches contemporary dance.



—Hoor Malas

Hoor is from Damascus where she has studied dance from a young age. Her background is in ballet but whilst studying dance at the Higher Education Institute of Fine Arts she was introduced to Contemporary Dance and studied with many guest teachers including Henri Oguike Dance

Company. She has participated in workshops at London Studio Centre and Copenhagen Contemporary Dance School. Hoor is also a member of *Sima*, a company which performs in Damascus.



—Ciara Collins-Atkins

Ciara attended a wide range of dance classes as a child and her interest in performance grew when she became a member of the Everyman Youth Theatre Group. Later she focused on contemporary dance and completed a BPA (Hons) degree at NSCD where she worked with

many professional choreographers, performing the works at the School's Riley Theatre. She was recently involved with the RODA/07 project.



—Liv O'Donoghue

On completion of her studies Liv received a 1st class BPA (Hons) degree from NSCD and the Outstanding Achievement award. Her own choreography has been performed at the NSCD Graduation Show, the New Choreography Showcase in London and at the Dublin Festival.

In the 2006 Irish National Dance Awards Liv was presented with the Shawbrook Dance Award for her choreography and performance. She has also danced with Dublin Youth Dance Company and worked on collaborative projects with film makers, composers and rock climbers.



—Cruz-Antonio Reyes

As a child Cruz had an eclectic mix of hobbies and finally had the opportunity to try dance during a Summer School at NSCD. His interest in the subject grew and he went on to study full time at the School and at Rambert School of Ballet & Contemporary Dance, where he regularly

participated in choreographic showcases. He has also worked with the Education Department of Phoenix Dance Theatre and has a keen interest in Somatics.

Images: Northern School of Contemporary Dance © and Simon Long ©

BIOGRAPHIES: DANCERS



—Natasha Kowalski

Natasha's background is in classical ballet, performing with the English Youth Ballet and training with a Ballet Scholarship at Dance East. After participating in a workshop run by NSCD in her hometown of Ipswich she joined the School, studying Contemporary Dance at

Foundation then Degree level and developing a special interest in aerial dance. Natasha's choreographic work was performed at NSCD's 21st Birthday Gala.



—Peter Grist

Peter originally trained to be a chef but at 18, after little dance experience, changed direction and joined a BTEC dance course. This gave him his first experience of Contemporary Dance and he went on to achieve a BPA (Hons) degree from NSCD. Peter performed both a solo and a duet

at NSCD's 21st birthday gala and has taught and choreographed for numerous NSCD Summer Schools.



—Sarah Lewis

Sarah dipped in and out of dance as a child and was part of a Ballet Scholarship scheme with Dance East. She decided to become a dance artist after completing an AS Level in dance and went on to achieve a BA (Hons) in Contemporary Dance from

London Contemporary Dance School (LCDS). She has been involved with site specific work and collaborations with other artists as well as being a founding member of LC3, the final year touring company of LCDS.



—Vicci Viles

Although Vicci has a wide range of musical and artistic interests, she always wanted to train as a dancer. She completed the BPA Hons degree in Contemporary Dance at NSCD in 2007 and performed her own work, created in collaboration with a composer from the University of York, at the

School's 21st Birthday Gala. She has also worked on collaborative pieces with film makers and photographers and was recently involved with the RODA/07 project.

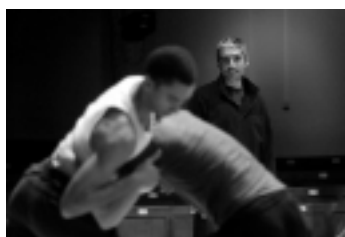
BIOGRAPHIES: CHOREOGRAPHERS



—Carol Brown

Carol Brown is choreographer, performer and together with composer Russell Scoones, co-artistic director of Carol Brown Dances.

Based in London, the company has an international presence through collaborations, commissions and workshops. Carol's choreography focuses upon the presence of the body and its mediatization through texts, sounds, architecture and design. The company's work is renowned for its dialogues with other art forms which manifests itself through installations, interactive environments and site specific events. Carol has received numerous prestigious awards including a Jerwood Award for Choreography, a NESTA Dream Time, an AHRC Research Fellowship and the Ludwig Forum International Prize for Innovation. The company has toured throughout the world and presented at numerous festivals including Roma Europa, New Zealand International Festival of the Arts, British Dance Edition, Dance Boom Philadelphia, Sobre Saltos Colombia and Dance Umbrella. Carol combines her professional practice with dance research through Roehampton University where she is a Reader in Contemporary Choreography. Currently she is researching The Nineteenth Step, a collaboration with a composer and mathematician exploring a text by Jorge Luis Borges.



—Darshan Singh Bhuller

Darshan Singh Bhuller has created and directed works for numerous international companies as well as his own

company, Singh Productions, which toured to critical acclaim. Most recently, Darshan received a commission from Rambert Dance Company to create Stand and Stare to mark the 30th anniversary of LS Lowry's death. Other credits include Assistant Director and Choreographer for Shaolin Wheel of Life, Opening Ceremony for the Millennium Dome and choreography for the opening section of the Bollywood awards in Yorkshire IIFA 2007. From 2002 to 2006 Darshan was Artistic Director of Phoenix Dance Theatre where he earned Company Prize for Outstanding

BIOGRAPHIES: CHOREOGRAPHERS

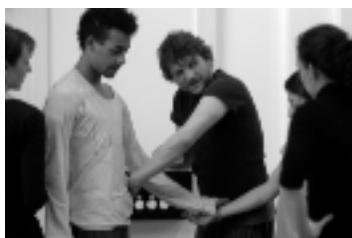
Repertoire (Modern) in the 2006 Critic's Circle National Dance Awards. Over his 27 years in theatre, Darshan has directed numerous dance and music videos, been involved in collaborative projects with other artists, been invited to teach at conservatoire schools across the world and held performance and creative roles in many leading UK-based companies.



—Henri Oguike

Born in West Glamorgan, Nigerian/ Welsh choreographer Henri Oguike studied music, drama and dance at Swansea College.

He went on to train at London Contemporary Dance School and danced with 4D, its postgraduate performance group. In 1994, he became a founder member of the Richard Alston Dance Company and danced with the Company until 1998. He then founded Henri Oguike Dance Company in 1999 which quickly made an impact, picking up the Time Out Live Award for 'Most Outstanding New Company' in 2001. Henri has taught, performed and choreographed extensively in the UK and abroad. Both he and his Company have been the recipients of many prestigious awards - earlier this year, he was awarded the AoC Gold Award for Further Education Alumni in recognition of his achievements in his chosen career. Most recently, he has been presented with a Critics' Circle National Dance Awards for 'Outstanding Repertoire'.



—Simon Birch

Simon works nationally and internationally as a freelance artist, choreographer, rehearsal director, dance technique and yoga teacher

and delivers workshops on creativity and movement. He has worked for many years in collaboration with other artists, most notably with visual artist Trish O'Shea – creating work that uses film, text, movement and visual imagery. He has recently become the recipient of the Wooda Arts Award 2008. Simon has strong links with the Northern School of Contemporary Dance having trained at the School and taught and

choreographed there on many occasions. As a dancer Simon has performed in works created by Debbi Purtil, Nigel Charnock, Liv Lorent, Gill Clarke, Emily Claid and Janet Smith. As a choreographer he has produced his own work, as well as being commissioned by, among others, Akram Khan and C Scape Dance Company.



—Wendy Houstoun

Wendy Houstoun is an established movement and theatre artist based in London. She has collaborated with companies (DV8

Physical Theatre, Forced Entertainment, Lumiere & Son), Artists (Jonathan Burrows, Tim Etchells and Nigel Charnock) as well as creating her own solo work (Haunted, Happy Hour, Desert Island Dances), Films (Touched, Diary of a Dancer- both with David Hinton) and most recently a group piece In The Dark in Sydney which received Best Choreography at the Australian Dance Awards.

VERVE 08

TOUR SCHEDULE

22 February.

Leeds Riley Theatre, Northern School of Contemporary Dance
0113 219 3018

23 February.

Leeds Riley Theatre, Northern School of Contemporary Dance 0113 219 3018

29 February.

Newcastle Upon Tyne Dance City 0191 261 0505

10 March.

Lewes The Dance Studio, Sussex Downs College 01273 483 188

12 March.

Chichester The Showroom Theatre, Chichester University 01243 816206

14 March.

Tenterden The Sinden Theatre, Homewood School 0158 076 3826

28 March.

Salford The Lowry, Salford Quays 0870 787 5780

02 April.

Ireland Mermaid Arts Centre, Co. Wicklow +00 353 (0)1 2724030

16 April.

Wakefield Theatre Royal Wakefield 01924 211 311

19 April.

Finland Theatre Academy/
Teatterikorkeakoulu, Helsinki +358 (0) 9 4313 6256

24 April.

Derby Déda Theatre, Derby Dance 01332 370 911

04 May.

London Linbury Studio Theatre at the Royal Opera House 0207 304 4000

09 May.

Liverpool the Bluecoat 0151 702 5324

24 May.

London Robin Howard Dance Theatre, The Place 0207 121 1100

03 June.

Dundee The Space, Dundee College 0138 283 4934

06 June.

Stirling macrobert, University of Stirling 0178 646 6666

11 June.

Canterbury Gulbenkian Theatre, University of Kent 0122 776 9075

13 June.

St. Austell The Keay Theatre, Cornwall College 01726 226777

25 June - 28 June.

Netherlands International Theater School Festival (ITS), Amsterdam www.itsfestival.nl

09 July.

Leeds Riley Theatre, Northern School of Contemporary Dance 0113 219 3018

KEY CONTACTS

The **key contact** for enquiries relating to Verve's touring plans is

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Other personnel are

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Costume Design	Cassie Fadden
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