

### **Touchdown Dance: Autumn Newsletter 2004**

Funding success! We have a project grant from the Arts Council England NW to create a new touring production with Julyen Hamilton and Angus Balbernie in spring 2005. We are on track to match this funding to enable us to tour later next year. We have dates scheduled for residencies and performances in the region from summer/autumn 2005 and outside of the region in 2006.

We will create a show for touring involving the company of 6 dancers, musicians and projection. The show will be audio described and with description integrated from the stage. There will be two versions, one specifically for visually impaired people involving moving with us in the space and another more conventional version for all audiences. The dance work we are making is unique for the working relationship between the dancers and our intimate relationship to the audience, which as one person said "made me feel I was on stage with you." (Saddler's Wells 2003).

The visually impaired dancers, Janee, Holly and Alan have to feel totally free on stage and we all share in the responsibility to create work that enables this. The process toward performance always relies on their sense of ease balanced by the challenges common to the company as a whole, to create thought provoking and original dance work. The dance is created in scores, by selecting movement ideas through improvisation, and using sound, voice and physical contact instead of visual cues. If you are interested in seeing us in rehearsal or viewing our work in process please contact the office for potential dates and times.

### **Workshops.**

We are currently in discussion with Link Up club in Chester and the Royal School for the Deaf, for projects next year leading to performances. We are also establishing residencies with several regional venues and arts organisations, in Runcorn, Manchester, Lancaster, Barrow in Furnes and Chester.

### **Continued professional development Training in Education and Health.**

**Education:** Since working in special and main stream schools with Creative Partnerships Manchester and Salford we have undertaken to offer a development initiative. We have devised a Continued Professional Development Training for Teachers and Dancers. This will be accredited by the Open College Network and will involve peer learning. Katy Dymoke will deliver the work with Manchester Adult Education Services promoting it. If you are interested in participating please contact the office. It is programmed for the spring 2005, to follow the training in health settings. Specific information will be available in November so please contact the office to register your interest.

**Health:** The course for dancers and activity nurses from mental health wards will look at delivering dance in therapeutic settings. The basis will be Body Mind Centering™ and communication and relationship through movement and dance. It will run over four full days, most likely weekends and sessions in between. It is not necessary to attend all the sessions as long as the learning outcomes are achieved and documented. This is due to run in the autumn/winter and will provide 2 credits at level 3 from the Open College Network. To register or for further information please contact the office.

**COSTS;** Both courses will incur a fee and there are training bursaries available from the Dance Agencies and the Arts Council of England but a turn around of up to 6 weeks applies for the latter. £300 waged, £200 Free Lance, £150 unwaged.

**Contact Improvisation weekly classes.** Thursday evening classes continue in Old Trafford at 7.30-9.30, cost £6/£4, as do monthly Sunday afternoon Jams, from September. Contact the office for more information or the web site; [www.manchester-contact-improvisation.org.uk](http://www.manchester-contact-improvisation.org.uk).

**Sponsorship;** If you have any sponsorship ideas or would like to meet and discuss project ideas please contact the office. Tall trees grow from a small seed.