

## **Touchdown Dance Newsletter for Spring 2004.**

### **Sadler's Wells success, audio description and feedback.**

We performed at Sadler's Wells Linbury Studio in November as part of the Xposure Festival. The evening program involved companies with disabled performers, Amici, High Spin and Corali. We organised audio description for the evening and several visually impaired audience members came along, some for the first time to a dance event. We had spent time developing description from the stage as an integral part to the piece and this went down really well. The post performance meeting was well attended and the feedback was so positive and this is vital for us at this stage in development. "I felt I was on stage with you", is one example from a visually impaired person.

"Tact" is still available for touring with or without a workshop package. We are hoping to perform it during this year whilst we devise a new piece for touring in 2005.

### **Workshops.**

It has been a fruitful and very busy winter. We have been working with Creative Partnerships (CP) in Manchester and Salford schools both as a Core partner advising schools how to program their ideas into projects and as artists delivering work in the schools. We have worked in both main stream and special schools and also combined the two.

For example; New Croft School in Salford has had two projects involving the touch based processes for children with profound and multiple disabilities. The second project coincided with OFSTED and they had a really positive report on the session that was visited, which impressed the school, ourselves and CP as it looks great for CP to have this affirmation.

We are continuing with primary and secondary schools working alongside Manchester Camerata, Drake Music project and free-lance artists from the craft/making side.

We will also deliver workshops for Manchester City College VI student support services, Cumbria Arts and a project in Northampton

### **Vocational training via OCN (the Open College Network).**

We are currently investigating Accreditation for the vocational training we have been running entitled "Volunteer training". We will be running it again this year but under the new title "Professional development training". It will be appropriate for dance practitioners who intend to make their practise accessible to different learning needs. This training is open but our own intention is to build up our pool of workshop artists to take the work more generally into the community in the NW and beyond.

Many of the trainees from the past year will continue on this course. Please contact the office to register your interest.

If you haven't yet got your copy of the CDROM please consider the value of this resource and the wealth of information if you were to add it to your library

or pass the idea on to friends and colleagues. So far many individuals, schools, college libraries and dance organisations in the UK and internationally, have bought them.

Thursday evening classes continue in Old Trafford as do monthly Sunday afternoon Jams, dates for the latter, Feb 29<sup>th</sup>, March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 2-5 p.m. Contact the office for more information or the web site;

[www.manchester-contact-improvisation.org.uk](http://www.manchester-contact-improvisation.org.uk). The same if you are interested in the

National Jam; from Friday evening to Sunday the 19-21 March at Old Trafford Community Centre, Shrewsbury St. We will have guests teachers leading into the jam sessions and some surprises.

**Touchdown Dance, 42 Edge St, Manchester, M4 1HN. Tel 0161 278 1499,  
E-mail and web site [touchdd@aol.com](mailto:touchdd@aol.com), [www.touchdowndance.co.uk](http://www.touchdowndance.co.uk)**