

The City Breathes

A dance and spoken word trio exploring health and wellbeing.

'The City Breathes' is a poetic and engaging trio, featuring two dancers and a spoken word artist. It is a response to the health challenges that we face in our cities, and speaks to how mindfulness and connectedness are important pathways on our journeys towards healing and wellbeing. The spoken word is weaved into and around the movement, almost becoming a community prayer; a call to action for healing and connections across our communities. 'The City Breathes' was created based on research undertaken with diverse community groups in Coventry, and in consultation with academics at Warwick University and Coventry University.

Trailer www.mercurialdance.co.uk/the-city-breathes



Duration:

The piece is 20 minutes long and can be repeated a number of times a day at locations in proximity.

Our optimum audience size:

The piece is suitable for families. Our preview for 'The City Breathes' at Coventry Cathedral achieved 300 audiences across three shows. Our optimum size audience is between 200-500 per performance depending on sight lines and performance area.

Marketing and Audience Development:

We can provide organisations with promotional print, film clips, photos and press releases.

Technical specifications:

- We tour with 3 performers plus one technician and/or artistic director.
- The performance can be performed both indoor or outdoor
- Tech needed and that we are able to provide: Stereo sound system, audio in, radio mic (over ear) and 4 channel mixing desk
- We need 13amp power supply
- Performance space minimum 8mx6m with a level surface that can accommodate dance
- We do not necessarily need sprung/dance-specific floor, surface needs to be even, smooth and not slippery - we can provide suitable flooring at a nominal additional cost
- We cannot perform on grass, in the rain/drizzle, if outdoors, due to slip hazards



Partnership Opportunities

We are developing an under £15K G4A to re-rehearse this work, re-casting for the spoken word artist and strongly encouraging BAME applicant for this role.

Performance/events

The performance is 20 mins long and can be repeated through out the day. Able to be performed in a variety of locations it is a great 'happen upon' performance or form part of a programme of events to enliven a festival, shopping centre or destination experience.

We are able to extend this to a full hour/longer event experience for evening/ticketed experience which could support cost recovery for partnerships. For example this could include creating a double bill of two works from our repertoire, such as 'Fair Youth' a duet about Shakespeare's Sonnets or 'Give A Story, Gain a Dance' – a live funny improvised performance structure where we create a series of dance and spoken word sketches in response to the audiences stories. It is also possible for us to accompany the performance with a social or creative aspect such an open mic event.

Health and Wellbeing workshops with a movement and writing theme

We offer moving into writing workshops, a health and wellbeing experience which develops the ideas and themes for the cross over between dance and writing – using physical tasks to trigger creative writing and spoken word, exploring the themes in the piece.

Timescale

G4A outcome mid September

Creation period October

Ready to tour from 19 October 2019 onwards

The City Breathes touring costs

Our economic model for tour the work is based on the costs of professional artists being employed to deliver the work. We tour with four people: three performers plus artistic director or stage manager when touring for security and participant health and safety. Consequently in order to tour economically without further subsidy our costs are

2 performances 1 location £900 in a ½ day eg 2.30pm and 4pm OR 10am and 11.30 am

3 performances 1 location £1200 Eg 10am 11.30 am and 1pm

4 performances 1 location £1400

2 performances 2 locations on the same day £1800

Eg arrive 9am warm up/set up tech 10.30 show, 11.30 show. 12.15pm travel (max 35 mins) lunch (1 hour) arrive 2.00pm warm up/set up location 2 shows 3pm 4pm. 4.30 get out and depart.

Travel and accommodation

Costs exclude travel at £0.45 per mile. Accommodation will be needed for performances more than 1 hours travel time from Coventry (most of Warwickshire is within this time)

Please see this document as an opener for a conversation about meeting Health and Wellbeing agendas through the arts, I'd be delighted to have a meeting to address any questions and discuss ideas this triggers.

Oliver Scott, Artistic Director

Contact Details 07884068108. Prepared July 2019