

Springs Dance Company

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Autumn 2006

Advent Tour 2006: Journey of the Magi

On its 10th Anniversary Tour, Journey of the Magi is as festive, witty and poignant as ever—catch a performance near you this Advent!

25/11 - Emmanuel Church Loughborough, 7pm

26/11 - St Mary's Swansea, 7pm

1/12 - Holy Cross Carshalton, 7pm

2/12 - St Saviour's Guildford, 7.30pm

8/12 - Surbiton Assembly Rooms, 7.30pm

14/12 - Carshalton High School, 7.30pm

15/12 - Nailsea Methodist Church, 7pm

16/12 - John Kyrle High, Ross-on-Wye, 6pm

17/12 - College High, Birmingham, 6.30pm

19/12 - Crofton Park Baptist, 7.30pm

22/12 - St Mildred's Croydon, 7.30pm

A Note from the Director...

Welcome to the Springs Dance Company Autumn Newsletter! The Company has had a busy summer performing, teaching and creating new works. The most exciting of these is an innovative project part-funded by the Arts Council that is due to be toured next year. During August, Springs teamed up with artists from across the country to develop a new dance and drama show based on the much loved story "You Are Special" by Max Lucado. For this magical project, the dancers worked with choreographer Suzannah West (founder of Suzannah West Dance Company and rehearsal director for Bare Bones Dance Company) as well as with actor Jonathan Race, composer Jeremy Clay and designer Anna Jones.



The piece will bring alive the heart warming story of Punchinello who although outcast from society, is made to see that he is special and much loved by his maker. Currently part-finished, this production hopes to tour UK theatres beginning in the South East in the summer of 2007.

Ruth Hughes

Contact the office for details of tours and keep up to date by checking the 'What's on' page on our website.

elevate 2006 - Squelching & Starbucks!

A report by Apprenticeship Graduate Donna Craig

The *elevate* tour can be summed up in these few words – an utterly crazy and life-altering six weeks! It began with dancing in mud on the same stage as *'delirious?'*, travelled through the eastern states of the U.S.A., and went on to a final trek around England. You can appreciate how tired we were and how many cups of 'Starbucks' were needed! For me, what blew my mind was how God used us to bless others, and the joy of serving him through the gifts He has lovingly given us. What a privilege! We learnt that dance touches people where words cannot. Churches don't realise how hungry they are for dance until they receive it. Grown men were reduced to tears. We are so thankful for the work that God accomplished through us, the generosity and extravagant kindness shown to us by those looking after us (including hot tub provision and speed boat rides!) and the incredibly tight bond that has been established between the members of *elevate* 2006 that will span time and distance, even to Hong Kong. Personally, I have been greatly inspired to strive to use dance to edify people whenever and wherever I can, to bring God's life to those around me.



Springs is always keen to come to you with an inspiring and accessible performance



Your church or school could host *Without Words* this Lent. Book now!

“I am actually left without words”

By Maria Jell

Soon after I joined Springs I started looking into booking a tour in Bavaria, south Germany, the area from which I originate. I am so proud of being part of the Company and its work, and not only did I want to promote it further in that region, but I was also keen for my family and friends to experience Springs.

We gave workshops at 5 different schools in the Bernau area, with students between the ages of 6 and 16, and gave two performances of “Without Words”, which were loved by the audiences.

“I am actually left without words! I did not know that it was possible to use dance to share your faith and touch people’s hearts at the same time!”

Sr. Siegtraud

“I regret not bringing everyone I know. It was fantastic! Thank you!”

Petra Steinhoff

Following our success, our second tour to the area was scheduled, and began on 24th October!

Happy in Holland

Springs Dancer Maggie Kwan reports on the European Christian Arts Festival

Travelling to Holland this Summer to participate in my first European Christian Artists Festival was a fantastic experience! It was so valuable and inspiring to meet other Christian artists, watch performances and take part in classes. Springs taught dance classes everyday, and had the opportunity to perform two pieces of repertoire: ‘Footprints’ and ‘Refuge’, both of which had a really positive impact on the audience. For me, the highlights of the Festival were the collaborative sessions in which we worked together with musicians. Following a tight schedule earlier in the Summer, the Festival really felt like a retreat, and was full of joy and creativity for us all!

If you would like to find out about next year’s Festival, please see their website <http://www.christianartists-network.org/>.

Workshops In the New Year

27th Jan

Bringing Bible Stories Alive

24th Feb

Prayer & Praise Through Dance

To be held at Lee Green Community Church, London SE12

For further information and to book a place on a workshop, contact us at the address overleaf.

10% Discount for Friends of Springs Dance Company



“The Unforced Rhythms of Grace”

Dancer Gemma Bonner reflects on this year’s Summer School

Held at St. Joseph’s Church in Bromley, the Summer School was host to a vibrant and enthusiastic group of young people, travelling from as far and wide as Hungary and America! Following the prayer and worship that began each day, participants experienced choreography, improvisation, technique, repertoire and even Chinese ribbons with Maggie! The theme of the week was *Rhythm*, and sessions explored how we can keep in step with God’s rhythm for our lives. *“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”* This text from Matthew inspired the powerful dance piece that was created during the week and which was performed at its climax. Summer school is definitely high on my recommended list – hope to see you next year!