

# Springs Dance Company

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Autumn 2007

## Welcome to the Springs Dance Company Autumn Newsletter!

2007 so far has been a year of radical changes that have boosted the work of the Company into new and exciting areas. The biggest change for us is in the modernisation of our constitution that opens the way for us to work more frequently in theatres, in addition to our work in churches, schools and prisons.

Thinking about the future has also led me to rediscover my own personal vision for the Company which is that it should be a beacon of hope and truth in the world as well as a beacon of quality and professionalism in the Church.

Excited?

**Ruth Hughes, Artistic Director**



Photo by Dan Roberts  
Dancer: Sadie Chamberlain

## *elevate dance company 2007*

*elevate 2007* was a company of eleven energetic young dancers. The tour was a culmination of all the hard work throughout our year on the Apprenticeship Scheme. We performed in extreme venues - a village church with an audience of 20, then high in the mountains of Italy in an open air theatre to 400 people, live on TV. The tour proved to be more spiritually and self-fulfilling than we could ever imagine. Many audiences seemed amazed by what they saw, some told us they'd had their eyes opened to a different way of worshipping, and when we left each venue it seemed we had made a lasting uplifting impression on people's lives. We

have made such strong friendships and have fantastic memories, which will last forever!

**Miriam and Emily**  
*elevate 2007*

*If you would like to have*  
***elevate 2008*** in your  
community next May or June,  
to offer performances and  
workshops, please contact us.  
There is **no fee** charged for  
the work of the apprentices.



Photo by Simon Richardson  
Dancer: Claire Burton

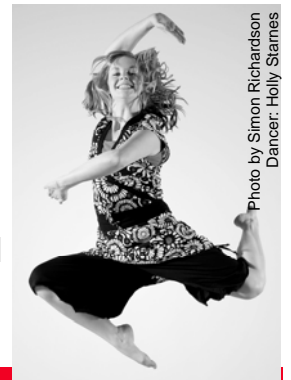


Photo by Simon Richardson  
Dancer: Holly Starnes

## *Journey of the Magi* tour 2007 ...

- 27<sup>th</sup> November – Leatherhead Theatre
- 30<sup>th</sup> November – Beverley Community Church
- 1<sup>st</sup> December – Christ Church, Dartford
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December – St Stephen's Church, E. Twicks
- 6<sup>th</sup> December – Eastbourne Technical College
- 7<sup>th</sup> December – Christ Church, Chichester
- 8<sup>th</sup> December – Harrogate Baptist Church
- 14<sup>th</sup> December – St John's Church, Blackheath
- 15<sup>th</sup> December – St James' Church, Islington
- 17<sup>th</sup> December – Sutton High School
- 21<sup>st</sup> December – Ladywood Arc, Birmingham
- 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Trent Vineyard, Nottingham

And more dates to be confirmed - see our brand new website for updates!



**Europe's foremost professional Christian dance company**

## Springs for Children

The call had come out of the blue, and one of the pieces was to be an adaptation of Max Lucado's wonderful allegory of a townful of wooden puppets - the Wemmicks - endlessly obsessed with pecking orders, a story for our times if ever there was one. Springs needed an actor/storyteller for two family shows. 'Right up my street', I thought. Storytelling. I had visions of 'Jackanory' revisited, regaling hordes of kids from the safety of a cosy armchair like an animated Ronnie Corbett. Thankfully the Company had other ideas: they choreographed me in!



Photo by Simon Richardson  
Actor: Jonathan Race

My physical theatre skills were firstly challenged, before being integrated most seamlessly and harmoniously with the dancers' wooden puppet characters and their energetic, bustling scenes. These have been beautifully orchestrated with the aid of

superb costumes complete with brilliantly designed padded 'joints', one of the many lovely details that lift this production out of the ordinary and make it such a pleasure to be a part of.

In this story I play 'Eli', the woodworker who makes Wemmicks (folk just like us humans) and whose dramatic encounter with one of his beloved creations, the wretched 'Punchinello', leads the latter to believe for the first time that, despite what all the other Wemmicks think, he *is* special...

**Rupert Smith**

*Would you like to book this show for your theatre, church or school?*

*You can have this in May, June or July 2008, please get in touch for details!*

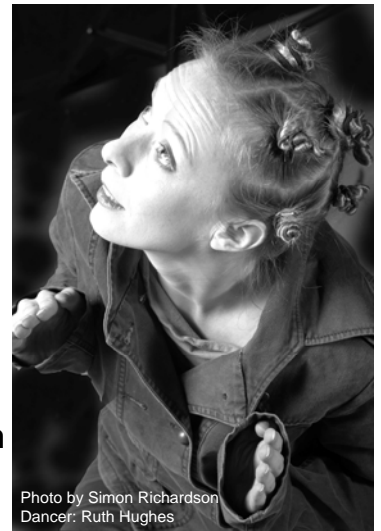


Photo by Simon Richardson  
Dancer: Ruth Hughes

### A busy time...

The first five months of my time with Springs have been full and demanding, with one of my personal highlights being the Christian Artists Seminar held in Holland. As a Company we performed and led workshops. As individuals we met and discussed with fellow Christian artists from various backgrounds in an exchange that was inspiring and vital for us.

It was amazing to see the impact our performance had, and proved that producing new repertoire is crucial to challenging and delighting our audiences. My favourite part however was teaching the workshops, and seeing how much people want and need what we have to offer them.

**Naomi Cook**

### The possibilities are endless...

*Having only been with Springs since June I have already become aware of the way the Company can take challenging subjects and use them to provoke thought and encourage individuals to learn more about themselves. This was particularly evident at the Summer School this year. I saw so many people using dance to both worship God and create their own piece looking at breath and what makes them individual. I've loved being a part of the Company's work, and using dance to make a positive impact on the community is fantastically rewarding and exciting.*

**Charlotte Brown**

**We would love to come to you!**

**Please contact us  
if you would like to book the Company  
to perform or teach in your area in 2008**



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