



*"Dance Amazing is a unique, inspirational and immersive arts event routed in movement and dance. Thanks to Creative Scotland's investment we will be able to work with huge numbers of primary school children, giving them their first insight into dance and the arts"*



Dance Amazing was Citymoves Dance Agency's First in a Lifetime project funded by Creative Scotland.

This funding allowed Citymoves to deliver an ambitious programme engaging more than 11,000 young people in dance through free workshops at every primary school in Aberdeen, and to present the spectacular dance maze at the Beach Ballroom, aimed at ages 5 – 12 and their families, this free event introduced families to a fun, magical and unique first arts experience.



# Dance Amazing Schools Workshops

A team of experience professional dance artists and students from the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance have been in all of the following schools, introducing pupils to dance.

Abbotswell, Ashley Road, Breahed, Bramble Brae, Broomhill, Bucksburn, Charleston, Cornhill, Culter, Cults, Danestone, Dyce, Ferryhill, Gilcomstoun, Greenbrae, Hanover, Hazlehead, Heathryburn, Holy Family, Kaimhill, Kingsford, Kirkhill, Kittybrewster, Loirston, Manor Park, Middleton, Mile End, Milltimber, Muirfield, Newhills, Quarryhills, Riverbank, Seaton, Skene, St Joseph, St Peters, Stoneywood, Sunnybank, Tullos, Walker, Westpark, Woodside, Kingswells.



UP FOR IT: Loirston pupils taking part in the City Moves workshop. Photographs: Kami Thomson

## City pupils invited to step out this weekend

### Arts: Tour set to end with 'inspirational' dance experience

BY ANDREW YOUNGSON

Almost 12,000 Aberdeen primary schoolchildren have received a golden invitation to an "inspirational" dance experience taking place in the city this weekend.

Nine tutors and a handful of assistants from Moves Dance Agency are nearing the end of their three-week tour of more than 40 schools in the city.

The aim of the process is to drum up excitement about Dance Amazing – a free interactive family event which will be held in the Beach Ballroom on February 2 and 3.



Robyn Mullin, front left, and Ayla Robertson, front right, go through their moves

Funded by Creative Scotland to give children aged five to 12 their first arts experience, Dance Amazing will combine art, design, dance, music and technology into a walk-through interactive maze.

During their tours, participants will watch and engage with an array of live performers and art pieces, including dancers, a band, a drummer, an actor, and an interactive video installation.

Each tour can last up to around an hour-and-a-half and, while chaperoned through the maze, families will be able to wander it at their own pace.

Artist director Andy Howitt said: "Dance Amazing is going to be a unique, inspirational and immersive event routed in movement and dance."

"Thanks to Creative Scotland's investment we will be able to work with huge numbers of primary school children, giving them their first insight into dance and the arts."

Over the past fortnight, the 12,000 children have had the opportunity to par-

ticipate in creative dance sessions in their own schools to get them in the mood for the main event this weekend.

Dance Amazing producer, Jennifer Phillips, said: "It's been great to be able to offer free dance sessions to all the primary schools in Aberdeen, as it's not often that we can find funding for projects like this, and schools can't afford to bring in professional artists."

"The feedback from the young people has been brilliant, they've had an amazing time, and we are hoping to see many of them at the Beach Ballroom."

Nearly 12,000 young people participated in a creative dance workshop, through 525 workshops, in many cases changing their perceptions of what creative dance can be.

All Aberdeen City primary schools except 3 took part in the project, which raised awareness within schools of what does Citymoves, and established links for developing future work. Previously schools work was mostly initiated by the schools, with specific requests for Hip Hop or a health related sessions. Since this project schools now have a clearer idea of what we can offer and a better understanding of creative dance. With one exception, every school is interested in working with us in the future.

The project impacted directly on individual young people and teachers:

*"Seeing the response of the children to something like this was enlightening."*

***"The boys think dance isn't just for girls now"***

*"We learnt that one child recognised more colours than we thought (ASN Class)."*

***"I learnt how creative and imaginative the class were"***

*"While the children experience plenty of PE and traditional dance, creative dance is an area not readily explored. This allowed children to engage with elements of the curriculum that are perhaps not well serviced by myself."*

***"I made observations of certain children. Saw a different side to their personalities through dance".***



# Dance Amazing Maze Performance

Over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd of February, Citymoves produced a large scale high quality and vibrant free event at Aberdeen's Beach Ballroom.

*"As the audience climb the steps to the Ballroom, they will enter a magical dance world, filled with dancers, or a band, a drummer, an actor, or be immersed in an interactive art/video installation. Participants will chaperoned through the maze, but able to wander at their own pace, and to engage in their own way; watching, seeing, doing, dancing. At regular intervals during the day there will be fun, dynamic interventions and scheduled performances."*



Over 2,500 people attended the performance event. This event raised the profile of Citymoves both locally and nationally, and was successful in aims to introduce families to fun, unique first arts experience:

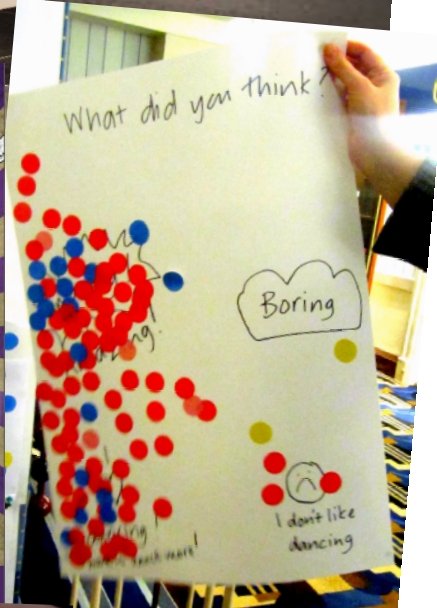
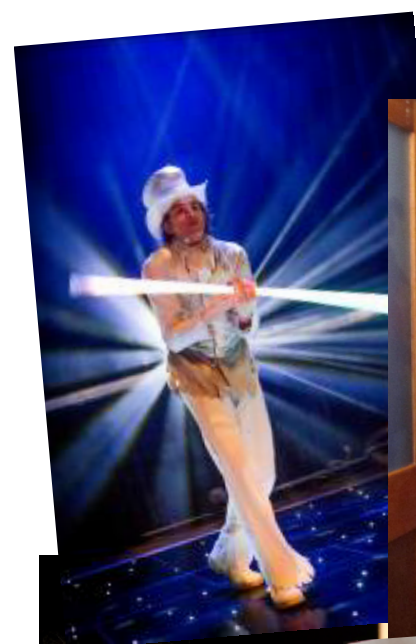
*"I really enjoyed the event and was also really impressed by the cross section of the community attending and the really good representation of men and boys! (Gayle Gorman, Director of Education, Culture and Sport)"*

***"This is a GREAT event and an excellent way of introducing children to the world of Arts. I believe it has left an indelible impression in the minds of those who will go on to be future artistes. My kids and I had a swell time. Lovely work and well done."***

*"What a fantastic experience for all concerned, we weren't at all sure what to expect – but we all had a fantastic time at the Maze event. We were a dad of 40, Mum 37, girls 6 and 3 – all delighted by the experiences and fun. Incredible effort put in by everyone working at the event – tremendous"*

***"It was magical, fantastical, full of wonder and delights! Truly amazing! Loved the kids faces and more importantly loved seeing the parents get involved! I loved seeing those parents (which may not always engage with creativity) faces that were enthralled as well which was lovely to experience."***







**Thanks to:**

**Schools Workshops Tutors**

Daniel Aing  
Mark Cameron  
Hayley Durward  
Aaron Jeffery  
Sara Kemal  
Linzi McLagan  
Amy Park  
Claire Robertson  
Lucy Wilson  
Plus students from the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance

**Maze Artists**

Aberduino  
Daniel Aing  
David Aing  
All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre  
David Boyd  
Cake the Clown  
Captain Duncan  
Hayley Earlam  
Jennifer Farmer  
Aaron Jeffery  
Sara Kemal  
Katie Milroy  
Mischief Le Bas  
Joanne Pirrie  
Nic Sandiland  
Karen Scrimgeour  
Jango Starr  
Professor Pete Stollery  
Students from the SSCD  
Ross Whyte

**Production Team**

Artistic Director: Andy Howitt  
Producer / Asst Director: Jennifer Phillips  
Production Manager / Asst Director:  
Judith Stephen  
Production Designer: Simon Gane  
Production Co-ordinator: Simon Scott  
Schools Workshops Manager:  
Linzi McLagan  
Set and Costume Design: Brogan Arts

Produced by Citymoves Dance Agency

**citymoves**  
dance agency

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