



Billingham International *Folklore Festival of World Dance*



Billingham Festival has been awarded a generous grant by the National Lottery through Arts Council England



LOTTERY FUNDED

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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

In 2011, thanks to the grant from the Arts Council, Bilingham Festival entered a new era by extending its programme to encompass contemporary and other styles of dance and premiering new innovative artistic work in addition to its established traditional focus.

Following the initial success, the new generous grant awarded to us by the National Lottery through Arts Council England will allow us to expand and take the festival new image and contemporary focus a step further by including different activities and events in our 2012 programme, using the festival as a platform to present new ground breaking work, raising expectations, encouraging and inspiring participation.

Besides the great variety of the International Dance and Music Companies including Kirque Wayra (Chile), Ara Macao (Colombia), Viard Nouvelle (Guadeloupe), Hawaiian Pacific Magic (Canada), SBM ITB Bandung (Indonesia), Iskele (north Cyprus), Traditii (Romania) and Jangar (Kalmykia, Russia) the grant will allow the organisers to extend the contemporary image and include performances and workshops of two contemporary dance companies based in UK, who take their inspiration from African Roots. "Keneish dance" will showcase their triple-bill performance inspired by African Sculptures. In one of the pieces we will present at MIMA in Middlesbrough and at the Arc in Stockton, they actually use a specially created Sculpture in their dance. The other African dance company, Ballet Nimba, will present a variety of their National dances and music from traditional to contemporary, culminating in a performance of their new production "Salyama and Paypaya" based on African Mythology.

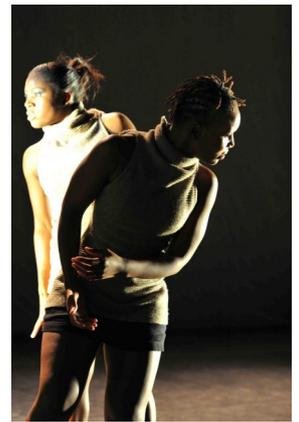
The programme will also include a new dance show based on Irish Roots "Threads" by Keira Martin and Keira Dance and "Strictly Scottish" by "Corryvreckan", which will include audience participation.

The grant will also allow the organisers to broaden the scope of the Festival beyond Bilingham to region-wide, by taking festival performers for a day of workshops and World Dance Gala to Dance City in Newcastle.

Prior to the festival in May-June we are planning to run, with a help of ARC Arts Centre, extensive outreach participation programme with "Keneish Dance" Residency, which will culminate in a creation of a dance piece that will be performed at the 2012 Opening Ceremony.

The Festival 2012 will also include a wide extended range of traditional and contemporary dance and music workshops for all ages and abilities and ever popular UNCLE BIFF Children's Club.

"We are delighted that Arts Council England is again supporting and endorsing the new image of our festival and our vision of its future. In 2 years time the Bilingham festival will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary and by introducing new contemporary styles and artists into the Festival programme, we are hoping to gradually create a reputation for our festival as "a place to be" for all the dance professionals, choreographers and dancers, who can enjoy the creative platform for joint artistic work, which our festival provides, be inspired by multi-cultural artistic dialog opportunities and the variety and combination of all the diverse dance styles and genres." – says Olga Maloney, Artistic Director of Bilingham festival - "we are also hoping that presenting new contemporary work alongside the traditional dances will allow us to attract much wider audiences and develop audience expectation of new work premiers at our festival."



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(In co-operation with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)