



Billingham International *Folklore Festival of World Dance*



**Billingham Festival of World Dance 2013
has been awarded a grant by the National
Lottery through Arts Council England**



In 2011, thanks to the first grant from the Arts Council, Bingham 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 new contemporary identity launch in 2011 and building on success of the Festival 2012, this grant awarded to us by the National Lottery through Arts Council England will allow us to strengthen and enhance our contemporary image, creating a solid platform for audience engagement by presenting ground-breaking eclectic dance work, raising audience expectations, enriching their experience, encouraging and inspiring wider participation.

Alongside the great variety of the traditional International Dance and Music Companies including **Shabab Elmarwa (Egypt)**, **Vlado Tasevski (Macedonia)**, **Decanos de la Universidad de Guadalajara (Mexico)**, **Manbefor (Papua New Guinea/Indonesia)**, **Peru Multicolor (Peru)**, **Volya (Ukraine/Canada)** and **Bailey Mountain Cloggers (USA)**, for the first time within the framework of the new **“Dance Gateway” Programme** the festival will open its doors to Professional Contemporary Dance Companies from abroad, who will present their work, inspired by multi-cultural roots: **Mitimaes (Argentina)**, **“From Africa till Now” (Israel)**, **Oinkari (Basque, Spain)** and **Dance Village Arts Company (Taiwan)**.

This Arts Council grant will allow the organisers to present performances and workshops of four outstanding professional arts companies based in UK.

Cross-arts production company **Zendeh** will be commissioned to create mini stories to be presented at the three Festival Gala Concerts in Forum Theatre, Middlesbrough Theatre and Festival Arena. Zendeh will also spend a week in Bingham South Community Primary School running “Stories of the World” cross-arts workshops. As the result of the residency children will participate in creation of film and images, which will be displayed as part of the festival performances.

Sonia Sabri Dance Company, a dynamic company which has established an international reputation for presenting Kathak dance in a contemporary context will showcase their new production **Jugni** and run a dance residency programme in Middlesbrough prior to the festival, culminating in residency participants performing a curtain-raiser dance piece.

We are very excited to present to Bingham Festival audiences **“The Lock In Dance Show”**, which recently became the UK’s No.1 Folk & Hip-Hop Dance Extravaganza, which will include an International surprise-twist to be seen only at the Forum Theatre.

The festival 2013 will also see the return of one of the audience favourites - **“Tango. 100 Years of Passion!”** Show by **Alma de Tango**, this time performed alongside an internationally acclaimed 3d Installation **“Tango de Soledad”** by **Billy Cowie** at the Digital City and Town Hall in Middlesbrough.

“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 2014 the Bingham 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 and professional development, 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 Bingham 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.”

