



PRESS RELEASE

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Caption -

BALBIR SINGH DANCE COMPANY TO CAPTIVATE FESTIVAL-GOERS

A CONTEMPORARY dance company, which takes its inspiration from classical Indian Kathak dance, is set to be one of the star attractions at an international festival which will be staged in the North East.

A troupe of exceptional dancers from the Balbir Singh Dance Company (UK) will be performing at the Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance.

The performers, from Leeds, will present to audiences an eclectic fusion of Indian classic dance and contemporary dance styles - on Wednesday, August 12, at 7.30pm, at one of the festival's venues in Middlesbrough Town Hall Crypt.

Tickets cost just £6 to watch the mesmerising triple bill of dance, entitled Dhe Ki Ta, which will include Balbir Singh Dance Company's recent productions: Play of Percentages, Decerasing Infinity, and Trespass#II.

The performances are being funded by Arts Council England and is supported by Middlesbrough Council.

Artistic Director of the festival, Olga Maloney, said: "We are so excited to welcome the Balbir Singh Dance Company to the Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance.

"It is a contemporary dance company which uses the synthesis of contemporary dance, classical Kathak, and mesmerising music.

"Tickets are now on sale and are selling well so we would advise people to purchase a ticket while they are available, as this dance show is one that should not be missed.

"Dance productions, which take their inspiration from multi-cultural roots, are always a joy to watch, but the Balbir Singh dancers are just spectacular and are an excellent addition to our programme this year."

She added: "The Balbir Singh Dance Company completed a residency at Macmillan Academy in Middlesbrough in June, and the residency students will perform a curtain raiser at the show in the Crypt.

"It will be great to have them back in the area for the festival."

The Balbir Singh show is just one of a host of events from the much-anticipated festival, which will see hundreds of dancers from across the world entertain audiences for a weeklong programme between August 8 and 15.

Troupes from Brazil, Chile, China, Mexico, the Philippines, Serbia, USA and Sicily are set to arrive next week ahead of the festival, which has become a highlight of the region's arts and culture calendar.

Around 10,000 people attended last year's festival and organisers are confident this year's packed programme of events will attract event more.

Most of the concerts and events will be held at the Festival Arena, which this year will be right in the middle of Billingham Town Centre, with other events being held in Middlesbrough Town Hall Crypt, Middlesbrough Theatre and Billingham Forum.

Core funding for this year's festival has come from Stockton Borough Council, while Arts Council England is funding the contemporary elements of the festival and Awards for All funding a programme to take dancers into care homes in the area.

To book tickets log onto www.billinghamfestival.co.uk/store or call 01642 553220.

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