



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**JULY 2015**

**Caption - .**

### **SCREEN-DANCE-ART EXHIBIT TO BE ENJOYED BY THOUSANDS OF FESTIVAL REVELLERS**

A COLLABORATION of video, dance and art will be exhibited at an international dance festival.

The visual art work will be enjoyed by thousands of people who are set to descend on the North East to experience the Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance.

While there will be a string of live performances by dancers from across the globe at the annual extravaganza, there will also be this very cultural screen-dance-art installation to enjoy.

The exhibit is titled 'Netotiloz' – which is a Nahuati or aztec word meaning 'There will be Dance'.

It is a collaboration between Billingham international Folklore Festival of World dance, international choreographer and videographer Jessica Smith, dance students from Teesside University, and Mexican painter and sculptor Carmen Avalos.

Netotiloz is based on seven contemporary paintings by Carmen Avalos, which will be interpreted by the

university dance students, who will appear in the video directed by Jessica Smith. It explores the fusion of artistic, cultural and cross-disciplinary collaborations in a multimedia inspired piece, merging choreography, art and innovative filmmaking.

The project will be displayed in Billingham Town Centre, in a former shop, previously occupied by Semi-chem.

This screen dance will be exhibited along with the original artwork at the Billingham International Folklore Festival in August 2015.

The project will provide ongoing legacy for the Artists, Billingham Festival and Teesside University and will also be submitted to international dance film festivals reaching a wider more diverse audience.

Jessica said: "It has been a privilege to work with Billingham Festival, Teesside University and Carmen Ayles on this project. Cross disciplinary work, engaging with culture differences and art forms has always been something that inspires my work.

"It has also provided the Teesside University dance students, engagement and enhancement in professional dance film making."

Carmen said: "I would like to congratulate Jessica Smith, the International choreographer, for this wonderful project, which will become part of Billingham International Folklore Festival.

"It has been a great honour for me to be part of this arts venture with extraordinary dancers, beautiful and amazing music, really inviting to dance. From my point of view, as an artist, I can say that it has been a great accomplishment, and I am, personally, very flattered, that my paintings have been selected for inspiration of this talented work of art, I am happy and excited to be able to witness NETOTILOZ live very soon."

Artistic Director of the festival, Olga Maloney said: "Having a diverse range of events at the festival is great, and the screen-dance-art installation does just that.

“Collaboration between the festival, dance students from Teesside University, videographer Jessica Smith, and artist Carmen Avalos is what this event is all about – bringing together people from across the world.

“We can’t wait for people to see it.”

The exhibit 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 Chile, China, Mexico, the Philippines, Serbia, USA and Sicily are set to arrive for 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](http://www.billinghamfestival.co.uk/store) or call 01642 553220.

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**For more information about this release, contact Felicity Collinson, Account Manager on 07806785188 or 0191 5878082.**