

# YOUTH DANCE ENGLAND

## National Youth Dance Festival 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2007, North West

### Information Sheet

#### 1. Introduction

Youth Dance England is the national agency to support and promote opportunities for young people in dance. YDE is inviting youth dance groups from across England to participate in this exciting festival that involves a workshop programme, networking opportunities, social events and sharing of work. A public performance presented by the groups will take place at The Lowry, Salford.

#### 2. National Youth Dance Festival 2007

The National Youth Dance Festival will be a six-day residential event organised by YDE. The NYDF will be based at Manchester Metropolitan University's campus at Alsager, Cheshire and the programme will comprise workshops and events for young people and group leaders. The campus offers specialist dance and performance spaces, accommodation, catering, social and recreational facilities. There will be a wide range of technique, choreographic and performance opportunities led by a team of professional artists. It is planned that a feature of this year's event will be a project to bring together NW schools with the youth dance groups attending the NYDF 2007 to encourage young people to learn from each other to increase their understanding/enjoyment of and skill in dance.

#### 3. Event Timetable (provisional)

Friday – arrive at mid afternoon

Friday - Tuesday - Classes, workshops and events for young people and leaders

Tuesday – Technical rehearsals

Wednesday – Dress rehearsals and early evening performance – 6.00 – 7.30 – depart after performance (estimate end of show 7.30)

(Overnight accommodation available on Wednesday night if required.)

#### 4. Group selection

YDE is committed to finding groups who would be able to benefit from being a part of an intensive workshop programme and also contribute to a well-balanced performance of high quality dance pieces. The performance will be seen as an opportunity to profile some of the best youth dance created in the country and therefore standards are expected to be high. The main criteria for selection will be:

- excellence in both choreographic and performance standards
- ability and openness to practice new dance techniques and choreographic approaches
- capacity to sustain active participation in an intensive dance programme
- to reflect the diversity of the sector

It is essential that these values are demonstrated initially through the application form and two copies of a video/DVD. The video/DVD may either be of the proposed completed work or work in progress. If the footage is of work in progress, a written explanation of how the work is to be developed must be enclosed. (See application form – questions 3 & 4).

## 5. Group criteria

- Applications from groups practicing any dance form are welcome.
- School based youth dance groups are only eligible to apply if they are open to young people from other schools.
- Age range 13-19 yrs
- In 2007 priority will be given to groups that consist of a maximum of 15 young people in order to include more groups in the festival. (This does not mean that larger groups cannot apply but this additional criteria will be used, if necessary, at the final selection stage)

## 6. Group Leaders' roles and responsibilities

To ensure an enjoyable event that meets high artistic, health and safety and pastoral requirements there are certain considerations that leaders need to take into account when applying for this Festival:

- All groups, of no matter what size, will need to provide two suitable leaders (i.e. over 21yrs., experienced in leading/teaching/supervising the group, Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checked and not involved in the performance of the group's piece).
- If the group is of mixed gender – there needs to be one male and one female leader accompanying them.
- If the group is of single gender one of the leaders needs to be of the same gender as the group.
- If a group has 15 or more members then 3 leaders will need to be in attendance - the gender balance of the group needs to be reflected in the leaders.

An agreement will be made with each of the leaders about the roles and responsibilities required of them during the Festival and they will be expected to take part in preparation work involving responding to email/postal and telephone requests for information on group's medical/health/dietary conditions as well as providing information for press/PR and programmes. You may be asked to provide certain aspects of this information for the Regional Events. The questions relating to Group Leaders on the application form (2g – 2m) will give us the information we need to support you in attending the NYDF. We will not short list your group if at application stage you cannot answer all the questions in full (particularly 2k). In order to help leaders access the NYDF we will be offering the following support: a pro-forma Agreement and planning schedule will be discussed at the Regional Events for you to ask questions and receive advice from YDE and your Regional Co-ordinator on meeting the requirements. This Agreement will need to be signed by leaders of the groups invited to join the NYDF 2007. There will be an Introductory Day held at the Alsager campus (proposed date at end of April 2007) for all leaders attending the NYDF 2007 to view the facilities and accommodation and discuss the schedule, programme choices and agree house rules.

## 7. Selection Process

- Send in completed application form and accompanying 2 copies of DVD/Video.
- Short-listed groups invited to perform selected work at Regional Event. Regional Event dates to be announced in October 2006.
- YDE select final groups based on participation at the regional events.

### Selection timetable

5 September 2006

30 November 2006

8 January 2007

27 January – 31 March 07

April 2007

6 – 11 July 2007

Applications open

Applications close

Shortlist announced

Regional events take place

Final selection announced

National Youth Dance Festival

## **8. Technical Guidelines**

Venue: The Lyric theatre at The Lowry is a modern, well equipped and high profile venue, with seating for 1,700 and a large stage.

Technical requirements: To ensure the efficient and effective running of the performance, we ask groups to keep technical requirements to a minimum.

Sound: All recorded sound accompaniment must be provided on CD/mini disk and copyright cleared prior to the event. Please note that this is not a requirement at the application stage.

Performance piece: Maximum length of 7 minutes.

## **9. Event costs**

The National Youth Dance Festival is supported through funding raised by YDE. All costs associated with providing the theatre, studios and workshop programme will be covered by YDE, so there is no fee for selected youth groups to take part in the event.

## **10. Cost to the groups**

All travel, and a proportion of the accommodation and cost of meals will need to be met by the groups themselves. These costs will be relatively low as YDE has sourced modestly priced accommodation and food. We estimate that groups will need to pay £198 per young person and £215 for leaders for food and accommodation. In addition to this travel expenses will need to be raised for your journey to Alsager and return from Salford. For groups who may have difficulty in finding funds for this event - advice is available from YDE and also from your Regional Co-ordinator who we can direct you to. Our advice would be if you are short-listed, (announced 8/1/07) then start fund raising, if you are not one of the final selected groups you will have raised funds to be spent on other areas.

Please note that you must complete the section (Question 6.) in the application form detailing how you intend to raise the necessary funds to take part in the National Youth Dance Festival.

## **11. Application Instructions**

To apply to take part in the National Youth Dance Festival groups you will need to do the following:

- Provide 2 copies of a video/DVD of the work you wish to perform, or the work in progress.
- Applicants will also need to complete the enclosed application form and remember to include your statement (see question 5 on the application form). You will also need to submit the Group Members' List (Appendix 1).
- The deadline for applications is 4pm on 30th November 2006.  
(Applications received after this date will not be considered.)

Please return completed application forms by 4pm on Thursday 30th November 2006 to:

**National Youth Dance Festival 2007**  
**Youth Dance England**  
**36 Battersea Square**  
**London**  
**SW11 3RA**

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact Julia Mirkin at YDE. Telephone 0207 924 7167 or E-mail: [info@yde.org.uk](mailto:info@yde.org.uk) (no fax available)

Please note we will only accept applications that come in via post. E-mailed applications will not be accepted. Applications received after 30th November 2006 will not be accepted.

YDE reserves the right to change any information or conditions stated above.