



---BEGINS---

20 December 2011

Brighton and Hove's *Three Score Dance Company* for the over 60's limbers up for 2012!

Following a successful funding campaign earlier in 2011, South East Dance is delighted to announce the official formation of *Three Score Dance Company*. The ambition to create a performance company that offers contemporary dance opportunities for men and women aged 60+ has been made possible with funding from The Big Lottery Fund.

Three Score Dance Company is the vision of two local women, Saskia Heriz and Christina Thompson, both of whom have been inspired by the work of *The Company of Elders*, a dance company for the over 60's resident at the internationally renowned Sadler's Wells Theatre in London. Saskia and Christina approached leading dance development organisation South East Dance about establishing a similar company based in Brighton and with their guidance the company has transitioned from idea to reality in the space of just 18 months.

Three Score Dance Company have worked with South East Dance to appoint local dance artist Jason Keenan-Smith as Rehearsal Director, and are delighted to have been offered a home at Brighton Dome, with technique classes and rehearsals taking place there every Monday morning.

"It is such a great achievement to have secured funds from the Big Lottery Fund to form Three Score Dance Company. I can't wait to see what the company members achieve under the direction of Jason and look forward to South East Dance continuing to support the company throughout the project and beyond".

Kirsty Sulston, Programme Producer at South East Dance

Interest in the company has been very high with more than 35 local residents applying for a place in the company. A total of 20 men and women were selected from a process that included both a written application and a practical audition. The new company will work with Jason in the coming months to develop their technical and creative skills in preparation for working with a professional choreographer in spring 2012. The company hope to commission three choreographers to create work for them in the next 12 months, and will prepare for a premiere performance at the Brighton Dome Pavilion Theatre in the summer.

"Besides the social and fulfilling aspect of producing collaborative creative work, I just know we can dance our way towards improved health and happiness".

Saskia Heriz, founding member of Three Score Dance Company

Although many of the company members have had no prior dance training, their wealth of life experience brings a unique quality to their work. The company is very keen to offer dance opportunities to those people who were not chosen for the company during the selection process, and additional places for non-company members will be offered in weekly technique classes and one-off workshops with guest teachers.

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South East Dance is funded by



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NOTES TO EDITORS

Three Score Dance Company has been created to offer contemporary dance opportunities for men and women aged 60+ in Brighton and Hove. Although many of its members have had no prior dance training, their wealth of life experience brings a unique quality to their work. The company is led by Rehearsal Director Jason Keenan-Smith, with professional choreographers commissioned to create bespoke pieces for performance. The founding members of the company are Saskia Heriz and Christina Thompson. The company is supported by South East Dance with funding from the Big Lottery Fund and is housed at Brighton Dome.



South East Dance is the national organisation for dance development in South East England. Our mission is to ensure a thriving ecology for dance in the South East, enhancing conditions for more, bolder and better dance. We aim to raise the profile of dance and work with partners within and beyond the region to achieve this. Artists and audiences are at the heart of all we do. We listen to, challenge and champion their needs and aspirations. www.southeastdance.org.uk

Brighton Dome and Festival is a unique arts organisation in the UK; we run the historic Grade 1 listed, 5 space arts and conference centre, Brighton Dome, we also present the high profile Brighton Festival which includes a range of exclusive and unique events that take place across three weeks annually in May. Our purpose is to champion the power of the arts and to enrich and change lives, whilst inspiring and enabling artists to be their most creative. www.brightondome.org / www.brightonfestival.org

The Big Lottery Fund (BIG), the largest distributor of National Lottery good cause funding, is responsible for giving out 46% of the money raised for good causes by the National Lottery. BIG is committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK since June 2004. The Fund was formally established by Parliament on 1 December 2006. Since the National Lottery began in 1994, 28p from every pound spent by the public has gone to good causes. As a result, over £26 billion has now been raised and more than 330,000 grants awarded across arts, sport, heritage, charities, health, education and the environment.

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