

ELIOT SMITH DANCE

MARCH 2022

PRESS RELEASE – Immediate release

Eliot Smith Dance announces “LIFE”, its Spring / Summer 2022 Season tour, with four contemporary dance works that are filled with physical movement, passion, and excitement!

The tour takes place during June and July and will visit Newcastle (Gosforth), Northumberland (Berwick upon Tweed, Warkworth, Pegswood, and Hexham), County Durham (Barnard Castle), and Bradford.

The key piece LIFE, created by ESD’s creative director Eliot Smith, is a stirring performance with bold choreography performed by five cutting-edge dancers, original music by award-winning composer Adam Johnson, and stunning backdrops by renowned figurative artist Bernadette Koranteng. The work highlights the climate change crisis through powerful movement, encouraging awareness and the call for ACTION.

This ground-breaking performance includes works by award-winning guest choreographers Martin Hylton and Balbir Singh, and the emerging choreographer Yamit Salazar, who is also ESD’s Rehearsal Director.

“Last year, ESD celebrated its 10th anniversary, when the Company was able to return briefly to in-person performances, but we are delighted to announce that this season will mark a full return to live performances with our best-ever popular regional tour. I have never been more convinced that the powerful sense of movement that identifies this season’s performances will help our audiences make a more conscious connection to nature and the climate crisis, and that the dancers will draw inspiration from the personal and emotional connection that results from being in the physical presence of a live audience,” says Eliot Smith, the Company’s Creative Director.

There will also be opportunities to watch an ESD professional dance class taking place, where the company are put through their paces by Eliot Smith. The open Company Class will take place at every venue on the day of the performance. Viewing is free to ticket holders attending the performance, or for £2 to those attending only the Company Class.

In addition to their live performances, the Company will be delivering dance workshops in local primary and secondary schools, and community outreach work across the North East.

The Company’s season is funded by Arts Council England, with further support from Museums Northumberland / Woodhorn Museum and Northumberland Arts Development, as well as by public donations resulting from their recent successful Kickstarter campaign.

More information is available at www.eliotsmithdance.com/events

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Venue, Dates and Times:

Kala Sangam, Bradford, Thursday 16 June at 7.30pm
Pegswood Community Centre, Friday 17 June at 7.00pm
Warkworth Memorial Hall, Saturday 18 June at 7.30pm
Queen's Hall, Hexham, Thursday 23 June at 7.30pm
The Maltings, Berwick, Friday 24 June at 7.00pm
Online Showing, Saturday 25 June, at 7.30pm
The Bowes Museum, Wednesday 29 June at 7.00pm
Gosforth Civic Theatre, Saturday 07 July at 7.30pm

Available for interview:

Eliot Smith, Creative Director/Choreographer, Eliot Smith Dance

For further information, images, or to arrange interviews please contact:

Eliot Smith, by email at eliot@eliotsmithdance.com or by phone on 07956 404 187

Image credit:

ESD Dancers in Eliot Smith's LIFE.
Photographer Darren Irwin.

Notes to editors:

Eliot Smith Dance:

Eliot Smith Dance is a North East leading contemporary dance company. The group is based in Newcastle upon Tyne and rehearses predominately in Northumberland. Led by its Founder and Creative Director Eliot Smith, the Company has performed for audiences in their hundreds across North East England and other parts of the UK, as well as by invitation in Paris, Rome, and New York.

The Company has built up a rich repertoire, consisting of more than 26 works and still growing, created by Eliot Smith and guest choreographers from the UK and around the world – aiming to create works that are dynamic, diverse, and relevant.

In spring 2021 ESD created a new virtual space, VIRTUAL ESD. This was inspired by ESD Digital, launched in light of the pandemic in early 2020, and is a refashioning of ESD's season of activities into a digital form, tailored to allow people to continue engaging in and benefiting from dance and culture.

ESD returned to live performances from July 2021 and was nominated for awards in two categories, "Dance in the Community" and "Dance on Film", at the One Dance UK Awards 2021.

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