

## Celebrating Black British Dance in Liverpool



**News release: March 2013**

### **Celebrating Black British Dance in Liverpool**

**Thursday 14 March 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

A ROADSHOW focusing on Black British dancers takes place at The Black-E in Liverpool on Thursday 14 March, as part of LEAP Dance Festival 2013.

Organised by Ramsay Burt and Christy Adair of the British Dance and the African Diaspora Research Project, the event is aimed at dancers, dance students, researchers and anyone with an interest in the work of Black British dancers.

Merseyside Dance Initiative's community dance artist Maxine Brown said it was a great opportunity for people to come along and find out what African Peoples' Dance was about.

"So many modern dance forms owe their existence to the movement of African people and their cultures across the globe - street dance, hiphop, jazz, capoeira among others.

"As a trading port Merseyside had strong links with Africa and the Caribbean, and many local dance artists continue to be inspired by African dance, creating new styles that reflect their own journeys around culture and identity. We hope as many people as possible will come along to watch, take part in or talk about Liverpool's African dance heritage," she added.

The roadshow opens at 2pm with a welcome followed by an open class led by acclaimed choreographer, dancer and somatics movement teacher Francis Angol, which non-dancers are welcome to observe.

The Association of Dance of the African Diaspora is holding a networking opportunity at 4pm, and the day will also include film screenings and a panel debate at 5pm, where people are invited to share their memories of African Peoples' Dance in Merseyside.

Short performances by young Liverpool-based soloists and seniors dance group Growing Old Disgracefully will end the day from 6.40pm to 7pm.

The roadshow costs £15 or £10 concessions, although the Francis Angol class can be booked as a stand alone event for £5. Book at [www.roadshowtwo.eventbrite.com](http://www.roadshowtwo.eventbrite.com) or at MDI on 0151 708 8810.

Full details of the LEAP festival programme and booking links are online at [www.mdi.org.uk](http://www.mdi.org.uk).

## **Ends**

For more details, images, press tickets or interviews please contact Sarah Jane Leydon on 0151 708 8810 or at [sarahjane \[at\] mdi.org.uk](mailto:sarahjane@mdi.org.uk)

## **About Merseyside Dance Initiative (MDI)**

MDI (Merseyside Dance Initiative) is a dance development agency set up in 1993 to develop dance in and beyond Merseyside. MDI works to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to take part in, create and see dance, in partnership with artists, venues and others. Focusing on strengthening the dance sector, it nurtures and sustains a healthy dance culture through contacts locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. A National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England (ACE) and regularly funded by Liverpool City Council, MDI provides a strategic overview for dance development in the Merseyside region and beyond. [www.mdi.org.uk](http://www.mdi.org.uk)

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**The Black-E, Great George Street,**

**Liverpool L1 5EW,**

**Merseyside**

**Suggested Donation for the day payable on the door: £10.00**

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