

nofitstate
circus

Motionhouse
Est. 1988

Leading UK circus and dance companies join forces to create new work

New show BLOCK pushes boundaries of circus and dance to create new artform



Two renowned British performance companies - contemporary circus company NoFit State Circus and dance company Motionhouse – will unveil their new show BLOCK on May 21 and 22 at Norfolk and Norwich Festival 'Garden Party'. The show will then go on to be performed more than 70 times at festivals this summer across the UK and Europe.

Developing on a research project run by NoFit State Circus in 2013 exploring the potential for a set of 'blocks' to provide the basis for a performance, BLOCK is directed by Kevin Finnan, Artistic Director of Motionhouse, who was the Choreographer and Movement Director of the 2012 London Paralympic Games, with Circus Direction by NoFit State's Paul Evans.

"NoFit State and Motionhouse have been looking for opportunities to work together for several years and BLOCK is the ideal project for this exciting collaboration," said Ali Williams, Creative

Producer of BLOCK and founding director of NoFit State. "The desire to join forces to create a project for public spaces echoes the two companies' commitment to making work that is accessible, provides a platform for audience development whilst pushing at the boundaries of their artforms."

With both companies creating work that is highly respected in their fields, BLOCK aims to create a new theatrical language that fuses circus and dance in an extraordinary and seamless way, creating a new and exciting form.

BLOCK sees twenty oversized blocks fashioned to resemble giant breeze blocks, double as both the performance equipment and the set. Continually deconstructed and reformed, they create an infinite variety of shapes, structures and equipment for the performers to play on, move with and explore.

Media release 9th May 2016

“The constant shifting of forms echo the transitory nature of our city centres, the changing landscapes of our environments and within this context, creates a platform on which the bodies talk about change, barriers, obstacles, repetitions, failures and successes,” said Finnan. “The modern city is a nest teeming with activity. Human life streams through this. BLOCK is about living in the city, its contradictions and its challenges.”

Where to see BLOCK: http://www.motionhouse.co.uk/productions/tour_dates.shtm

BLOCK is commissioned by Without Walls, Stockton International Riverside Festival, Norfolk & Norwich Festival and Out There International Festival of Circus & Street Arts.

Co-produced by Archaos, Pôle National des Arts du Cirque Méditerranée and Le CITRON Jaune, Centre National des Arts de la Rue.

Supported by Arts Council England, Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru – Arts Council of Wales, Lywodraeth Cymru – Welsh Government and the Big Lottery

Without Walls, a consortium of 10 of the UK's leading Outdoor Arts festivals and organisations, brings the best in new outdoor performance to diverse audiences all over the UK, providing opportunities for UK artists to develop bold new ideas - from large-scale spectacles to more intimate pieces, inclusive of all art forms and genres. Since 2007, Without Walls has commissioned and supported the development of over 100 shows, many of which have toured beyond Without Walls to 22 countries across the world. **For more information on the work of Without Walls, please visit www.withoutwalls.uk.com.**



ENDS

Contact: Jane Bailey, Motionhouse: Jane@motionhouse.co.uk or 01926 887052

Notes:

For more information on BLOCK see:

<http://www.nofitstate.org/block>

<http://www.motionhouse.co.uk/productions/outdoor-productions/block.shtm>

About NoFit State

We celebrate the contradictions within ourselves and our work

Media release 9th May 2016

Creating **beautiful** carnage

And **organised** anarchy

We embrace the human condition in all its dirtiness.

Created in 1986 by five friends, NoFit State is a community bound by a common passion and a collective journey. We work, travel, and love together, we put our lives in each other's hands daily and it is this trust, this bond and this togetherness that gives our work its unique heart, soul and spirit.

We make stories without narrative – creating work that is poignant and poetic. We use large scale imagery, circus, live music, movement and innovative design. We invent worlds where the boundaries between the real and the imaginary, the possible and the impossible, become blurred, where the frontiers between artists and audiences are broken, where nothing is hidden and everything revealed.

We create work on all scales and deliver community and participatory projects alongside our professional performances. We hope to inspire our audience to step out of themselves for a moment, have their dreams fed, their spirits nourished and for them to leave uplifted and perhaps stirred to challenge themselves and their world.

About Motionhouse

Pushing movement to its limits since 1988

Founded by Louise Richards and Kevin Finnan, Motionhouse is a leading UK dance theatre company.

Our productions are designed to challenge as well as delight our audiences. We integrate elements of circus and acrobatics with contact choreography to create the distinctive style that we are known for. We create '4D' spectacles where music, visuals, dance and physical theatre work to create shows that make our audiences think and feel.

We tour our productions to theatres and festivals across the world. We've developed a reputation over the years for ambitious experimentation. Our productions, in which setting, action and context collide, are world-renowned.

A wide ranging education and participatory programme runs parallel to our touring performance work.

But it's our audiences that are at the heart of everything we do and we pride ourselves on producing shows of outstanding quality that are accessible and enjoyable for all.

Kevin Finnan MBE | Artistic Director

Kevin Finnan was Choreographer and Movement Director for the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Finnan was made an MBE in 2013 for his services to dance – a sector he has been contributing to since he created Motionhouse with Louise Richards in 1988.

Paul Evans | Circus Director

Media release 9th May 2016

Paul is a regular collaborator with NoFit State, as a performer, circus director and choreographer on a number of projects including Barricade, Streets Alive, Open House, and Journeys. He is also Artistic Director for Crashmat Collective, a company that seeks to blur the boundaries between performer and audience.

Ali Williams | Creative Producer

Ali Williams is one of the co-founders of NoFit State. Over the past 28 years with the company she has been a performer, fundraiser, community director, and producer (Immortal, Parklife, Barricade, Open House). She has also mentored emerging companies and is passionate about supporting trainees and emerging artists to develop their talents.