

Motionhouse announces tour of new production 'Charge'

Electrifying new multimedia dance-circus premieres October 2017



Touring company Motionhouse has announced the dates for the premiere tour of its brand new production *Charge*.

Premiering in October 2017 at Warwick Arts Centre, Motionhouse's new multimedia dance-circus show is inspired by energy: from the electrical charge that sparks human life, to the beating of our hearts and the memories we make. Six performers use the highly physical dance and acrobatics now synonymous with Motionhouse to delve deep into the human body, tracing the incredible story of energy in our lives.

Digital projections create a world on stage where dancers and images interact seamlessly, bringing to life stories of energy in our own bodies, humans as energy manipulators and the Earth's weather systems.

Charge is the third element of Kevin Finnan's 'Earth Trilogy', developing on themes explored in *Scattered* (2009) and *Broken* (2013) about our relationship with water and the Earth.

After opening at Warwick Arts Centre from the 4th - 7th October 2017, the production will go on to tour extensively, with the first tour booked in 25 venues in the UK and Europe (dates for first leg of tour listed

below). The production will continue to tour throughout 2018 and beyond.

Motionhouse's Artistic Director, Kevin Finnan MBE, who was Choreographer and Movement Director of the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games, is at the helm of the project, working closely with the company and an established creative team to bring to life his vision for *Charge*.

The unique set for the show, created in collaboration with long-standing design partner Simon Dormon, who has designed and built the sets for the majority of Motionhouse's productions, will create an extraordinary world on stage where dancers and digital imagery interact seamlessly.

Charge is a unique collaboration between art and science: Motionhouse is working with science partner Professor Frances Ashcroft and her team from the University of Oxford on the role of electricity in the human body, to support the creative and choreographic process, putting science at the heart of artistic practice.

"*Charge* is an incredible collaboration between artists and scientists," said Finnan. "Bringing multiple disciplines together to create one piece of work is really exciting for me. I find the science that inspired the show fascinating and I want to use this to create a show for audiences to enjoy – but which also makes them think and feel about the role energy plays in our lives. I want to use dance and the onstage world I am going to create to give audiences new perspectives on energy and some of the science behind it."

Charge will be supported by an education programme including online resources, teacher packs and workshops to enable young or non-scientific audiences to explore the science that inspired *Charge*.

Following on from the extraordinary success of *Scattered* and *Broken*, *Charge* will be a must-see for dance, circus and theatre lovers, but also for those interested in art, digital imagery, motion graphics and graphic design, as well as those interested in the science behind the production.

Watch Kevin Finnan talk about *Charge*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8UpI4Rwjpw&t=3s>

Motionhouse is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. *Charge* is supported by Warwick Arts Centre, The Rothschild Foundation, the Ernest Cook Trust and TippingPoint Stories of Change.

-ENDS-

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Notes:

The Charge creative team:

Charge is created and directed by: Kevin Finnan MBE

Motionhouse performers: Martina Bussi, Daniel Massarella, Junior Cunningham (Rehearsal Director), Chris Knight, Luka Owen, Alasdair Stewart, Naomi Tadevossian and Rebecca Williams

Set design by: Simon Dormon with construction by Oblique

Lighting design by: Natasha Chivers

Digital imagery: Imanol Garaizabal and Karlos Gomez, Logela Multimedia

Music by: Tim Dickinson and Sophy Smith

Sound design by: Tim Dickinson and Logela Multimedia

Costumes by: Brooke Roberts-Islam and Moin Roberts-Islam, BR Innovation Agency

Production management: Austin Lawler at CUE

Image: Chris Nash

Autumn 2017

4 – 7 Oct 2017 7.30pm	PREMIERE Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, UK	024 7652 4524 warwickartscentre.co.uk
11 Oct 2017 7.30pm	Cast, Doncaster, UK	01302 303959 castindoncaster.com
17-18 Oct 2017 7.30pm	Home, Manchester, UK	0161 200 1500 homemcr.org
28 Oct 2017 8.30pm	Auditorium Ferrari, Camposampiero, Italy	+39 366 6502085 teatroferrari.it
31 Oct 2017 7.30pm	The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, UK	01684 295074 rosetheatre.org
3- 4 Nov 2017 7.30pm and 2pm	Dance City, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK	0191 261 0505 dancecity.co.uk
7 – 8 Nov 2017 7.30pm	Octagon Theatre, Yeovil, UK	01935 422 884 octagon-theatre.co.uk
10 – 11 Nov 2017 7.30pm	Theatre Royal, Winchester, UK	01962 840440 theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk
16 – 17 Nov 2017 7.30pm	Connaught Theatre, Worthing, UK	01903 206206 worthingtheatres.co.uk
23 – 24 Nov 2017 8.00pm	Jersey Opera House, St Helier, Jersey	01534 511 115 jerseyoperahouse.co.uk

About our science partners

Our science partners, Professor Frances Ashcroft and her team, will provide scientific content to support the artistic creation process and will also contribute to the development of the supporting education resources, ensuring the science is rigorous and accurately reflected.

Professor Frances Ashcroft DBE, FRS, FMedSci.

Professor Dame Frances Ashcroft is Professor of Physiology at the University of Physiology and a Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford. Her research focuses on how elevation of the blood glucose level causes insulin secretion from the pancreatic beta-cell and what goes wrong with this process in diabetes. She has a major interest in ion channels, tiny pores found in all cells of the body that are responsible for the electrical activity of nerve and muscle fibres, and the cells that release insulin. Mutations in ion channels cause many human diseases including epilepsy, cardiac arrhythmias, cystic fibrosis and rare genetic forms of diabetes. Recognised for her outstanding contributions to the public awareness of science, Ashcroft has also published the widely acclaimed book, 'The Spark of Life,' about electricity in the human body.

About Motionhouse - Pushing movement to its limits since 1988

Founded in 1988 by Louise Richards and Kevin Finnan MBE, we create world class dance-circus productions that tour extensively to rave reviews across the globe. From full-length productions for theatre touring to flexible work for the outdoors and large-scale performance events, our sell-out productions integrate athletic physicality, powerful narrative, incredible digital imagery and emotive sound scores.

Our work takes its inspiration from common human concerns and our connection to the world in which we live, with recent works exploring flooding, the pressure of time, fear and captivity, and our relationship with water, the Earth and energy. Our dancers perform on stunning sets, alongside JCB diggers, with aerialists and singers, in incredible settings and to breath-taking effect.

Theatre productions: Our full-length productions tour to theatres across the UK and internationally. We seamlessly integrate digital imagery with live performance, creating a 'living film' that draws audiences into the magical world on stage. Powerful and emotive, these productions inspire and move; generating repeat tours, large audiences and reinforcing our reputation as an outstanding touring company. Recent years have seen two highly acclaimed US tours, as well as tours of mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, and regular appearances throughout Europe.

Outdoor productions: Pioneers of outdoor dance, our range of flexible productions tours to festivals and non-theatre spaces. These short, sharp injections of dance and circus are designed to be performed outdoors and up-close rather than in a conventional theatre. Immensely popular on the international festival circuit, we tour this work extensively, inspiring audiences who are not necessarily familiar with dance. These works are also increasingly popular for corporate and other events. We are currently touring a series of outdoor productions that range in scale and duration from an intimate 9-minute duet to a 45-minute dance-circus collaboration with NoFit State Circus on giant Jenga blocks, and a series of larger-scale spectacles incorporating dancers and JCB diggers.

Large-scale events: With a three-decade track record of creating work in unusual settings, we have secured a reputation as the 'go to' company to create visionary large-scale outdoor events. From beaches to stately homes and from animating a working harbour to bringing an inner city wasteland to life, as well as being commissioned to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic Games from bid success through launch to opening, we are renowned for our spectacular large-scale outdoor events. Our Artistic Director Kevin Finnan MBE was Choreographer and Movement Director for the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Inspiring the next generation: We deliver a wide range of learning and training projects, in schools and in the community, for students and for young professionals, focusing on skills-development and creativity. Our teaching is accessible and inspiring and emphasises a sense of achievement for all. We offer a range of activities for all ages and abilities and frequently offer the opportunity to develop creative work for performance.

Motionhouse is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

www.motionhouse.co.uk // @MotionhouseDT // Facebook: www.facebook.com/Motionhouse



Charge is supported by

