

Motionhouse

# CHARGE

ELECTRIFYING DANCE CIRCUS



## KS3, GCSE, BTEC & A-LEVEL STUDENT STUDY RESOURCES

### Secondary teaching and education resources

The education resources for Motionhouse's latest production CHARGE provide secondary teachers with a wealth of practical and appealing content for teachers to use to inspire and engage students. A unique fusion between art and science, CHARGE is ideally placed to engage young people with scientific themes and ideas and ignite curiosity in the biological electricity of their own bodies. With its capacity to grip the imagination and spark interest, the secondary education resources cater for a broad age range: from KS3 students, to candidates for GCSE, Btec and A-level dance examinations.

Great value for money, access to the Charge Secondary Teaching Resources is only £50, including a link to the full-length version of the show and a link to the Charge soundtrack.

### The Production

*CHARGE* is an electrifying new stage production exploring the theme of electrical energy in the universe and in our bodies. It is the third part of a triptych that began in 2009 with the creation of *Scattered*, which examined how we interact with water. *Broken* followed in 2013, "a 68 minute invasion of the senses", reflecting on humanity's relationship with the earth; and now *CHARGE*, with its emphasis on the body, completes an investigation into the physical world and how we live in it. The production uses the company's renowned fusion of fluid

contemporary dance, breathtaking circus, vibrant imagery, symphonic soundtrack, innovative set design and a gripping narrative, to create an absorbing 360 degree world onstage that brings to life the story of a universe swirling from top to bottom and inside out with electricity.

“I think life is richer if, every now and again, you look at it with fresh eyes”  
(Kevin Finnan, Artistic Director of Motionhouse and choreographer of *CHARGE*).

## Art/science collaboration

A unique collaboration between art and science, *CHARGE* is ideally placed to engage children with scientific themes and ignite a curiosity and interest in the bio-electricity of their own bodies. The ideas in the work and its dynamic theatricality also means *CHARGE* will grip the imagination and can be used as a stimulus to inspire learning across other curriculum areas: literacy, geography, PE, dance, music, history, PSHE and art.

## Suggestion for use – notes for teachers

The Secondary Education resources cater for a broad age range: from KS3 students, to candidates for GCSE, Btec and A-level dance examinations. It is divided into three sections:

### 1. From Page to Stage: creating *CHARGE*

This section charts the creation of the work from the kernel of an idea through working practices to the emergence of the storyline and structure. It includes

- the research; and the images and ideas that came out of that
- the collaborative making process
- a time-line of the rehearsal period from research to premiere
- the production information

### 2. Under the Microscope: dissecting *CHARGE*

This section presents the 'Arc' of the show and takes the student scene-by-scene through the stage text by

- asking questions to hone observation, then summarising the most significant elements to support an interpretation.
- suggesting a range of analysis tasks and questions to deepen understanding and appreciation and point students towards recurring motifs, characters, textual features and choreographic devices

### 3. “Mad and Bad!” playing with *CHARGE*

This section suggests performance and choreographic tasks arising from *Charge* to increase engagement and develop creative and practical skills

## Appendices

- The Company
- Biographies of directors, dancers and the Creative Team
- Chronology of productions and awards

All sections are digitally illustrated with images, interviews and video footage from the rehearsal period and the performance.