

## || Underground

### *Life going down the tube*

**Underground** is a Motionhouse outdoor piece for performance in the public arena.

Performed by four dancers within a rocking tubular structure, **Underground** uses stunningly physical dance, poignant imagery and surprising aerial encounters to explore the new reality of train travel: the compressed intimacy of a crowded carriage; the crush of personal space; the studied ignoring of our fellow humans and the tight fear of a dangerous stranger in the current climate of suspicion.

Travellers are thrown together in an unlikely alliance as graffiti artists paint their love in motion. Suspended at odd angles and riding the rhythm of the train, four characters are constantly drawn together then torn apart.

Energetic and thought provoking, **Underground** is attention grabbing, edge of your seat, in-your-face dancing.

**Underground** won the Audience Prize at The MiramirO Festival in 2009.

|| "Of all the participating artists Motionhouse's innovative performance will contribute the most to the further development of the arts in public spaces."

**The official jury of MiramirO Festival | Ghent, Belgium**

|| "Motionhouse again demonstrates that contemporary dance can find a large new audience without compromising artistic integrity but with a huge dose of choreographic flair, acrobatic flourish, humour, empathy and real life relevance."

**Donna Close | Brighton Festival Producer**



## Underground is a Motionhouse Festival Piece

Our festival pieces are attention grabbing and highly physical dance performances, created to be seen in the public arena rather than in the confines of a theatre. Each festival piece has its own unique set and props, clear characters, theatrical narrative and dynamic athleticism.

**Underground** is touring extensively to festivals throughout the UK and Europe. To enquire about booking contact Jo Valentine on [t] +44 (0)1926 887 052 | jo@motionhouse.co.uk

### || Technical Information

The **Underground** set is a tubular structure that requires a minimum performance space – see below for the dimensions. It is specifically designed to be performed outdoors.

Please ensure that you take into consideration all of the information below when considering where to site your **Underground** performance.



- **Underground** is performed by four dancers in a freestanding purpose built structure – it has been designed and choreographed to be performed on any surface that is firm, level and dry. It cannot be performed on grass
- **Underground** requires a performance area of 9m x 10m with a height clearance of 4m
- The set is 3m long x 1.8m wide x 2.1m high
- Aerosol Paint - a small amount of spray paint is used in each performance.

|| "Motionhouse are breaking new ground – they have an amazing grasp of the challenges and rewards of outdoor work and have demonstrated great sophistication in their work across different scales: from intimacy to spectacle."

**Bradley Hemmings | Artistic Director Greenwich+ Docklands Festivals**

|| "Amazing to see quality dance in a street context. Really fantastic piece, not to mention breathtaking dancers! The audience were totally gripped and engaged."

|| "Emotive, superbly choreographed, head tingling & totally mesmerising."

|| "Elegance and anarchy rolled into one powerful, strong bodied, fully alive, uplifting performance."

### Underground Audience Members

Motionhouse, Spencer Yard, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 3SY  
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Registered Company in England & Wales No. 2515820 | VAT No. 545 06 275 2 | Registered Charity No. 32 8693

## || Other Requirements

- The soundtrack is provided on mini disk and iPod
- Please supply a quality 'full range' sound system to cover both the proposed audience area and the performance space (separate monitors if required). Ideally the soundtrack is to be played at high volume
- We require a technician to run sound during the performance itself
- Please also remember that you will have to leave room around the set for audience members
- Under no circumstances can **Underground** be performed in wet weather
- **Underground** requires a firm, level, even and dry performance surface; it cannot be performed on grass
- You will need to provide stewards during the performances
- You will also need personnel to supervise the set between performances
- If requiring multiple performances the cast require a break of at least 2 hours from the end of one performance and the start of the next one.

## || Load in | Get-Out

- The set is toured in a Mercedes Sprinter van (length 7 metres) which needs to be parked as close to the performance area as possible to unload and reload
- Extra people to help with unloading are always welcome
- The performance space must be at ground level unless a very large lift is available
- Unload time is about 25 minutes, assuming we can get our vehicle close to the performance area
- Set build takes about 45 minutes with 4 dancers
- The dancers will require at least 40 minutes to warm up before the first performance (this doesn't have to be on the set)
- Each performance lasts approx 25 minutes
- The strike and reload takes approx one hour.

**You must contact us as a matter of urgency if any of these requirements are likely to cause problems.**



## || **Booking Information**

**Underground** can be performed up to three times in one location on any performance day for bookings of up to two days; for longer bookings, we can offer two performances per day.

For further information, fees and other costs, or to book the show please contact:

Jo Valentine | Programme Manager | [t] + 44 (0)1926 887 052  
[e] jo@motionhouse.co.uk | www.motionhouse.co.uk

## || **Motionhouse Are**

<b>Artistic Director</b>	Kevin Finnan	kevin@motionhouse.co.uk
<b>Executive Director</b>	Louise Richards	louise@motionhouse.co.uk
<b>Programme Manager</b>	Jo Valentine	jo@motionhouse.co.uk
<b>Marketing Manager</b>	Justine Watkins	justine@motionhouse.co.uk
<b>Administrator</b>	Mary Kalunga-Eade	mezze@motionhouse.co.uk
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Liz Matthews	liz@motionhouse.co.uk



|| "The show was one of the main hits of the festival."

**Director | Spraoi Festival, Ireland**

|| "Motionhouse have raised the bar for outdoor presentation of contemporary dance – they present dynamic and lively festival performances, and audiences respond so well to the skill and quality of their work, even if they haven't experienced dance in another setting before."

**Angus MacKechnie | Watch This Space Festival Producer**

|| "The energy and commitment of the company captivated the capacity audiences."

**Neil Butler | Director UZ Events**

**Underground** was commissioned by Fierce Festival, Birmingham Hippodrome and Without Walls.