
Motionhouse

Education Information Pack

Motionhouse firmly believes that there is a fundamental and intrinsic link between the creation of performance work and the leading of participatory projects.

We have established a reputation for high quality education work, able to undertake teaching and training projects covering a broad range of abilities and needs. Our teaching is accessible and inspiring, building on each person's capabilities and emphasising a sense of achievement.

We have always insisted that our dancers also lead our workshop projects as this leads to greater growth in both areas – the teaching feeds the performance and vice versa.

Where possible we explore this link between performance and workshop in residency packages.

When the opportunity is there for participants to take part in workshops, share their work through informal or structured performance, and see the company in performance, it allows for a complete educational experience in its broadest sense: groups get to know the company as teachers, creators and performers.

Through Motionhouse participatory projects, group members are taught, excited, challenged and enabled via the workshop process. They learn new skills, create their own dance material and potentially go on to perform and share their work. Importantly, they may also see their ideas contributing to the creation of the Company's next professional piece, see the dancers working on similar themes and ideas, perhaps seeing their own material redeveloped in the studio. The integration of elements is the unique advantage of working with a creating company like ourselves – it is an exchange and allows everyone to flourish.

"I LOVED every minute of it. It's given me such confidence in dance and has made we want to dance all day every day!"

GCSE student on PerfectED workshop

"I have learnt new skills and things I would normally never dream of attempting"

11 year old, Ludlow

"Content consistently adjusted to fit ability of students – all felt comfortable, confident and challenged – excellent."

Dance Teacher, Kidderminster College



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Methods used draw on a range of techniques including partnering and creative exploration to investigate the natural movement of the body.

Classes start with simple warm-up exercises, gradually building to more challenging phrases and choreographic briefs. Participants develop body awareness, the use of the body structure in weight giving and bearing, and an understanding of weight, momentum and flow in movement. A strong Motionhouse feature is our contact work, characterised by fluid movement and weight exchange, encompassing small falls, leaps and catches which may then build to the creation of highly dynamic and exhilarating dances. As this vocabulary is extended, skills in partnering, ensemble work, improvisation and choreography can be developed.

"A superb residency...the dancers were excellent and great to work with. Both the taster sessions and the core groups who worked through to performance were received exceptionally well. The final performance was a triumph!"

Arts Development and Education Officer, Buxton Opera House

"The end product was a performance for parents and carers, and those I spoke to were all amazed at what has been achieved in such a short length of time. But it wasn't just the product that was excellent. Behind it was a process of working with children of all ages and abilities which was a joy to watch unfold... to watch them work in this way was a real privilege and one which I will never forget."

Head teacher, Clapham Terrace Primary School, Leamington Spa

The input we can provide is flexible and diverse in accordance with group needs.

Examples include

- One-off sessions to introduce dance into the school/college curriculum
- Creative based residencies (daily sessions over a number of days) leading possibly to a performance or sharing of the work realised during the week
- Skills development workshops for teachers
- Advanced workshops for dance and performing arts students
- Creative projects for 5-12 year olds
- Street dance workshops for children and teenagers
- Site specific participatory performance projects

The following points serve as a guide in developing an educational project. However, as the needs of each project vary enormously, we welcome working with you to devise a package which suits your needs and budget.

- To allow participants to really benefit from our input the ideal duration of a workshop is 2-2.5 hours
- The optimum number of participants per workshop led by one dancer is 15-20 (maximum is 20)
- A teaching team of two dancers facilitates demonstration and enables us to work with groups of up to 30 participants

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- Workshops can be technique based or of a creative or thematic nature, can be on a one-off basis, part of an on-going project or work towards the creation of a new dance piece
- We work with participants of all ages and abilities, including those with special needs
- We need a warm, well-lit space with a clean floor that is as large as possible – ideally for a group of 30 participants no smaller than 10m x 15m. Provision of a 13 amp socket and a CD player is required

Other Motionhouse Education Resources

Our 2005/06 production *Perfect* has been chosen as one of the set pieces for the National GCSE Dance Curriculum in England and Wales. To help teachers familiarise themselves with *Perfect* and to deliver the best possible teaching for their students, we offer a selection of tools:

- **PerfectED Education Pack** is an unmissable tool for anyone teaching GCSE dance and its contents link directly to the curriculum
- Our **Workshop Menu** for teachers, schools and other dance educators offers a **range of tailored workshops** for students and teachers

Motionhouse is also a **recommended company on the A Level Performance Studies syllabus**.

We also have other education materials available: **Driven Education Pack** and **Volatile Teacher Resource**, selection of **DVDs of past productions** and **CD soundtracks** – all of the above can be purchased online!

All resources are also available to purchase online at www.motionhouse.co.uk/merch.htm

Guide prices for workshops

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| 1 dancer | ½ day workshop | £185.00 |
| | 1 day workshop | £260.00 |
| 2 dancers | ½ day workshop | £350.00 |
| | 1 day workshop | £500.00 |
| 3 dancers | ½ day workshop | £480.00 |
| | 1 day workshop | £720.00 |
| 4 dancers | ½ day workshop | £600.00 |
| | 1 day workshop | £920.00 |

All prices are exclusive of VAT (at 20%), travel (Mileage at £0.45/mile or second class train fare) and any necessary accommodation. Each dancer may teach two sessions per day (i.e. 1 day with 3 dancers may include up to 6 workshops)

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Evaluation

We aim to deliver work of the highest quality and we are involved in an ongoing programme of evaluation that addresses all areas of our operation. Areas for monitoring and assessment include: the structure and content of workshops and performances, publicity, organisation and management of work. We believe that this programme of evaluation is not only an essential element in the development of our work but also contributes to that of host venues, education settings and partners.

"Just to say how fantastic our workshop was – such good teachers, motivating the girls and demonstrating so beautifully. They inspired our students to work so hard for the duration of the workshop and to achieve great things."

Head of Dance, Southfield School Sports College

