



3rd September 2019

Dear Colleague

U.DANCE Cumbria 2020

Your school is invited to be part of U.DANCE Cumbria 2020. Organised by Active Cumbria, U.DANCE supports schools to create high quality creative dance within the curriculum & to celebrate this through performance.

Performances for primary schools will take place in Workington & Carlisle in March 2020.

(South Lakeland schools have the opportunity to take part in The Brewery Arts Centre's Schools Dance Platform & Barrow schools in the Furness School's U.Dance Festival also in March 2020. Information about these events will be sent directly to all South Lakes & Barrow schools from The Brewery & DARE Dance respectively).

Schools are required to choreograph a 3 minute dance from scratch either on their own, if confident enough to do this, or with the help of a visiting dance artist who we can provide.

We welcome applications from all primary, independent & special schools. The maximum number of pupils per group is 30 due to on-stage & behind-the-scenes space restrictions at all venues.

We especially welcome schools who have not previously participated in U.DANCE.

This year there are 78 places available to primary schools. In the event of being over-subscribed, priority will be given to schools that:-

- **have not previously participated**
- **put forward NQTs or teachers new to the school/festival**
- **have worked with a dance artist before but who now feel confident enough to work on their own**
- **have identified dance as an area for development in their school**
- **can achieve preparation for U.Dance during curriculum time rather than in an out-of-school-hours dance club (& do not audition pupils to take part)**
- **will use dance to achieve wider key stage learning outcomes**

Whilst U.DANCE gives pupils the confidence-building opportunity to perform on a professional stage in front of a live audience, the process is also a professional development opportunity for teachers. Where possible, involve teachers who haven't previously participated to share dance knowledge across the teaching staff.

The key features of U.DANCE are:-

- a compulsory practical INSET session for all schools. The teacher who is





responsible for the group must attend the half day INSET 9.00am-12.00pm which will cover logistical information about venues & performances as well as practical ideas for warm-ups, creating & rehearsing KS1 and KS2 choreography, music selection & editing. After lunch those teachers who wish to stay can chat through initial ideas with their dance artist or co-ordinator, begin planning and even put some ideas into practice with our help. The INSET days will be held as follows:

Primary INSET – Wednesday 13th Nov, 9.00am-2.00pm, Sunbeams Music Trust, Redhills, near Penrith

Primary INSET – Thursday 14th Nov, 9.00am-2.00pm, Sunbeams Music Trust, Redhills, near Penrith

YOU JUST NEED TO PICK ONE DATE & REMEMBER TO PROVISIONALLY BOOK SUPPLY COVER NOW!

- a dance artist to work in your school for 4 x 1 hour workshops to help create and refine your dance piece. *You can, of course, opt to produce a piece on your own if you feel confident enough to do so.*
- a visit, if requested, from your festival co-ordinator whilst you are creating your piece to offer helpful advice and guidance

- a technical rehearsal at the performance venue on the day of the performance
- a performance opportunity at a professional theatre venue as follows:-

The Carnegie Theatre, Workington, Monday 9th March 2020, 5.00pm & 7.00pm (same show)

The Carnegie Theatre, Workington, Tuesday 10th March 2020, 5.00pm & 7.00pm (same show)

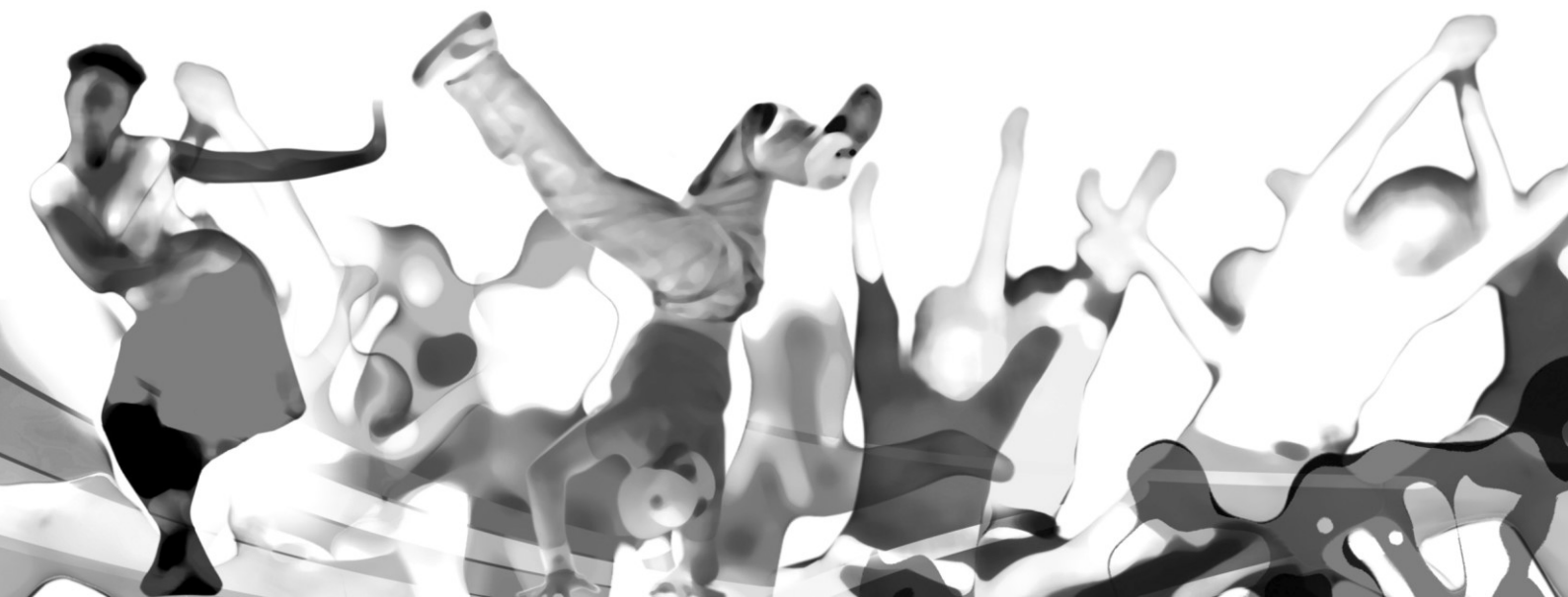
The Sands Centre, Carlisle, Wednesday 18th March 2020, 6.30pm

The Sands Centre, Carlisle, Thursday 19th March 2020, 6.30pm

The Sands Centre, Carlisle, Friday 20th March 2020, 6.30pm

Technical rehearsals are held at the venue during the afternoon of each performance and are an opportunity for children & teachers to see each other's dances.

For schools wishing to work on their own the cost is £130. For schools wishing to work with a dance artist the cost is £230. Schools will be invoiced during the autumn term; this payment is non-refundable if a school pulls out after a place has been allocated to them. **Remember that you can use your Sport Premium funding to take part in U.DANCE!**





Tickets will go on sale from each venue's Box Office on Monday 13th January 2020.

If you would like to take part in U.DANCE Cumbria 2020 please complete this on-line form – [U.Dance Cumbria 2020](#) – before Friday 11th October 2018. Late applications will not be considered. Schools will be notified of selection by email before October half term.

Should you require any further details about U.DANCE Cumbria 2020, please feel free to contact me.

We really look forward to receiving your U.DANCE Cumbria applications for 2020 and to seeing your fabulous dances on stage next spring!

Yours sincerely

Lynn Barnes
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