

East London Dance Press Release – December 2017

Open Call announcement for *East Wall*, a major new dance and live music performance directed by Hofesh Shechter at the Tower of London in summer 2018

East London Dance and Shoreditch Town Hall to co-produce *Identity*, a celebration of east London's fashion and dance culture

An Open Call for east London's brightest young dance talents to take part in ***East Wall***, and a celebration of east London's eclectic fashion and dance culture entitled ***Identity*** at Shoreditch Town Hall have been announced by East London Dance today as two cornerstone productions in 2018.

Polly Risbridger, Director of East London Dance said: *"East London Dance has a deep and rich history of nurturing, supporting and collaborating with bold early-career dance artists as well as creating art that reflects the ever evolving social and cultural matters that our communities face. As we call out to our community to take part in **East Wall**, a project that will fill the moat of the Tower of London with young east Londoners, and announce **Identity**, a production that will celebrate east London's creative style, we are delighted to be able to introduce wider audiences to the breadth of talent that east London has to offer."*

Open Call announced today for east London-based school, college, university, community and youth dance groups to perform in *East Wall*, a major new dance and live music performance directed by Hofesh Shechter in the moat of the Tower of London in July 2018

East London Dance and Hofesh Shechter Company, in partnership with Historic Royal Palaces and LIFT, are looking for up to 160 east London-based young community dancers to participate in ***East Wall***, a large-scale spectacle of dance and live music directed by the world-renowned choreographer Hofesh Shechter in collaboration with four newly-announced choreographers, taking place at the Tower of London in the week commencing 16 July, 2018.

The Open Call will be on Saturday 10 March at University of East London's University Square Stratford Campus. Although this project is a celebration of east London, groups from across London are welcome to apply. It is open to school, college, university, community and youth dance groups of up to 30 dancers aged between 13 – 25, across a diverse range of movement and dance styles. Groups will need to apply via eastlondondance.org by 10am on Friday 2 February to take part in the Open Call.

Hofesh Shechter said: *"East Wall is an invitation for people to come together, and through the Open Call, we have a unique opportunity to bring local young people into the heart of the creation of the piece. I can't wait to meet all of these performers and to witness the artistry, dance styles, cultures, personality and dynamic energy of east London through them. I hope the experience can give them a sense of creative freedom that they can use as a way to connect with and understand each other."*

East Wall will see Hofesh Shechter working in collaboration with brilliant young choreographers, Becky Namgauds, Duwane Taylor, James Finnemore and Joseph Toonga in a large-scale performance uniting dancers, musicians and community participants to celebrate east London's rich cultural heritage. Each of the four choreographers, whose dance styles range from krump to contemporary, will work closely with the young participants to create expressive and dynamic dance works that will be weaved together by Shechter.

Hofesh Shechter said: *"I have had the pleasure of working with each of these choreographers in the lead up to **East Wall** and know that they will bring a unique sensibility, style and energy to the project which I can't wait to share with a national audience on this grand and historic stage."*

Performing in **East Wall** will give dance groups the opportunity to work with Hofesh Shechter and this team of choreographers as part of the first major public art event in the Tower of London moat since the Poppies installation *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* in 2014.

East Wall – performance participation Open Call

At University of East London's University Square Stratford Campus

Saturday 10 March, 2018

Apply and find out more at eastlondondance.org

Application deadline Friday 2 February, 10am

Produced by East London Dance and Hofesh Shechter Company, commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces and presented by Historic Royal Palaces and LIFT

Costume Design Partner, London College of Fashion, UAL

Supporting Partner, Performing Arts Department, UEL

Funded by Arts Council England, Backstage Trust, Cockayne - Grants for the Arts, The London Community Foundation and Tower Hamlets Arts & Music Education Service (THAMES)

#EastWall

eastwall.org

East London Dance announces *Identity*, a celebration of east London's eclectic dance and fashion culture at Shoreditch Town Hall, from 12 – 14 April 2018.

Co-produced with Shoreditch Town Hall and curated by East London Dance, ***Identity*** collides fashion and dance to spotlight the unparalleled creativity bursting from east London's diverse communities.

Audiences are invited to "dress to express" and will be plunged into an immersive world of alternative and underground style brought to life in a catwalk-style arena set in the majestic Victorian Assembly Hall of Shoreditch Town Hall.

A gig-like dance experience, ***Identity*** will introduce urgent new voices, including hip hop dance artist Emma Houston (Breakin' Convention), who are shaping our future and proving that fashion and dance, at their most powerful, can be the ultimate expressions of who we are.

Uniting breakdance and vogue, Emma Houston will present an evolution of her work ***The Purple Jigsaw***.

Emma Houston said: *“Breaking and Vogue have such distinct visual styles and common ground in terms of history of birth, making them ideal for this celebration of fashion and dance. Being a Breaker, I love the sheer physicality of movement it allows as an element to explore alongside Vogue’s freedom of gender expression, and together they create a new realm for dynamic exploration. With this work, I want to talk about visibility and celebrate diversity by showcasing a spectrum of people who identify and express themselves differently.”*

Houston and a number of other bold east London based artists to be announced in the new year will blend their own fashion and dance influences through dynamic performance that celebrates individuality and challenges identity stereotypes in compelling and thought-provoking ways.

The main performance event will be accompanied by a series of talks and workshops in collaboration with London College of Fashion, UAL’s Arts Programme, that will bring audiences closer to the creativity on their east London doorstep.

Identity - A celebration of east London’s eclectic dance and fashion culture
Shoreditch Town Hall

Thursday 12 - Saturday 14 April, 2018

7.30pm

Tickets £15 (£12.50 concessions)

Identity is an East London Dance and Shoreditch Town Hall co-production

Information: eastlondondance.org/events/identity/

Ticket booking: shoreditchtownhall.com/whats-on/identity

#Identity

Notes to Editors:

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Please see separate document for all partner and choreographer biographies