

Project Y Evolution 2024: Immerse yourself in the future of dance



Performance by NYDCS at Destinations, 2024. Photo credit Paul Watt

10th June 2024

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Dancers aged 16 to 25 are to gain an invaluable insight into professional life in a performing company thanks to YDance's summer programme, culminating in an event at Tramway in Glasgow on 13th July

YDance (Scottish Youth Dance) is a national charity which exists to transform the lives of Scotland's children and young people, supporting them to grow and learn through dance. Its aspirational and ambitious summer holiday performance programme has been running since 2005 and has seen hundreds of young people from all over Scotland get an invaluable and often life-changing insight into the life of a professional dancer in a performing company.

Over two weeks during the summer holidays dancers take part in daily technique classes and work with two professional choreographers to create new dance pieces. The project combines different dance styles and the company will develop two new works which will premiere at Tramway in Glasgow on 13 July as Project Y Evolution.

Carolyn Lappin, YDance Executive Director: “We are very excited to meet this year’s Project Y participants and to see the amazing work they will create on the Tramway stage. We are also delighted to welcome our international partners – and look forward to their performances in Glasgow.”

This year Project Y Evolution also showcases the National Youth Dance Company of Scotland and two of YDance’s international exchange programme dance companies, Jugendtanzensemble from Germany and young dancers from the Confederation Nationale de Danse, Luxembourg.

Formed by YDance in 2011, the National Youth Dance Company of Scotland is the flagship contemporary dance company for Scotland’s young dancers aged 16 – 21.

About YDance

YDance’s belief that it is every child’s fundamental right to be able to participate in, learn through, watch and connect with dance at a local and national level shines through not only its advocacy work but also through a wide range of projects, including:

Horizons inclusive youth dance company was established in 2015 and it is aimed at dancers aged between 12 and 25, with and without disabilities. Dancers develop their technical dance skills and take part in choreographic workshops and performance opportunities throughout the year.

Community Steps - Local Initiatives Increasing Access to Dance

Working in partnerships with Local Authorities, Active Schools Teams and Community Development teams, YDance delivers bespoke programmes to engage young people who face barriers in accessing high-quality dance provision. These programmes ensure that young people have more opportunities to dance in their local area, grow their local peer and support networks and develop strengthened links to their local community.

CashBack on Track is a three-year project which runs across Scotland and uses dance to nurture the development and well-being of young people (aged 10-25) in Scottish communities so that they can live positive, resilient, and fulfilling lives and focuses on diversion from involvement with the criminal justice system. By providing free, weekly dance sessions, the young people can build their confidence and resilience whilst developing core skills such as communication, teamwork and commitment. Cashback on Track is supported by the Scottish Government CashBack for Communities scheme.

Cultural Collaborations – in partnership with other National Cultural organisations including Historic Environment Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland YDance works to develop children and young peoples’ knowledge of history and visual arts by using dance as a catalyst for expression and learning.