

Jasmin Vardimon Company collaborates with the Royal Holloway University of London to launch new 'Physical Theatre Postgraduate Course'

Jasmin Vardimon Company is to launch a pioneering new 'Physical Theatre Postgraduate Course' open to dancers and actors in collaboration with the Royal Holloway University of London. Conceived by award-winning choreographer/director, Jasmin Vardimon, and taught by Vardimon and company members, the course will commence in October 2009 and run through to June 2010. All spaces have been offered for this year's Course and a waiting list applies. Due to the high level of interest, plans have already been confirmed for the Course to continue in September 2010.

Associate Artist of Sadlers Wells, Jasmin Vardimon is a leading pioneer of dance theatre. Combining physical theatre, dance, text, music and innovative technologies, Vardimon is renowned for her acute observations of human behaviour, distinguished by her beautifully detailed movement, insightful humour and social relevance.

This Physical Theatre Postgraduate Certificate is a Continuing Professional Development Course for postgraduate experienced dancers and actors moving into a new area of work, namely dance theatre, introducing new techniques that combine vocal, kinaesthetic and visual skills and responses. The focus of the course will be to understand and explore Vardimon's method and approach of creating physical theatre work, engaging students in practical methods and skills in the creation of physical theatre practice. The Course will experiment with a variety of aspects of physical theatre to include movement, dynamic speech, object integration, media usage and sound. Teaching will primarily be through experiential workshops with students given tasks for improvisation and exploration. The workshops will promote dynamic activity; with time to both experiment practically and to respond with detailed feedback.

'While looking for performers, I've recognised that a gap exists between Dance and Theatre studies in the UK. Although there are courses that combine these two disciplines, they mostly focus on specific performance techniques and so do not provide the range of skills that I am hoping to find in a performer. I hope this course will give more opportunities to stage artists who are interested in developing as all round performers.'

'The course will aim to provide the student with practical methods and skills to create and perform physical theatre work, whilst encouraging them to develop their own independent creative responses and viewpoints' JASMIN VARDIMON

Successful completion of the PG Certificate is equivalent to two modules of the MA 'Theatre: Physical Theatre Performance Pathway'. On completion, suitably qualified students are eligible to apply to the Royal Holloway University Drama Department to complete the MA part-time one year.

Jasmin Vardimon Company continues to develop its Education Programme across a range of study levels, working with Secondary Schools and Higher Education organisations. In Autumn 2008, the Company launched a new 'Foundation Diploma in Contemporary Dance' with Sussex Downs College in Brighton. Following the success of its first year, the Foundation Course will continue this autumn, expanding across both first year and second year studies.

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For further information, please contact:-

Helen Snell, PR for Jasmin Vardimon Company t. 020 7240 5537 e. info@helensnell.com

Notes to Editors overleaf.

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- **Jasmin Vardimon Company (JVC)** was founded in 1997 and rapidly rose to become a significant element within the British dance theatre scene. The company is dedicated to the choreography of Artistic Director, Jasmin Vardimon – Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells since 2006 – who is renowned for her uniquely theatrical choreographic and directorial style, combining physical theatre, dance, text and innovative technologies. The company's works are widely accessible through their exposure of human experience and contemporary social commentary, high quality performance, passion, skill and commitment. JVC tours nationally and internationally and attracts high profile commissioning support from organisations including Sadler's Wells, the National Theatre Studio, The Lowry and Brighton Dome & Festival. The JVC repertoire includes: *Yesterday (10th anniversary production)*, *Justitia, Park, Lullaby, Ticklish, Lure Lure Lure, Tête, Madame Made* and *Therapist*.