

PRESS RELEASE: Wednesday 13 May 2015

**National dance companies to entertain Moray & Nairn pre-school children this May**



Images: "Innocence" by Fleur Darkin © Scottish Dance Theatre

FINDHORN based contemporary dance promoters Bodysurf Scotland presents "Wee Rise", a dance festival for pre-school children next week. Running from Wednesday 20 until Friday 22 May, Wee Rise Dance Festival features live performances and workshops in Findhorn, Nairn and Aberlour, specially curated for children aged 6 months to 5 years.

**Wednesday 20 May** sees Glasgow based **Stillmotion** inviting toddlers and their parents to two performances of **We Dance Wee Groove** by Brian Hartley at the Universal Hall, Findhorn (10am and 2pm). Recommended for ages 6 months to 4 years, We Dance Wee Groove is a very special dance experience - a unique, stimulating and enriching celebration of dance, music and imaginative play for children. A friendly and creative team of performers will guide the audience on a musical journey around the world and to outer space, surfing, jiving, grooving and bopping.

**Thursday 21 May** sees Dundee based **Scottish Dance Theatre** out and about at Nairn Community and Arts Centre (10am) and Fleming Hall, Aberlour (3.30pm) with **Innocence** by Fleur Darkin. Recommended for children aged 3-5 years, Innocence is a magical theatrical journey that invites little ones and their grown ups to explore William Blake's imagination and enter a realm of mystery, fun and adventure. Featuring Scottish Dance Theatre's captivating dancers, Innocence includes music, songs, giggles and animal noises - a beautiful and engaging experience for young ones, their families and friends.

Bodysurf Scotland's Artistic Director, Karl Jay-Lewin said: *"As part of our Creative Scotland Open Project funding, we wanted to expand our Rise Dance Festival to reach people of all ages. Over the next two years we will bring an exciting array of national and international dance artists/companies for Wee Rise this May, Up Rise in September and Rise Dance Festival in May 2016."*

Two parent and toddler dance workshops will also feature at the Universal Hall as part of Wee Rise Dance Festival, taking place at 2pm on Thursday 21 May and 10am on Friday 22 May. *"Fun is the main priority,"* Karl Jay-Lewin continued, *"and dance and movement is a great way for children to develop confidence, self expression and concentration."*

For more information about Wee Rise Dance Festival, visit [www.bodysurfscotland.co.uk](http://www.bodysurfscotland.co.uk), telephone 01309 691661 or email [helen@bodysurfscotland.co.uk](mailto:helen@bodysurfscotland.co.uk).

- Ends -

**- Notes to editors -**

About Bodysurf Scotland

Bodysurf Scotland is at the vanguard of a dance revolution. We are on a mission to promote and produce bold and imaginative events, offering people across the globe the opportunity to experience dance. Our reputation is built upon a potent combination of risk-taking, quality, and a commitment to challenging expectations. From our base in Findhorn, Moray, our activities include live dance performances, commercial workshops, community dance development and professional training.

[www.bodysurfscotland.co.uk](http://www.bodysurfscotland.co.uk)

About Stillmotion

Brian Hartley created multi-disciplinary arts company Stillmotion, combining skills in visual art, photography and design with his experience as a physical performer. Stillmotion's work is aimed at a multi-generational audience and incorporates participation and performers. Productions include: We Dance Wee Groove (2008) - a large scale dance event integrating dance, projection, music, participation and performers which has toured to sell-out audiences nationally and internationally.

[www.stillmotion.co.uk](http://www.stillmotion.co.uk)

About Scottish Dance Theatre

Scottish Dance Theatre is Scotland's national contemporary dance company and is part of Dundee Rep Theatre. Under the direction of Fleur Darkin, the company is committed to producing excellent and daring work that is led by the power of the dancing body. Scottish Dance Theatre produces high quality dance that is thought provoking and holds resonance in people's lives. We believe dance can uplift, inspire, tune or sensibilities and enrich lives.

[www.scottishdancetheatre.com](http://www.scottishdancetheatre.com)

**- Contact -**

For more information, please contact Helen Beveridge on 01309 691661 or [helen@bodysurfscotland.co.uk](mailto:helen@bodysurfscotland.co.uk)