

Producer Jodi Kaplan presents

# **jk** EDINBURGH **BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL 2015**

For immediate release  
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Contemporary Dance from America Returns to the Edinburgh Fringe at  
**Booking DANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2015**  
7th Annual

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

**ONE WEEK ONLY!**  
Wednesday, August 12 through Sunday, August 16  
3pm daily

**Press Shoot**  
Tuesday, August 11  
5pm-5:30pm  
Location: Venue150@EICC - Pentland Auditorium

**Booking Dance Photo Exhibit**  
Opening on Wednesday, August 12 – following the showcase  
Featuring the photos of BDF collaborator Andy Phillipson

**Educational Outreach Day**  
Saturday, August 15  
2-5pm  
2pm-3pm Panel Discussion  
3pm- Festival Showcase Performance  
4:30pm-5pm Artist Meet and Greet

Venue 150@EICC (Edinburgh International Conference Centre)  
150 Morrison Street at The Exchange  
Price: £12 (£8 concession)  
Dancers and Students: £5  
Kids under 14 - £3!

To purchase tickets please call 0844-847-1639 or book online [www.venue150.com](http://www.venue150.com)

**-threeweeks**

★★★★★

**-The Scotsman**

★★★★★

**-MumbleDance**

★★★★★

**-Broadway Baby**

★★★★★

**-The Skinny**

★★★★★

**-The Edinburgh Reporter**

★★★★★

**-The Edinburgh Spotlight**

★★★★★

**-Edinburgh Festival Magazine**

★★★★★

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**August 12-16 3pm daily**  
ONE WEEK ONLY  
7th Annual!

A dance "festival within a festival" at The Fringe  
5 DYNAMIC DANCE COMPANIES FROM THE USA IN ONE SHOW!

-threeweeks ★★★★★	-The Scotsman ★★★★	-MumbleDance ★★★★★
-Broadway Baby ★★★★★	-The Skinny ★★★★	-The Edinburgh Reporter ★★★★
-The Edinburgh Spotlight ★★★★	-Edinburgh Festival Magazine ★★★★	

[bookingdance.com](http://bookingdance.com)

 Venue150@EICC | 150 Morrison Street  
For tickets visit: 0844 847 1639 / [www.venue150.com](http://www.venue150.com)  
Adults: £12 / Kids Under 14: £3 / Students £5 / Dancers £5

Photo: Luis Overfield

"Since 2008, Booking Dance has been staging their festival within a festival" in Edinburgh. It's an ambitious project that gives Fringe audiences a chance to sample a feast of American talent in one serving...Producer Jodi Kaplan knows how to please, and her curatorial decision making is resolutely sound throughout." – Kelly Apter, The Scotsman

"...the whole experience of seeing some of America's best dancers one after another leaves a happy after-glow." – MumbleDance

"Whether you're a contemporary dance fiend or one of the uninitiated wanting to take a chance, this production is perfect for the Edinburgh Fringe lover." - Three Weeks

Producer Jodi Kaplan presents



**EDINBURGH**

# **BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL 2015**

**Booking Dance Festival** celebrates its 7th anniversary as the premiere dance festival-within-a-festival at the Edinburgh Fringe. **Presenting dynamic dance companies from across the USA in one show**, this year's program is sure to captivate audiences as an ongoing festival favourite. Produced by Jodi Kaplan, the BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2015, brings a diverse range of top dance artists from America, giving these companies the opportunity to perform in Scotland for their first time. Spotighting American dance, each year is a completely different programme and the shows are always perfect for audiences of all ages, dance aficionados and Fringe lovers alike.

**This 2015 year is a special milestone for Booking Dance Festival - a celebration of its "golden anniversary," having brought over 50 dance companies to The Fringe over the past 7 years since its first festival at The Edinburgh Fringe in 2009.** This exciting year features an expansive range of dance styles with an eye towards going more in-depth into the diversity of dance that each of the specially selected artists offers – from Los Angeles' hip-hop Versa-Style Dance Company to New York City's contemporary dance legend Jeanette Stoner & Dancers to Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Contemporary styles performed by our special international guest artist Metamorphosis Dance Company of Trinidad and Tobago. Props such as trampolines and a specially constructed wheel in some of the works performed also emphasize the athletic connection to dance.

The "festival within a festival" takes place at Venue 150@EICC, 150 Morrison Street in the West End. This leading venue is renowned for its popular sold-out shows, and the architecturally designed theatre space positions dance in the best possible setting. Venue150@EICC is the Booking Dance Festival's home at The Fringe and this year will be its 7th annual partnership.

**A unique feature of BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL Edinburgh 2015 is its outreach.** The festival will again extend beyond the stage to offer a diverse range of activities including an Educational Outreach Day featuring a pre-performance Panel Discussion with the producer and company artistic directors as well as a post-performance artist question and answer session. Group rates and free entry available for those schools in need. Additionally, a question and answer session on stage following each performance offers all audience members the opportunity for dance insights!

**The background on Producer Jodi Kaplan includes strong personal and professional connections to Scotland.** After studying in the Divinity School at the University of Edinburgh, she taught as a guest artist at Dance Base and with the Scottish Dance Theatre during a decade of on/off residency in Scotland. Then 7 years ago, Jodi Kaplan decided to establish the Booking Dance Festival as a special endeavor to bring American dance to Scottish audiences, bridging her two homes and cultures. Note that Producer Jodi Kaplan spent a year as a Fulbright Scholar in dance in the Caribbean (Jamaica), which is one of the reasons why she chose to feature a dance company from Trinidad and Tabago on this Golden Anniversary program.

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## **Festival Showcase**

Wednesday, August 12 through Sunday, August 16, 2015  
3pm daily

7th annual five-star dance festival-within-a-festival! Exhilarating, extraordinary, dynamic dance performed by seven of the best companies from across the USA. Bite sized festival format. "Prepare to leave pleasantly full" – The Scotsman.

Jeanette Stoner and Dancers (New York City)  
Metamorphosis Dance Company (Trinidad and Tobago)\*  
Versa-Style Dance Company (Los Angeles)  
\*international guest artist

## **2015 Dance Artists**

### **Jeanette Stoner and Dancers (New York City)**

Jeanette Stoner has been collaborating with her performers for more than three decades. Her works are concerned with the inner landscapes of the human psyche and soul. Through innovative and provocative movement she reaches into the essential archetypal nature of humanity, exploring the beauty, absurdity, vulnerability and humor of the human condition. Ms. Stoner performed as a professional dancer with the companies of Alwin Nikolais, Nancy Meehan, Sara Shelton and Elina Mooney, among others. She was director of the Dance Theater of the Deaf and co-director of the Stoner-Hermans Dance Company. Stoner has completed numerous choreographic commissions and artistic residencies, including with the Israeli dance companies Tamar and Tamar in Jerusalem. She has also taught at the American Centre in Paris, the Nikolais/Louis Dance Lab, among many other renowned institutions and is considered "a hidden treasure of New York dance."

### **Metamorphosis Dance Company (Trinidad and Tobago)\* international guest** **metamorphosisdance.com**

Metamorphosis was formed twenty years ago by a group of three teachers from the Caribbean School of Dancing - Nancy Herrera, Carol Yip Choy and Christel De Souza (now residing in England), who were interested in establishing a professional dance company. The company is now led by Rehearsal Director Bridgette Wilson and Assistant Rehearsal Director Shari Rhyner and is currently comprised of twenty dancers (all proficient in Afro-Caribbean folk dance, Jazz and tap) and performs a wide array of Afro-Contemporary repertory work as well as cultural full-evening narratives that display a glimpse into the world of the Caribbean culture. The company continues to work in close collaboration with various local and international artists. It has also been active in community outreach through its presentation, "Gabriel - Your Angel Lives in You", a self-esteem project for young people, conceptualized and choreographed by Sonja Dumas.



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## **Versa-Style Dance Company (Los Angeles)**

versastyledance.com

Versa-Style Dance Company was founded in 2005 by Jackie Lopez and Leigh Foaad, and is a dance ensemble that consists of young, committed and conscientious artists representing the diversity and beautiful complexity of Los Angeles. They create highly energetic work that fuses dances that are culturally significant to their community. These forms include Hip-hop dance styles such as 90s Hip-hop, House, Popping, Locking, Whacking, and Boogaloo, and Afro-Latin dance styles such as Salsa, Merengue, Cumbia, and Afro-Cuban to name a few. Versa-Style specifically aims to perform for the youth of Los Angeles to instill the roots, history, and social and political issues surrounding the art of this new generation. Versa-Style has toured all over the world including places such as India (2012), as part of a corporate sponsorship with brands in Chennai, and Israel (2012), as part of the US Embassy Envoy program.

## **BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL –**

PUBLISHED ARTICLE THAT GIVES A STRONG SENSE OF BOOKING DANCE FESTIVAL'S VISION

### INSIGHTS

If one can step back and take a broad view of the festival, it's like a crystal ball of what is happening and what is about to happen in the performing arts world. That prophetic view into the fringe world can give one the ability to effect change.

The Booking DANCE FESTIVAL is the brain-child of Producer Jodi Kaplan, born with the intention of creating a cultural exchange between performing artists and international communities. The Festival occurs annually at a different location around the globe, continually bridging dance artists and audiences worldwide. Through both performances and educational outreach, the festival offers underserved dance companies the opportunity to expand their visibility to a global scale.

There is no better example of this than Jodi Kaplan's work at the Fringe. A few years ago, Kaplan, a spitfire dance agent based in New York, noticed how small the dance community at Edinburgh Fringe was. Less than 5% of the shows (106) are categorized as dance/physical theatre at the Fringe this year (2013). More specifically, Kaplan recognized a dearth of American dance at the festival. She began the Booking Dance Festival, a festival-within-a-festival to spotlight American dance talent...Booking Dance has given American dance a broader platform in the European arts market and has developed into a premiere Fringe event.

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Kaplan bucks many Fringe trends; she stages a showcase format featuring 3-7 dance companies on a single bill; she presents the show for just 5 days of the Fringe, and the show is generally family-friendly. Kaplan presents her American companies in a very American format, and that is unusual and risky in Scotland. Booking Dance is continually successful at the Fringe because Kaplan builds local connections. With an internship program with two Scottish universities, educational outreach to local Scottish schools and dance studios, panel discussions and professional development opportunities for her dance companies and any others, and a discount program for children and students, Kaplan has created long-lasting connections in the community that has led to a repeat, local audience.

Kaplan has seized an opportunity, deeply inhaling that air of possibility that is so inherent in the Fringe atmosphere. She is blowing goodness into that air as well. Kaplan's success helps position dance as a more prominent art form at the Fringe, and that benefits all of us artists who create and communicate through movement. As I continue to talk with artists about Fringe, that is what strikes me most. Despite the massive workload, the stress of fundraising, the tangle of logistics and even the competition for audience and press; the overwhelming sentiment is one of creative community, collaboration and solidarity. - Shelly Gilbride for InDance

*For more than two decades, Jodi Kaplan & Associates has booked tours for dozens of dance companies throughout the USA, South America, Asia, and Europe. Producer Jodi Kaplan recently booked a 25 city / 34 performance tour throughout China in the summer of 2015!*

*Jodi Kaplan & Associates also consults for performing arts companies of all disciplines and leads a series of booking and touring workshops specially designed for artists ready to move to the next level.*

