

ELIOT SMITH DANCE

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ESD DIGITAL:
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Patron **Her Grace The Duchess of Northumberland**
Artistic Director **Eliot Smith**

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PRESS RELEASE (for immediate release)



Eliot Smith Dance announces HOMECOMING - the return to live performances for Summer 2021 Season

One of North East England's most influential contemporary dance companies, Eliot Smith Dance, is thrilled to be returning to live performances, with a colourful and mesmerising programme of contemporary dance. Featuring recent virtual commissions by award-winning choreographers Mark Baldwin, Eliot Smith, and Jake Vincent, HOMECOMING also includes a première by newcomer Yamit Salazar, and a short film celebrating the incredible 10-year journey of the Eliot Smith Dance company.

ESD recently launched a 'crowd funder' campaign, hoping to raise £5,000 to help support this and other events in celebration of their 10th Anniversary year, and they are extremely happy to announce that within the last few days, with support from the Newcastle Arts and Culture Fund administered by the Community Foundation, the £5,000 target has been reached.

HOMECOMING opens in July with a packed programme of highly-physical works. Yamit Salazar's world première, *Bloom*, takes its inspiration from his native Colombia's yearly 'Festival of the Flowers' and tells stories of strength, beauty and the diversity of people. A moving and colourful human work, *Bloom* is driven by traditional and modern songs, and draws particular visual reference to the end of human transportation by "silleros", the porters of Colombia who were hired to physically carry people and their belongings through routes such as mountain passes that were impassable by any other means of transport.

Alongside *Bloom* are Mark Baldwin's *Messiah*, Jake Vincent's *Onward*, and Eliot Smith's *TroY*. The adaptation and modernisation of the story of Troy, with a cast of four dancers, takes its inspiration from the Greek mythological story of Helen of Troy. Set to original music by award-winning composer Adam Johnson, the work explores Eliot Smith's current investigation into identity, sex, and gender, using the re-imagining of the ancient story.

The performances will take place outdoors at The Old School House Gallery in Alnmouth, Northumberland, on Saturday 03 July, and indoors at Gosforth Civic Theatre in Newcastle upon Tyne on Sunday 04 July. Tickets are on sale via www.eliotsmithdance.com/events.

Following on from the success of the ESD DIGITAL and Virtual ESD platforms launched in light of the pandemic in early 2020, for their Summer 2021 Season ESD will be offering similar digital performances and community workshops, allowing audiences a front-row seat to experience "all things ESD" from the comfort of their own home.

ESD is also pleased to announce *ESD Presents*, a new and exciting annual dance event, designed to shine a spotlight on different iconic dance figures and set to include a variety of inspiring talks, exhilarating practical sessions, performance opportunities and more.

The first of these, the much-anticipated 2021 virtual programme *ESD Presents Martha Graham*, will be taking place from 26 - 31 July. Here ESD will explore and celebrate the legacy of one of the most influential and creative minds in dance history. This year's digital programme is brought to you in collaboration with Martha Graham Resources (Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance / Martha Graham Dance Company). The event offers two programmes, a Community Programme and a Professional Intensive, an inspiring suite of events open to all. To find out more, please visit www.eliotsmithdance.com/esdpresents.

Eliot Smith, Artistic Director of Eliot Smith Dance, says:

"It's incredibly exciting that we will soon be welcoming audiences back to our live performances in Newcastle and Northumberland, and here our thanks must go to Arts Council England, Woodhorn Museum, Newcastle Arts and Culture Fund, and to many individuals for their support. We can't wait to bring life back to our local theatres and community settings, and to let the joy of live dance performance inspire and entertain people once again. Everyone at ESD feels fortunate and excited to be able to go back to doing what they do best: performing powerful dance works to audiences in the region."

- E N D S -

**For interviews Eliot Smith can be contacted direct:
by phone on 07956 404187 or by email at eliot@eliotsmithdance.com**

See following page for list of images attached ...

5 images attached:

Image 1 – *HOMECOMING*, dancer Bisola Bello

Photo © Eliot Smith Dance



Image 2 – *TroY*, dancers Yamit Salazar and Eliot Smith

Photo © Eliot Smith Dance



Image 3 – *Messiah*, dancer Yamit Salazar

Photo © Darren Irwin



Image 4 – *Onward*, dancer Eliot Smith

Photo © Darren Irwin



Image 5 – *Bloom*, choreographer Yamit Salazar

Photo © Darren Irwin

