

déda | PRESS RELEASE

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Sharing Heritage Grant Paves The Way For Dance History Project

Local people will be asked to take part in a pioneering new project which aims to document the changing face of dance in Derby since the 1950s.

'Jive to Contemporary' – a history of dance in Derby - has been launched thanks to a £10,000 Sharing Heritage grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The project will be curated by Déda, the Derby-based creative centre for dance, contemporary circus and outdoor performance in Chapel Street which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

Déda will bring together a wide range of partner organisations and volunteers to collate the archive information that already exists. This will include past projects that have focused on the Northern Soul scene in the city, the growth of Hip Hop and major community programmes such as Big Dance in 2008.

There will also be extensive outreach work with local communities and individuals – inviting them to share their memories, experiences and any visual material that they may still have.

This will then be exhibited [from September – December 2018 in Spring 2019](#) at Déda ~~as well as online~~. There are also plans in the pipeline to take the material on tour across the UK before donating everything to the Local Studies Library so that it is available for future generations.

Stephen Munn, Director of Déda, said: "We are delighted that our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund has been approved - making this exciting project ~~plan~~ a reality.

"We aim to tell the story of dance in Derby from the perspective of established groups, venues and individuals over the past 70 or so years in a number of ways including film, photographs, written memories and recorded interviews.

"This will be a fascinating way of exploring the changes in popularity of dance styles in Derby enjoyed by local people over the decades, including how genres such as contemporary dance have become more accessible in recent times.

"I am sure that many people will particularly love to share their memories of times enjoyed at different venues in the city over the decades.

"As part of our own anniversary celebrations, it will be particularly interesting to showcase the role that Déda has had over the past 20 years – growing both in size and focus from a regional dance to house to now being a nationally recognised creation centre for dance, contemporary circus and outdoor performance.

"Finally, I hope that the project will serve as a reminder of the benefits of dance for individuals including physical exercise, as a creative outlet and a wonderful social activity and the importance of dance within the cultural offer of the city.

Ends

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Note to Editors

Déda

Déda (formerly known as Derby Dance) is a creative centre for Dance, Contemporary Circus and Outdoor Work which offers a dance and movement-focussed arts programme. The building houses two performance spaces, three professionally equipped dance studios, conferencing facilities and the CUBE café|bar.

With a class curriculum of almost 50 classes a week and an extensive community development programme Déda is one of the key cultural organisations in the city.

Déda receives funding from Arts Council England and Derby City Council.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #HLFsupported.

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