

JEANEFER JEAN-CHARLES



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BLACK VICTORIANS

Artistic Director and Choreographer Jeanefer Jean-Charles

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Challenging historical & contemporary perceptions

Artistic Director and Choreographer Jeanefer Jean-Charles is a globally respected creative artist. Since starting her journey as Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Bullies Ballerinas Jazz Dance Company (1990- 2000), her work has taken her to over 21 countries. Her unique creative process aims to bring to life the talents, strengths and shared stories of local communities and artists in inspiring and unforgettable ways. Career highlights include: London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremonies, The Rugby League World Cup Opening Ceremony in 2013, The FA Cup Final 2016 Opening Ceremony at Wembley, The first ever world record breaking Big Dance 2006 with live BBC broadcast, The Return of Colmcille, Derry-Londonderry City of Culture 2013, and The Coronation Festival at Buckingham Palace 2013, Roald Dahl's City of the Unexpected 2016, and Spirit of Woolwich for FESTIVAL.ORG for Greenwich+ Docklands International Festival 2019.

Black Victorians is inspired by nineteenth century studio photographs of black men, women and children - Black Chronicles II curated by Renée Mussai at the Autograph Gallery in London.

Exploring a complex, but often forgotten black presence in pre-Windrush Britain, this performance calls attention to previously hidden figures and challenges historical and contemporary perceptions.

Picture dancers dressed in restrictive Victorian costumes, shedding them in rebellion as they dance in African, contemporary and hip-hop styles re-imagining a moment in history. Their movement will invoke their origins in powerful ways, bringing voice and body to the portraits that inspired us.

Either presented in evocative Victorian architecture, within a museum or other outdoor sites, this is an opportunity to experience history as told through choreography.

Commissioned by FESTIVAL.ORG, Hat Fair, and Without Walls

"Black Victorians is inspired by 19th-century studio portraits of black families, Jean-Charles draws parallels between the photographs' stiff, formal poses and the stultifying societal constraints surrounding these individuals... a hugely promising work-in-progress dance piece."

★★★★ Dave Fagnoli, The Stage

The work is available now for touring in the UK and abroad

Cost for touring: £3000 (2 performances on 1 day), £4500 (2 performances on 2 consecutive days)

Length of show: 35 minutes

Optimal site: Historic buildings, museums, parks (hard standing), squares

Number. of people on road: 6

Scale: Small scale

Audience type: Suitable for all/families

Language: English & Sesotho

Get-in/out: Minimum 1hr (wt tech/ staff support)

Capacity: 400-500

Workshops available: Yes