GLC

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ethnic minorities
EHA

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GLC BLACK DANCE CIRCUIT SWINGS INTO ACTION

Traditional and contemporary dance styles from the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the American continents will be striding across stages around London next month, marking the start of the GLC's Black Dance Circuit, being co-ordinated by the GLC's Race Equality Unit.

And taking the first steps on the boards in the four month festival will be the celebrated Jamaican choreographer Thomas Pinnock, a dancer of international repute for over twenty years.

Each month the Dance Circuit will emphasis a particular style of dance, with December devoted to jazz and contemporary dance. Workshops and Masterclasses in dance will accompany the theme of the month, carried out by members of the dance groups taking part.

Thomas Pinnock's performance concept of African-Reggae Theatre and Dance (ART and Dance) at the Drill Hall Arts Centre in Bloomsbury will be an excursion into the oral and rhythmic traditions of Africa and the Caribbean through story-telling, song chants, rhythm phoenetics and dance, on December 6 and 7.

Other dance groups performing in the December Black Dance Circuit programme will be Union Dance, IDJ, Naissance, Torso, Prestige, The Models and Cosmic Rockers - all London-based dance groups with unique dance interpretations.

Ken Little, Chair of the GLC's Ethnic Arts Committee, which initiated the idea and funds the Black Dance Circuit, said today: "Black dance form has long been considered a 'poor cousin' in relation to black theatre as an art form.

"The GLC intends to recognise black dance as an artistic celebration in its own right.

"By arranging Masterclasses tutored by dancers in the Black Dance Circuit, London's promising young hopefuls have an opportunity to learn the finer points on how to improve techniques and succeed in the exacting arena of performing arts.

"Unfortunately, GLC initiatives like the Black Dance Circuit face the final curtain with the abolition of the GLC."

END

Press contact: Vanessa Summers (01) 633 6057

NOTE TO ART AND PICTURE EDITORS: There will be a press conference to launch the start of the GLC Black Dance Circuit at 6pm, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 in the Drill Hall Arts Centre, 16 Chenies Street, WC1, attended by GLC Councillors Ken Little and Peter Pitt, with participating dance group members.

Attached is the Black Dance Circuit programme for December.

Parminder Virdee BLACK & ETHNIC ARTS ARCHIVE
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GLC BLACK DANCE CIRCUIT

DECEMBER PROGRAMME

PERFORMANCE: THOMAS PINNOCK, supported by NAISSANCE DANCE COMPANY

DATE: December 6 & 7, 1985.

VENUE: Drill Hall Arts Centre, 16, Chenies Street, WC1. (01) 637 8270

TIME: 8.00 p.m.

TICKETS: £3.50, concession £2.50 (+ 50p membership).

PERFORMANCE: UNION DANCE COMPANY, supported by I.D.J.

DATE: December 14 & 15, 1985

VENUE: Tara Arts Centre, 356, Garrat Road, Earlsfield, SW18. (01) 871 1450

TIME: 7.30 p.m.

TICKETS: £3.00, concessions £2.25.

PERFORMANCE: TORSO, 'THE MODELS', COSMIC ROCKERS, PRESTIGE

DATE: December 21, 1985.

VENUE: Brixton Recreation Centre, Station Road, SW2. (01) 274 7774

TIME: 7.30 pm

TICKETS: £2.00, concession £1.00.

MASTER CLASSES

TUTOR:	THOMAS PINNOCK		
December 7	Drill Hall	2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	£2.50, concessions £1.50
December 12	* Riverside	2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	£3.00, concessions £2.50
TUTOR:	UNION DANCE COMPANY		
December 14	Tara Arts	2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	£2.50, concessions £1.50
December 16	* Riverside	2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	£3.00, concessions £2.50
TUTOR:	I.D.J.		
December 15	Tara Arts	2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	£2.50, concessions £1.50

*Riverside Studios are at Crisp Road, W.6. (01) 741 2251

Members of the press wanting press tickets for any of the performances are asked to contact Vanessa Summers, GLC Press Office on (01) 633 6057.

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