**Call for Dance Artists**

**‘City Horses – Birmingham’**

**Birmingham International Dance Festival 2020 (BIDF 2020)**

**CONTEXT**

DanceXchange is looking for seven female-identifying dance artists to deliver an exciting collaborative project, *City Horses – Birmingham*, led by Byström Källblad as part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2020 (BIDF 2020).

The project will be performed in Birmingham City Centre on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June 2020, as part of the BIDF 2020 Showcasing programme, celebrating the best of British and international outdoor dance practice. The seven selected UK artists will take part in a week-long residency with Byström Källblad at DanceXchange, from 8-12 June, and will be joined by eight Swedish dancers at the end of the residency for the final production.

*City Horses* is a dance work created by Swedish choreographer Anna Källblad and artist Helena Byström. A city choreography for female dancers about power, existence and the female body in the public space, this is a gallop through cities, a living monument in constant motion, which celebrates the courage and power of females of all ages.

*City Horses* is a durational work which will travel around Birmingham City Centre, for approximately 1-2hours, and up to 4.5 miles. Artists will require a high level of physical fitness, stamina and endurance as the work requires running jumping and galloping on cement and in public spaces.

This project aims to respond to the city of Birmingham, fostering positive international relationships between renowned company Byström Källblad and Midlands-based artists, and inspire the artistic team with creative approaches they can use beyond the life of the project.

For more information about Byström Källblad, visit <https://cityhorses.wordpress.com/about/>

The project is produced by DanceXchange for BIDF 2020 with investment from Dance Hub Birmingham.

d**x** is an equal opportunities employer who is actively seeking to employ people currently under-represented in the creative and cultural sector. Registered charity no. 1045364.

**CALL OUT BRIEF**

DanceXchange is looking to engage seven Midlands-based female-identifying dance artists who are interested in working collaboratively as part of an international team to devise high-quality and original movement.

We are inviting proposals from professional dance artists who want to develop their creative skills and gain insight into working in the public space. who meet the following criteria:

* Highly skilled at technical and creative delivery of dance/movement
* A high level of improvisational skill – the performer must be open to challenging their own physical language
* Strong communication skills, including the ability to give/receive effective and constructive feedback
* Experience of working in, and in response to, public outdoor settings
* Demonstrate sensitivity around inter-/intra-cultural exchange
* Open to learning and collaborating with other artists and genres of movement
* Highly motivated, reliable and used to working creatively within a limited timeframe
* A positive commitment to the project aims and delivery model

Artists will be expected to maintain professionalism and uphold the BIDF reputation when working with partners and the artistic team.

**If you are a confident and passionate artist who fits our brief, we’d love to hear from you!**

**TIMEFRAME**

Artists must be fully available within the following timeframe:

* Birmingham residency & rehearsals at DanceXchange, Birmingham City Centre:

Mon 8 - 12 June 2020

* Performance Dates:

Saturday 13 June 2020

Sunday 14 June 2020

**FEES**

* Project total fee: £700, based on 5 rehearsal days & 2 performances

**HOW TO APPLY**

**To apply, please submit the following to** **artists@dx.dance** **by 10am, on Mon 6 April 2020:**

1. Full-body video footage of you dancing (this does not need to be specially edited; it is to give us an insight into how you move). This could be through improvisation in relation to space/site, an extract from a performance, or your interpretation of a ‘City Horse’.
2. CV outlining your training and experience, plus links to relevant past works (maximum 2 pages).
3. A covering letter (Maximum of 300 words) outlining your suitability for the role referring to the criteria as outlined above, and why you wish to work on the project. **Alternatively, you are welcome to submit this part of the application as an audio/video file, instead of a written letter.**
4. A completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring form

**Please state ‘City Horses Artist Call Out’ in the subject line of your application email.**

**SELECTION PROCESS**

Applicants will be shortlisted by the Artistic Directors of Byström Källblad and successful candidates will be notified by latest **14 April 2020**

**CONTACT**

If you have any questions about the project, please contact: **artists@dx.dance**

**LEAD PROJECT PARTNERS**

**Byström Källblad**

The Swedish duo Byström Källblad makes work for the stage, the gallery and the public space. Artist Helena Byström and choreographer Anna Källblad share a desire to tell stories from and based in collaboration and exchange with specific places and its people.

**Byström** is a visual artist from the north, working mainly with film and sculpture, Källblad is a choreographer from the south, with ten years in Los Angeles. Byström and **Källblad** have shown work in places like sports arenas, nuclear power plant, Shibuya Crossing Tokyo, Sakakini Art Centre Ramallah, Stockholm City Hall, Uppsala Cathedral, Kulturhuset, The Royal Dramatic Theatre and the Modern Museum in Stockholm.

**DanceXchange**

**DanceXchange** presents and produces some of the best UK and international dance; supports artists to create and develop their work; nurtures talented young performers, choreographers and leaders; and engages people of all backgrounds in dance activity. We’re passionate about dance and we want everyone to enjoy the positive transformations it creates. For more information, visit dancexchange.org.uk

DanceXchange’s largest project is **Birmingham International Dance Festival (BIDF),** a major biennial festival which takes over the city’s theatres, streets and squares with show-stopping performances and great choreography. BIDF brings inspiring international dance to the city, showcases local talent, and creates lots of opportunities for people of all backgrounds to get involved. BIDF also delivers professional development events, debates and workshops, opening up a valuable space for dialogue, collaboration and sharing of ideas. Since its beginnings in 2008, the festival has played a vital role in putting dance centre stage in Birmingham and is a powerful cultural asset for the city.

To see the BIDF 2018 highlights showreel, visit <https://youtu.be/Ul6czO69p4Y>.