



PRESS PACK

### **DANCE STOPS TRAFFICKING! – “AM I”**

**‘From the first moments, it’s apparent that this is a remarkable performance... stunning choreography ... impeccable execution ... utterly paralysing... For me, their dance stopped my heartbeat.’ \*\*\*\*\* Three Weeks**

LCP Dance Theatre is back at Edinburgh Fringe 2014 with extended version of ‘AM I’

After a successful premiere of ‘AM I’ during the last year Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2013, LCP Dance Theatre is back with an extended version of ‘AM I’ including a new multinational cast of 7 performers, music composed by talented Polish musician Sabio and text by well known Australian playwright Alex Broun.

This complex physical theatre performance draws awareness to human rights violations through dance and film. LCP’s ‘Am I’ finds its roots in the pain and struggle of human trafficking as inspired by the story of Sophie Hayes in her recent book “Trafficked.”

Hayes was a victim of the sex trade and trafficked by her boyfriend to Italy. In her harrowing biography, Hayes reminds us that anyone can find themselves in the same situation and “AM I” wishes to warn and to educate the public of this stark reality. Each year 27 million women are trafficked worldwide, mainly for labor and sexual slavery; only 1% are rescued, yet, very few of us are aware of this terrible reality.

“AM I” explores the complicated tale of victim and trafficker wherein both are slaves: often the roles bleed into each other making it difficult to see the line between either identity. In “AM I,” the trafficker becomes victim and vice versa. This production involves pain and confusion as seen through the eyes of dance and flowing movement. Vibrant, truthful and powerful, the performances are genuinely something different.

LCP’s 2011 production “Rights” was sponsored by the BBC in collaboration with the African dance company Tavaziva Dance. It was well received at the Camden Fringe in London 2011 and 2012.

LCP Dance Theatre was formed in 2006 and is led by Polish artistic director Joanna Puchala in London. It is a multi-media and multi-ethnic dance company that uses live performance and film to raise awareness of human rights violations.

Venue: Spottlites @ The Merchants’ Hall, Venue 278, 22 Hanover St (up from the National Gallery)

**Dates: Saturday 3 Aug to Sat 10 August 2013**

Time: 20:35 (45min)

Tickets: £8.50 / concs £7.50

Group Discount 10% for groups of 10+

Venue box office: 0131 220 5911

Fringe box office: 0131 226 0000 / [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

Press pack: <https://www.dropbox.com/home/PRESS%20AM%20I>

## ABOUT THE COMPANY:

LCP Dance Theatre was formed in 2006 in London and currently is lead by Polish artistic director Joanna Puchala. LCP is a multimedia and multiethnic dance company that uses live film and live music to raise awareness of human rights violations through the performing arts. The company is based in London, resident at Lewisham & Southwark College LESOCO.

## ACHEIVEMENTS:

With support of BBC Performing Arts fund 2011 for the best choreography awarded to Mimmo Miccolis, LCP in 2012 created a unique human rights based dance performance "Rights(?)". In collaboration with African Dance Company Tavaziva Dance and Bernie Grant Arts Centre, LCP stood for rights of equal race, gender, social and economic status.

## ABOUT 'AM I' PERFORMRANCE:

This year LCP is back with extended dance production of 'AM I' which had got last year premier at Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2013. The new cast is made of 6 dancers who are representing on stage the dual identity of a victim and human trafficker. How both can live such an internal conflict between bad and good, how others and themselves can forgive them. It's not only about the traumatic experience of a victim and even a trafficker; it's also about a positive aspect of liberation. It is inspired by a terrifying true story of a victim of sex trade Sophie Hayes, Author of 'Sunday Times Bestseller 'Trafficked', in collaboration with Sophie Hayes Foundation.

Sophie Hayes is an example of a woman who has been trafficked and eventually saved. Now she is helping out other survivors to carry on with their lives and prevent trafficking from happening. This dance performance in conjunction with her book brings up the theme of human trafficking but also shows that victims and traffickers are human beings. They deal with their mental issues in order to survive. They both might have absorbed traumatic experience in the past or just happened in the wrong place at the wrong time. The show is about detaching from the judgment and the justice; it is about showing victims and traffickers as they are and how the social and political aspect can influence one's life and actions. It's not only about conviction but also vindication, about the compassion, lost and found love towards themselves and others.

## OUTCOME OF THE SHOW:

AM I' is inspired by Sophie Hayes's story – a British girl who was forced by her boyfriend to sex trade in Italy. We want the audience to become aware of what can happen to someone who is in love and/or takes on an offer of getting a job without any proof and testimony.

Through the dance we are sending the following message: 'Be cautious of meeting new people and building the trust without anything concrete beneath it'. Keep eyes and ears open, be intuitive and careful in certain circumstances. Do not despair about not having any money and any place to go. Just follow your instinct and intuition. Do not be scared of finding your real talent and value and do not allow fear to drive decisions that are compromising and unsafe.'

Additionally LCP is interested in supporting those who have been trafficked. We feel that dance may help these individuals to express and heal from some of the trauma that remains after being trafficked. We are particularly grateful for the support of The Minded Institute (TMI), an organization that uses movement, mindfulness, and breath to help those suffering from PTSD. TMI's philosophy empowers LCP and reminds us of the importance of movement in expression of affliction and in treating it as well. Through movement we can release much of our suffering as well as create new neurological pathways to overlay positive experience and trust.

## COLLABORATION:

LCP is a nonprofit organization with networks open to various artists, art forms, and institutions, also interested in human rights LCP partnerships with charity organizations such as Hurricane of Hearts which is involved in an international fund raising event of 'Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity' to provide Polish hospitals with medical equipment to save human lives; and Sophie Hayes Foundation, which supports victims of human trafficking. LCP is also supported by the Minded Institute. Further LCP aspires to offer victims an opportunity to be involved in dance theatre. In association with higher education in London (LESOCO), LCP runs the educational scheme to support dance students in their professional training by facilitating dance company classes/workshops.

PRESS ON 'RIGHTS(?)"... *visually arresting and so spellbinding, the troupe's energy and choreographer's interestingly off-beat approach.....*" [Dancing Times](#)

"Taking steps to freedom-an ambitious dance piece explores human rights violations around the world" - [The Independent](#)

CHOREOGRAPHY&ARTISTIC DIRECTION: Joanna Puchala MUSIC: Sabio Janiak  
PLAYWRIGHT: Alex Broun ACTING DIRECTION: Florence Kermet FILM: Magdalena Kowalczyk VIDEO TRAILER: Michael Clements PERFORMERS: Piotr Olszowski, Deana Indraccolo, Eleanor Palmer, Miranda Ode, Rossella Cutrupi, Florence Kermet, Joanna Puchala FILM EDITTING: Daniela Kitchiner, Elizabeth Doonan PR: Florence Kermet, Sophie Douglas PRESS: Roger Manser MARKETING: Lidhka Inga COSTUME DESIGN: Carlotta Actis Barone PHOTOGRAPHY: Gosia Wilda, Lidhka Inga SPONSORSHIP: Roberto Parmiggiano, Patrick Flockhart, Roger Manser, Heather Mason, Zak Attar SPECIAL THANKS TO: EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL SATFF; SPOTLITES @ MERCHANTS' HALL STAFF (Rachel Thomson-King) LESOCO STAFF (Lisa Stubbs, Laura Dobson, Denyse Gladynng); Minded Insitute (Heather Mason, Eve Cunningham Menezes);Treshnish (Patrick Flockhart); Birkbeck University (Maria Koripas);Heather Mason, Roberto Parmiggiano, Roger Manser, Lidhka Inga and all LCP's MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY without whom this project wouldn't be possible to succeed.



Further information and photos available from: Joanna Puchala on 07778589825/  
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