



## National Youth Dance Wales – *Step Up*

**Step Up** – an exciting pilot, youth dance opportunity that extends young dancers' skills, talent and commitment, and better prepares them for potential membership of NYDW.

### What is it and Who is it for?

**Step Up** is an exciting initiative for young dancers (14-18 years) who are already actively engaged in creative, contemporary dance and keen to 'step up' to another level of challenge and experience.

Led by NYDW Artistic Director, **Errol White**, **Step Up** will offer each participant an intensive training opportunity that focuses on technique and core skills through class, and creative and repertoire sessions. The emphasis will be on the individual and will include space and time for constructive feedback and support.

**Step Up** is a national programme offering three residencies during 2011/12 (one per term) strategically located in North, South and Mid-/West Wales. The management and delivery of these residencies will be based upon the successful NYDW model, and will give all participants an insight to NYDW membership and expectations.

**Step Up** is a relationship between NYDW and local dance leaders/providers. We recognise that without regular, local dance provision, organisations such as NYDW would not exist; therefore, we are keen to convey the importance of this relationship to young dancers and demonstrate a practical connection between youth dance at local, regional and national levels. With this in mind, and for this pilot year, we are inviting nominations for young dancers to join the **Step Up** programme – young dancers who **YOU** think would most benefit from this opportunity. This is an *additional* opportunity; it will not duplicate anything provided locally or regionally, and nominees will be expected to continue with their weekly dance classes and youth groups.

Initially, we are suggesting a maximum of **two** nominations per organisation to join young dancers already identified by NYDW during its Contemporary Dance Days and Auditions earlier this year.

### What are we looking for in nominated young dancers?

Nominees should be aged between 14 – 18 years, be actively engaged in dance with your organisation, and be able to demonstrate real potential in creative, contemporary dance. They should display commitment, dedication and enthusiasm in their regular classes, and be a great team player. They should be passionate about dance and dancing, and eager to progress.

The **Step Up** programme is about *potential*. At 14 years, some participants will be too young and inexperienced for NYDW membership; others who are 16+ years may well be ready to audition for NYDW 2012 next May; some may need another year or so to bring their technical and performing skills to the required standard (if you or your dancers have yet to see a NYDW performance, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KilJeZ8At8Q> to watch a snippet of NYDW 2011 in action and, hopefully, be inspired!

Please note: places are restricted in order to give dancers the individual attention and support required. If an overwhelming response to this call for nominations is received, selection may be necessary prior to or following the first residency.

### Commitment and costs

Nominees must commit to the following dates:

**Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th November 2011 (South Wales)**

**Thursday 5th January & Friday 6th January 2012 (West Wales)**

**Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd April 2012 (North Wales)**

The weekends are fully-residential. Participants are asked to contribute £50 per residency (to cover all tuition, accommodation, food, insurances and welfare arrangements). We are keen to ensure that financial or transport difficulties do not exclude or disadvantage potential participants. NYDW will work with partners and nominees to identify bursaries and/or sponsors, and fundraising ideas, where necessary.

**What do you do next?**

Should you require any additional information and/or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact [suzanne.firth@nyaw.co.uk](mailto:suzanne.firth@nyaw.co.uk) (029 2026 52079). If you would like to nominate up to two young dancers, please share this information with them then complete the enclosed nomination form. Completed and signed\* forms must be returned by **Monday 31 October 2011**.

\*Signatures required from nominator, plus parent/guardian if the nominee is under-18 yrs OR the nominee (if over-18 yrs)

NYDW look forward to developing a whole host of partnerships with colleagues across Wales – all in the interests of the next generation of talented young dancers and their creative futures. Please join us!

Pauline Crossley  
Principal Manager (Youth Arts)

Suzanne Firth  
NYDW Development Co-ordinator