



## PRESS RELEASE

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### YOUTH DANCE ENGLAND LAUNCHES PROGRAMME TO BOOST CAREER PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE LEADERS IN DANCE

Youth Dance England (YDE), the national organisation that champions and promotes dance for children and young people, launched YDE Stride! today, its national leadership and development programme aimed at young people aged 14-19.

The programme has been designed to help boost the prospects and career opportunities of young people with an entrepreneurial spirit and creative problem-solving skills, and who wish to explore the different career opportunities available within the dance sector.

The lucky selected participants will take part in an action-packed residential in April, where they will devise projects with professional guidance in order to develop their skills and knowledge within the dance sector. They will then be provided with a placement and support from a mentor to enhance their experience and understanding of the variety of dance career opportunities.

This national initiative will be delivered by three regional hosts appointed by YDE, and who have each developed unique and exciting programmes for the successful participants. Regional hosts are: Dance 4 (East Midlands), Dance South West (South West) and East London Dance in partnership with Sadler's Wells (London).

Linda Jasper, Director of Youth Dance England, stated: *"Youth Dance England is well aware of the growing arts & cultural sector and the necessity for young people to understand what it offers, and YDE Stride! is a programme which helps to give young people interested in working in the sector the vital tools and knowledge needed to get their foot in the door. It is really rewarding to be able to contribute to the development of potential leaders in dance and in this way support the growth of a qualified workforce for the future."*

A participant from last year's programme reflected: *"I just needed the opportunity to get out there and explore... Stride! helped me do this and see what I could be involved in. Participating in Stride! made me see the different roles in dance I could play and areas I could specialise in and realise that just because I dance I don't have to become a dancer, I can still be involved in dance in other ways."*

**YDE Stride! 2010 hosts:**



**Sadler's Wells**

## Notes on Youth Dance England

Youth Dance England is the national organisation that champions and promotes dance for children and young people. We work to ensure that dance is available to all, both in and out of school settings. Through a shared vision with the National Youth Dance Network and other partners, our aim is to increase access, raise standards and improve progression routes.

YDE was awarded £5.5 million in 2008 to develop dance opportunities for children and young people across England. YDE is funded by Arts Council England, DCMS and DCSF Music and Dance Scheme.

For further details on this story go to [www.yde.org.uk/ydestride](http://www.yde.org.uk/ydestride) or contact:

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